

Dr Richard Dixon
Chair
Environmental Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

6 January 2026

Dear Convener,

I am replying to your letter of 10 December 2025.

During my evidence to the Committee on 25 November 2025, I should have been explicit that I was expressing a personal opinion on two important points.

First, in response to a question about financial support from the UK Government to the Scottish Government for devolved areas to tackle net zero, I referenced the leadership of past and current Scottish governments regarding the future of the oil and gas industry (columns 26 – 31 in the Official Report). Secondly, in addressing a question on public messaging, I emphasised the need for political consistency between the Scottish Government's public statements and its actions in relation to achieving Scotland's net zero ambitions (columns 44 – 45 in the Official Report).

On both occasions, I was expressing my own opinion. These are not areas that ESS has a view on.

I trust this clarification is helpful to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Dr Richard Dixon
Chair, Environmental Standards Scotland