

Mark Roberts
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Environmental Standards Scotland
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

ENVIRONMENTAL
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Gillian Martin MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Energy
By email

17 December 2025

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Recommendation in relation to Control and Impact of Invasive Non-Native Species

Thank you for your letter of 5 November 25 in response to our recommendation regarding a review of the Code of Practice on Invasive Non-Native Species (INNS).

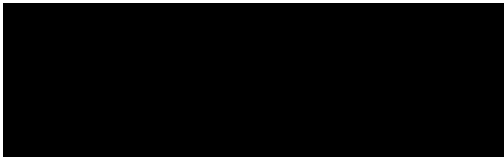
We welcome your acceptance that the INNS Code of Practice should be reviewed and updated. Since issuing our recommendation, we have had useful discussions with Scottish Government officials on the early planning for a review of the Code and understand that the Scottish Government is intending to undertake initial engagement with stakeholders to define the scope and scale of the review. We welcome the indication that the review will consider the issues we have highlighted in our recommendation, alongside wider input gathered through stakeholder consultation.

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ESS will follow up with officials in spring 2026 to understand the emerging timetable for the review, once initial scoping and planning work has progressed. ESS remains of the view that the review should be undertaken as soon as is reasonably practicable and should commence as soon as possible following the passage of the Natural Environment (Scotland) Bill.

We remain committed to working constructively with Scottish Government and its public bodies as this work progresses, and we look forward to confirmation of the timeline for the review in 2026. As noted previously, we will continue to share further findings and recommendations from our ongoing INNS work as they develop.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Roberts
Chief Executive