



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Published 17 May 2019
SP 524
5th Report, 2019 (Session 5)

**Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform
Committee**
**Comataidh Atharrachadh Clìomaid is Ath-leasachaidh
Fearann**

**Environment, Climate Change and
Land Reform Committee Annual Report
2018-2019**



Published in Scotland by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body.

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Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

To consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.



<http://www.parliament.scot/environment-committee>



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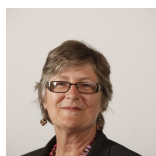
Committee Membership



Convener
Gillian Martin
Scottish National Party



Deputy Convener
John Scott
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Claudia Beamish
Scottish Labour



Finlay Carson
Scottish Conservative
and Unionist Party



Angus MacDonald
Scottish National Party



Mark Ruskell
Scottish Green Party



Stewart Stevenson
Scottish National Party

Introduction



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019

1. The role of the Committee is to consider and report on matters falling within the responsibility of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform.
2. This report covers the work of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee during the Parliamentary year from 12 May 2018 to 11 May 2019.
3. Graeme Dey MSP was Convener of the Committee until 28 June 2018. Gillian Martin MSP became Convener on 11 September 2018.
4. This report covers the previous membership of the Committee during the reporting year:
 - Donald Cameron MSP (from 29 June 2017- 6 September 2018)
 - Graeme Dey MSP (8 June 2016-28 June 2018)
 - Rhoda Grant MSP (1 November 2018-20 November 2018)
 - Richard Lyle MSP (30 March 2017-22 November 2018)
 - Alex Neil MSP (24 May 2018-6 September 2018)
 - Gil Paterson MSP (19 April 2018-24 May 2018)
 - Alex Rowley MSP (11 January 2018-30 October 2018)

Bills

Scottish Crown Estate Bill

5. The Committee published its Stage 1 report in May 2018 and considered the Bill at Stage 2 in September 2018.

Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill

6. The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 1 following its introduction in May 2018. The Committee undertook a series of consultative events to explore what behaviour change is required to meet the more ambitious Climate Change targets. The Committee also heard from the Committee on Climate Change and held evidence sessions with a number of organisations and individuals on: international approaches; behaviour change and governance; agriculture and transport and innovation; before hearing from the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform. The Committee published its Stage 1 report on 4 March 2019 and the Stage 1 debate was held on 2 April 2019.



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019

UK Ivory Bill

7. In September 2018, the Committee considered a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) in relation to the UK Ivory Bill, which was introduced to the House of Commons on 23 May 2018. The purpose of the Bill was to prohibit commercial activities concerning ivory in the UK and the import and re-export of ivory for commercial purposes to and from the UK, including intra-EU trade. The Committee reported on the Bill in September 2018.

Inquiries

8. The Committee undertook a number of short-term inquiries over the course of the year, including in relation to: biodiversity and Scotland's progress to 2020; biodiversity funding and implementation; the Scottish Government's Annual Wildlife Crime report 2017; EU exit and the environment; the Scottish Parliament's Environmental Performance and the Committee heard from the Scottish Land Commission on its work, since its creation in April 2017.

Subordinate Legislation

9. During the course of the reporting year, the Committee scrutinised:
 - 7 SSIs subject to the affirmative procedure;
 - 1 SSI subject to an enhanced affirmative procedure
 - 21 SSIs subject to the negative procedure
10. The Committee took evidence on number of statutory instruments, including regulations to establish a Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land which were subject to an enhanced affirmative procedure. The Committee's report was published on 8 November 2018.
11. The Committee took evidence on the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c.) Amendment (Scotland) Regulations 2019 which set out proposals to add the Eurasian Beaver to the list of European Protected Species of Animals that are given protection under the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994.
12. The Committee also took evidence on the Conservation of Salmon (Scotland) Regulations 2019, setting the river gradings for the season.

EU Scrutiny

13. The implications of the UK's decision to leave the EU has been an ongoing focus this year. The Committee considered a total of 29 notifications from the Scottish Government covering 32 statutory instruments made under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 and took evidence on a number of the instruments including in relation to waste, chemicals, the EU ETS and carbon capture and storage.
14. The Committee held evidence sessions with the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform; the Cabinet Secretary for Government Business and Constitutional Relations; the Cabinet Secretary for the Rural Economy; and the Minister for Energy, Connectivity and the Islands. The Committee heard from stakeholders, academics and experts, addressing issues of environmental governance, environmental and animal welfare principles, funding, legislation and EU frameworks.
15. The Committee also met with the Rt. Hon. Michael Gove, UK Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in June 2018, to discuss the environmental implications for Scotland of the UK leaving the EU.

Petitions

16. This year, the Committee took evidence on and considered PE1646 on Drinking Water Supplies in Scotland calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the role of the Drinking Water Quality Regulator for Scotland and commission independent research into the safety of the chloramination of drinking water.

Draft Budget 2019-2020

17. The Committee considered Scottish Government expenditure that fell within its remit in the 2019/2020 budget. The Committee focused on preventative spend, exploring how the budget within the portfolio of the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform contributes to national outcomes across the Scottish Government and how spending in some areas can potentially reduce future spend elsewhere. The Committee also considered the carbon impact of the capital budget to support the delivery of public infrastructure in Scotland, including spending on buildings, roads, rail and digital. The Committee reported to the Scottish Government in October 2018. The Committee continued its Budget scrutiny in 2019, exploring fiscal measures and how these can benefit environmental outcomes.

Engagement and Innovation

18. The Committee produced two films to encourage participation in its scrutiny of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Bill asking members of the public to identify which actions they would take personally to play their part in tackling Climate Change. The Committee also held a series of consultative events engaging with 74 people from local grass-roots environmental organisations, youth groups, schools, Church of Scotland and other charities and community groups and interested members of the public.
19. On 2 April 2019, the Committee invited 13 children and young people from across Scotland, aged from 7-17 years old, to the Scottish Parliament to talk to Committee Members about their experiences as Climate Strikers and what they think Scotland needs to do to meet updated Climate Change targets. Later in the meeting, they were joined by Members the IPCC – the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019

20. In March 2019, the Committee hosted a Citizens' Jury, the first event of this kind in the Scottish Parliament. This brought people together from a wide range of backgrounds to discuss how funding and advice for land management should be designed to improve Scotland's natural environment. A report outlining the key findings will inform the Committee's future work programme.



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019

21. The Committee engaged with other parliamentary Committees to work collaboratively in areas of mutual interest, responding to the work of the Equalities and Human Rights Committee in relation to the consideration of equalities within the

work of the Scottish Parliament. The Committee also engaged with the Finance and Constitution Committee on environmental principles, trade policy and trade deals.

22. The Committee engaged with public bodies such as the Scottish Environment Protection Agency, Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Water, through a number of work streams.

Equalities

23. Through its engagement strategy, the Committee has committed to promoting 'gender equality in its practices and [to] create an inclusive environment to facilitate this'. The Committee also has a commitment to increase its interaction with children and young people.
24. This year the Committee participated in a pilot data collection project designed to increase the diversity of witnesses appearing before the Committee.
25. Of 181 witness appearances before the Committee in 2018-2019, 71 were by female witnesses (39%). This overall figure includes 86 appearances by Scottish Government witnesses (including the Cabinet Secretary), of whom 44% were female.
26. In 2018, the Equalities and Human Rights Committee (EHRC) held an inquiry into Human Rights and the Scottish Parliament. As part of that inquiry, the ECCLR Committee acknowledged their role in ensuring that the Scottish Parliament was an effective human rights guarantor (essentially that Members could help promote and safeguard environmental rights).
27. On 26 March 2019, the Committee considered its approach towards embedding human rights into its work, appointing Angus MacDonald MSP, as the Committee's Human Rights Champion.

Meetings

28. The Committee met 37 times during the Parliamentary year. In some weeks, the Committee met twice to accommodate an increased work load (including additional meetings held on 27 June, 24 October and 15 November 2018). The Committee also continued their meetings into the afternoon on two occasions, on 29 January and 19 February 2019.



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019



Source: The Scottish Parliament 2019

