



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

Gillian Martin MSP
Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy
Scottish Government

04 June 2025

Dear Gillian

Scottish carbon budgets

Thank you for your letter of 30 May about the latest position on the laying of Regulations to set carbon budgets. The Committee considered this yesterday when we discussed our work programme.

Until this letter, the Committee and Parliamentary officials had understood the Regulations would be laid by end May, in line with [published correspondence](#) from you. When I received an online briefing from you on 22 May, alongside Scottish Government and Parliamentary officials, I was not given to understand that this position had changed. I note that this briefing took place after the Climate Change Committee's advice on carbon budgeting to the Scottish Government had been published.

Discovering that the Regulations would now be laid at a later - and unspecified - date therefore came as a surprise to the Committee. It also concerns us because a delay in laying the Regulations seems likely to have direct consequences for the timetabling and scrutiny of the next Climate Change Plan. Laying the Regulations later would appear to then mean a later laying of the draft Plan, leading in turn to the Scottish Government having even less time to consider the Parliament's recommendations on the draft than previously. (Officials had estimated that laying the Regulations by end May would result in a gap of around 8 weeks between Parliamentary scrutiny of the draft ending and dissolution in late March 2026.)

Timetabling difficulties of this nature arose when the Parliament considered the draft Climate Change Plan Update in the closing months of the last session, when the gap between committees reporting and the Scottish Government responding was narrow. This was widely seen as unsatisfactory, and the Committee is keen to avoid history repeating itself.

The Committee therefore agreed that I should write to you to set out these concerns about the delay and to request more information about the reasons behind it: for instance whether there are particular aspects of the CCC advice that the Scottish Government is questioning or considers problematical to implement.

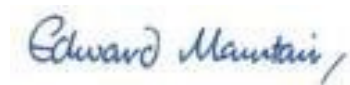
Contact: Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email netzero.parliament@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

I would also be grateful if, in your response, you could set out the proposed new laying date for the Regulations and how, to your understanding, this would affect the timeline for Parliamentary consideration and agreement of the Climate Change Plan.

In recognition that scrutiny of the Plan will be a collective effort by Committees and that other Conveners will have an interest in this matter, I have copied this letter to Conveners Group Chair, Liam McArthur MSP.

I would be grateful for a response by the morning of Monday 9 May so that the Committee may further consider this matter at its meeting on 10 June.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener