



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## Conveners Group

**Chris Stark**  
Chief Executive  
UK Committee on Climate Change

**Liam McArthur MSP**  
Chair of Conveners Group  
The Scottish Parliament

***By email only***

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Dear Mr Stark

I am writing to you as Chair of the Conveners Group of the Scottish Parliament to seek your support for parliamentary scrutiny of net zero and sustainable development issues.

The Conveners Group comprises of the conveners of the Parliament's 16 committees. The committees carry out scrutiny of the range of policy areas in which the Parliament has devolved competence. Most of these committees combine the 'select' and 'standing' features of Commons committees, that is to say they spend a good deal of their time scrutinising Scottish Government primary and secondary legislation, as well as pursuing their own-initiative inquiries into public policy or areas of public concern.

An important role of the Conveners Group is to support committees in carrying out their scrutiny work. To fulfil this role, we have agreed a number of strategic priorities which are intended to provide this support for committees.

As part of this we recognise the importance of providing effective support for committees in their scrutiny of net zero and sustainable development as matters which impact on all committee remits. To take forward our commitment here we have considered how we can best strengthen net zero scrutiny arrangements in session 6 and the role the Group can play in achieving that. While the Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee has the lead role, we are conscious that delivery of net zero targets is only achievable right across government and society. As such it impacts on the remits of many parliamentary committees.

To inform scrutiny in all policy areas this includes the provision of information required to support effective scrutiny. For this reason, we are seeking expert advice from the UK Committee on Climate Change, in order to embed net zero scrutiny into inquiry work.

This approach is intended to support Conveners in informing the scrutiny work for their own committees. We are hoping that this is something that we could organise to take place on an annual basis.

The first of these meetings will take place on Wednesday 26 October and I am grateful to you for making yourself available to speak to and advise the Group on these issues. The arrangements for this meeting will be made by officials who will be in touch to firm up these arrangements.

I look forward to meeting you, albeit virtually, at our meeting. I hope that we can work productively together to find ways in which we can best take forward this important scrutiny work.

Yours sincerely

**Liam McArthur MSP**  
**Chair, Conveners Group**