



## Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

2nd Floor, Thorn House  
5 Rose Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 2PR

info@stopclimatechaos.scot  
www.stopclimatechaos.scot

Alasdair Allan MSP  
Minister for Climate Action,  
St Andrew's House,  
Regent Road,  
Edinburgh,  
EH1 3DG.

3rd July 2024

(Sent by email to [MinisterCA@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterCA@gov.scot))

Dear Minister,

Congratulations on your appointment as Acting Minister for Climate Action. We were pleased to work with you in previous roles and hope to be able to continue this constructive engagement and work together on delivery, alongside our role to challenge the Scottish Government to act more ambitiously and rapidly to address the climate emergency.

Given recent developments with Climate Change policy, set out in the [Cabinet Secretary's statement](#) of 18 April 2024 and during the recent [debate on the climate emergency](#), your role will be crucial in ensuring that action is accelerated and that Scotland returns to a pathway towards net zero. While some good progress has been made, especially in renewables developments, there is much more to do to meet our targets (however they might be revised) and to reach net zero by 2045, as shown by the recently released emissions statistics for 2022. The focus on action within your Ministerial remit is therefore welcome and much needed.

In [our letter, welcoming the First Minister to his role in May](#), we drew attention to the opportunities and challenges of responding to the climate emergency. Working with the Cabinet Secretary and other government colleagues, your role will be crucial in realising these opportunities and addressing the challenges. In particular, we would like to highlight the following priorities within your remit:

- **Climate targets/budgets** – following the statements of 18 April and 19 June, we understand that new climate legislation is expected “as soon as possible after the recess”. In light of this, SCCS has recently published [a briefing](#) that sets out an approach to this issue that may enable the retention of Scotland's climate leadership ambitions.
- **Heat in Buildings** – this proposed Bill was recently praised by the Climate Change Committee who said, “if implemented, (this) could become a template for other parts of the UK”. To deliver significant benefits to household bills, health and emission reductions, there must be a swift passage of the Bill (no later than autumn 2024), with clear and ambitious dates and targets, and a timetable for developing secondary regulations, with a commitment to stakeholder engagement.
- **Energy** - consent must be refused for any new fossil-fuel based energy developments within devolved competencies, including the proposed gas-powered power station in Peterhead. Alongside this, although we acknowledge the delay caused by the UK General Election, the final Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan must be published as soon as possible and confirm a presumption against any new oil and gas developments.
- **Just Transition** - final plans for land use, transport and built environment must be published without delay, and include a clear vision and the actions necessary to deliver a Just Transition, and details of how these will be implemented.

We were pleased to meet with your predecessor (now Acting Cabinet Secretary) on 30 May and we hope that you would agree to meet soon to discuss the priorities outlined above.

In light of the new arrangements and her previous role, I am copying this letter to Gillian Martin MSP, in her capacity as Acting Cabinet Secretary.

Congratulations again on your appointment, we look forward to meeting you soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mike Robinson', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Mike Robinson  
Chair, Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

cc Gillian Martin MSP, Acting Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero and Energy

About Stop Climate Chaos Scotland

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland (SCCS) is Scotland's climate coalition, the largest civil society coalition ever formed in Scotland with over 70 organisations campaigning together on climate change, including environment, faith and international development organisations, trade and student unions, and community groups.