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Mark Roberts


Our Reference: 202600523955

7 July 2026

Dear Mark Roberts,

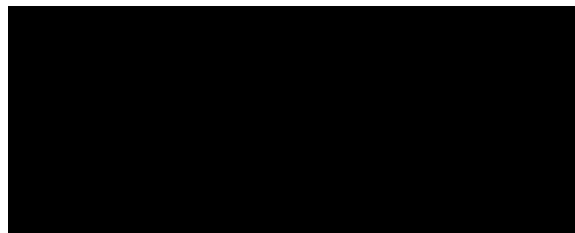
Thank you for your letter of 22 June and for sharing Environmental Standards Scotland's commissioned report on regulatory alignment with EU and international environmental standards. I am grateful for the work undertaken and for bringing this analysis to my attention.

We note the report's recognition of the Scottish Government's ongoing commitment in this area, alongside its assessment that divergence with EU environmental law has increased since EU exit, notwithstanding examples where Scotland has acted to keep pace where possible within devolved competence.

The Scottish Government remains committed to protecting and advancing EU environmental standards where it is possible and meaningful to do so within the current devolved settlement. Our focus continues to be on those areas where alignment can have the greatest impact on the well being of the people of Scotland, including in relation to the environment and public health.

We are clear, however, that Scotland must rejoin the European Union as an independent member state in order to ensure that Scottish Ministers have the full range of powers necessary to protect our environment and support people's wellbeing.

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN
CABINET SECRETARY FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND RURAL AFFAIRS

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