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Mark Roberts

Our Reference: 202600528435
Your Reference: Recommendation in relation to
Control and Impact of INNS

3 August 2026

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 16 June 2026 regarding your report on Control of Invasive Non-Native Species: an analysis of regulatory tools and approaches in Scotland. I apologise for the delay replying to you which was due to an administrative error.

We will give careful consideration to the report and work with you to agree an appropriate action plan to address your recommendations. I have asked officials to continue work on the issues raised; action on these is already well underway through implementation of existing policy and are already in touch with your colleagues.

As you know, we have a range of policies in place to support the early detection, eradication and landscape-scale management of invasive non-native species (INNS), many of which are set out in our recently published [Scottish Action Plan for Invasive Non-Native Species 2026-2032 | NatureScot](#) containing over fifty actions. The challenges posed by INNS also require coordinated action across borders. We will therefore continue to work closely with the other UK administrations to safeguard our native biodiversity which forms a vital part of our response to the twin crises of nature loss and climate change.



I look forward to continuing to work with ESS and our partners across Scotland and the UK going forward

Yours sincerely,



GILLIAN MARTIN

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Annex A

APPOINTMENT PLAN

Stage in Process	Dates (all TBC at this stage)
Committee consider role in the appointment process	September 2026
Recruitment Panel Planning Meeting to develop recruitment papers (<i>after Committee has considered its role in the process</i>)	Mid / late September 2026
Minister approves recruitment papers	End of September
Committee opportunity to consider papers	TBC Early – mid-October
Advertising opens	Early November
Advertising closes	Early December
Shortlisting	Mid-December
Interview	January 2027
Minister's decision on preferred candidate	Early / mid-February
Committee opportunity to consider preferred candidate	Mid/ late February
Inform candidate and pre-appointment checks	Early / mid-March
Parliamentary vote	Mid/ late March
Appointment date	April 2027

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