

Mark Roberts  
Chief Executive  
Environmental Standards Scotland  
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

**ENVIRONMENTAL**  
**Standards Scotland**  
Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

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Gillian Martin MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural  
Affairs  
The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

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22 June 2026

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) has today published a commissioned report on Scotland's regulatory alignment with EU and other international environmental standards.

During the passage of the Continuity Act through Parliament, Scottish Ministers committed to maintaining alignment with environmental standards in the European Union. ESS commissioned this report as part of the commitment in our [strategic plan 2022 – 2025](#) to consider the extent to which this commitment has been met/delivered.

The report was prepared for ESS by the Institute for European Environmental Policy UK and assesses the extent to which there is alignment between environmental standards, laws and regulations in Scotland with those in the EU. The review highlights that there has been extensive change in European environmental law since the UK's withdrawal from the EU across a broad range of topic areas. The report goes on to consider best practice in

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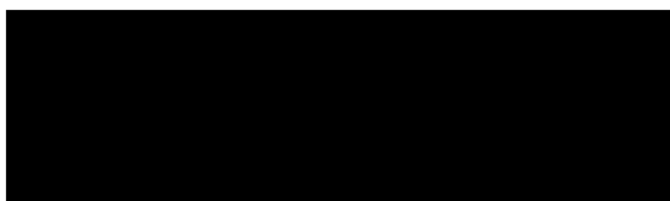
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environmental standards from non-EU countries and how best ESS might best monitor alignment with EU and international environmental law in future.

As noted in our new [strategy 2026 - 2031](#) ESS will continue to consider relevant international obligations, standards and laws. We will pay particular attention to maintaining alignment with positive developments in environmental policy, law and regulation in the European Union and will also look globally to identify further examples of good practice across the full breadth of our remit.

I hope that you find this report helpful. I would be very happy to discuss the findings or provide further information. The report has also been sent to the Convener of the Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee at the Scottish Parliament.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Roberts  
Chief Executive

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