

Protecting Scotland's wildlife for the future

Gillian Martin MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

Via email



30 June 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

On behalf of the Scottish Wildlife Trust, I am writing to offer our congratulations on your permanent appointment as Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy, including responsibility for nature recovery targets and biodiversity.

Strong leadership on the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss has never been more important, and we look forward to working with you to help deliver on the Scottish Government's goals for climate and nature. As well as meeting the ambition to be nature positive by 2030, protecting and restoring nature is essential for delivering the Scottish Government's key goals of tackling the climate emergency and ensuring high quality and sustainable public services. Investing in nature's recovery is essential for capturing and storing carbon, boosting our resilience to flooding and drought, providing clean water, supporting our health and wellbeing, and underpinning our long-term economic prosperity and resilience.

As we bring biodiversity into the mainstream – including through strong, statutory nature targets – we have been speaking with NatureScot about how Scotland could take a more strategic approach to the long-term challenge of invasive non-native species (INNS). INNS are one of the key threats to Scotland's biodiversity, and cost the Scottish economy an estimated £499 million each year.

To this end, we have had several positive conversations – including with NatureScot Chair Colin Galbraith, who is a great champion of “thinking big” in this space – about holding a collaborative INNS Funding Symposium this Autumn. Aligned with NatureScot's development of the INNS Action Plan, this symposium will bring together key stakeholders to raise our collective ambition for strategic investment in INNS prevention, control and eradication.

We very much hope that as our plans for the symposium develop, you would consider supporting this event as a demonstration of the Scottish Government's leadership on this topic. We look forward to keeping your team updated and would be pleased to discuss logistics around possible dates.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Pike
Chief Executive

cc. Colin Galbraith, Chair, NatureScot

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