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Simon Hodgson
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8 March 2022

Dear Simon

As you will be aware, on 24 November 2021 I announced a significant change in Scottish Government policy on beaver reintroduction in Scotland. The new policy aims to establish beaver presence in areas of Scotland outside their current range and beyond areas where it might be expected that natural expansion would reach in the short term. I am writing to you now to seek your help in putting our new policy into effect by supporting opportunities to establish beavers on FLS land.

The reintroduction of beavers represents a step forward in improving Scotland's biodiversity. Beavers play an important role in restoring Scotland's natural environment. Through their creation of wetland habitats that support a range of species including; invertebrates, fish, amphibians, birds and mammals. Beaver dams can also play an important role in filtering sediment from watercourses and in mitigating flooding. Beavers can also have wider benefits for tourism and therefore bring economic benefit to local communities.

NatureScot will help the establishment of new populations of beavers by supporting trapping and translocation of beavers under licence from high conflict areas in parts of Tayside. As well as helping the establishment of beavers in new areas, this should also help reduce the use of lethal control as a beaver management option.

I am well aware of the vital role that FLS have played in allowing beavers to be successfully reintroduced to Scotland through the Scottish Beaver Project on FLS land at Knappdale.

My purpose in writing is to request that you look at your landholdings to determine whether there are any suitable beaver habitats for beaver introduction. I would also ask that you develop plans on any appropriate areas of lands to allow beavers to be introduced and work with NatureScot in taking the plans forward.

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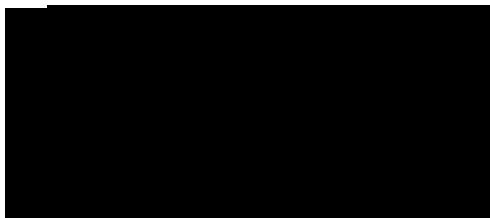
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NatureScot are currently developing their National Beaver Strategy which they would like to have completed by summer 2022. This ties in with the timescale for the new translocation policy being given practical effect. I am keen to ensure that if at all possible we are able to make best use of this year's trapping/translocation window between the end of the kit dependency period in mid-August and Autumn 2022.

I would be happy to discuss further or if you prefer we could arrange a meeting with officials and NatureScot to discuss the best way to take this forward, in which case I suggest you contact [REDACTED] will be able to make the necessary meeting arrangements.

Kind regards



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