



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform  
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Scottish Government  
St. Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Our Case Ref:

[REDACTED]

15 January 2019

Dear Roseanna,

**Re: The Coastal Communities Fund**

I am writing to you on behalf of my constituents regarding the Coastal Communities Fund following your previous letter on 31st May 2018.

Please can you confirm what progress has been made in re-opening the fund for applications and whether a decision has been taken on the future of the fund?

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for giving this matter your attention.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

Kate Forbes MSP

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch

Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Scottish Government  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

MD/GM  
15 February, 2019

Dear Roseanna *Roseanna*

**Crown Estate and Coastal Communities Fund**

I refer to my letter to you dated 12 December, 2018 and the reply from your official [REDACTED] dated 8 January, 2019 which he confirmed that no decisions had been made regarding the future of the Coastal Communities Fund.

He also reaffirmed that Scottish Ministers were committed to providing the net revenue from the marine assets of the Crown Estate in Scotland out to 12 nautical miles to benefit local and coastal communities.

I understand that their Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March, 2018 that the Crown Estate Scotland has returned £9m to the Scottish Government

I would be most grateful if you could advise how this money will be distributed, the criteria for its use and when. As you know Highland has the largest coastline in Scotland and these additional resources will make a positive impact to our communities.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]  
Councillor Margaret Davidson  
Leader of The Highland Council

Councillor Margaret Davidson  
Leader of The Highland Council

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From: Cunningham R (Roseanna), MSP  
<Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot>  
Sent: 26 February 2019 09:25

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Subject: Fwd: Coastal Communities Fund

From: [redact]  
Date: 26 February 2019 at 09:23:50 GMT  
To:  
Roseanna.Cunningham.msp@parliament.scot  
Subject: Coastal Communities Fund

Ms. Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform,

Your ref 2018/0019250

Dear Ms. Cunningham

More than seven months ago, I wrote and asked what had happened to the Coastal communities Fund. I received a fairly vague response. [redact] MSP posed the same question and you replied to her on 19 June 2018 (2018/0018623 refers) to the extent that review of the fund was currently underway. You also stated that you were committed to supporting current CCF projects through to completion.

I would have thought it reasonable to assume that this review should now be complete, since the fund in Scotland has been closed to new applications for more than two years. The CCF might well be able to support a project in which I as a member of the [redact], am keen to push forward: vital repairs to the historic harbour wall. May I please ask:

- a. Is the review complete or, if not, when is it planned to be so and
- b. What will be the parameters of the new fund, in whatever form it takes

Yours aye  
[redact]



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Ms Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change & Land Reform  
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
Scottish Government  
St. Andrews House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

Our Case Ref:



19<sup>th</sup> June 2019

**Re: Coastal Communities Fund**

Dear Roseanna,

I am writing on behalf of a number of my constituents – from different parts of my constituency regarding the Coastal Communities Fund.

The fund is widely seen in my constituency as a vital means of supporting communities to develop specific projects and infrastructure.

I am writing to ask for more information about the future of this fund?

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you for giving this your attention.

Kind regards,



Kate Forbes MSP

Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch

From: Kate Forbes MSP

<Kate.Forbes.msp@parliament.scot>

Sent: 28 August 2019 14:00

To: Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform

Subject: Re: Your reply from Roseanna Cunningham MSP (Case Ref: [redact])

Good afternoon,

During Kate's summer tour she met with various organisations and community groups across Skye, Lochaber and Badenoch. One of the recurring questions from groups across the constituency, was whether the Coastal Communities Fund would be reopening.

Kate has asked me to email to follow up the attached response from Ms Cunningham to ask if there has been a decision on this yet?

Look forward to hearing from you, and thanks for your help.

Kind regards,

[redact]

Caseworker - Kate Forbes MSP



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Michelle Ballantyne MSP  
Member for South Scotland

Roseanna Cunningham MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform  
St. Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

*Dear Roseanna,*

You may recall my letter of 17<sup>th</sup> May 2018 inquiring about the future of the Coastal Communities Fund. In your reply dated 19<sup>th</sup> June, you informed me "No decision has been made about the future of the Coastal Communities Fund, but a review is currently underway." That was over a year ago, yet there has been no further news of the Fund. I initially made these inquiries on behalf of a constituent, who seeks to apply to the Fund in order to benefit an organisation in their own coastal community. My constituent is disappointed with the lack of information or guidance provided by the Scottish Government on this subject. Meanwhile, in England and Wales, funding awards for round five of the C.C.F. were made in June, totalling £36 million; in Scotland, our coastal communities are yet to receive their own allocations, with the future of the fund itself being uncertain. In contrast, the last awards from the C.C.F. in Scotland were made in 2017, meaning that for two years Scottish coastal communities have been unable to apply to the Fund, a problem that communities in England and Wales have not faced.

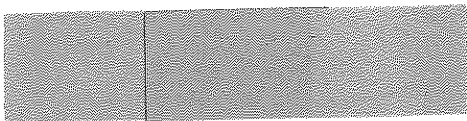
While I welcome the commitment in the Programme for Government 2019 to "ensure that communities benefit from the new revenue generated from the Scottish Crown Estate marine assets out to 12 nautical miles", I have some reservations. In your letter, you noted that 100% of the net revenue will "benefit coastal communities" and in the Programme for Government, it states that the payments will be made "directly to coastal local authorities". This is not the same process as the Coastal Communities Fund, which allows organisations to apply rather than allocating money to local authorities. It is still not clear how the funding system will work, if the C.C.F. will continue to exist in its current format, whether organisations will be able to apply, how that application process will proceed or how the funds will be distributed between local authorities. A Freedom of Information request shows that no contact was made between your office and local authorities during 2018 to discuss these plans, despite the fact they were

"under review". Additionally, telephone conversations with COSLA and local authorities revealed they had little knowledge of the Fund or its future either. Numerous written parliamentary questions have failed to shed light on the issue either. In response to Question S5W-23136, you answered; "I expect to announce the way forward on funding for coastal communities this summer". Summer has been and gone, yet no announcement has come. Further written questions (S5W-24342, S5W-24341) change this timeframe to "the near future", shedding no further light on the future status of the Fund or applications for round five. The response to Question S5W-24341 was equally unclear, refusing to confirm if the amounts awarded from the next round of Coastal Communities Fund awards will be comparable with previous levels. Due to the lack of information surrounding future rounds of the C.C.F., I would be grateful if you could please provide an answer to the following questions:

- (a) How will funding be allocated to coastal local authorities?
- (b) Will the Coastal Communities Fund continue to exist in its current form? If so, when will applications open for round five?
- (c) On what date will an announcement on the future of the C.C.F. occur?
- (d) Will organisations be able to apply to the C.C.F.? If so, will they have to apply through their local authority or will they apply through a central mechanism?
- (e) Will the revenue from Crown Estate marine assets, intended for the C.C.F., be spent by local authorities or will it have a further stage of distribution?
- (f) What work has been done with local authorities to prepare them for this funding? Has guidance been issued and, if so, will you provide a copy of this guidance?

I look forward to your response.

Kind regards,



Michelle Ballantyne MSP,  
Member of the Scottish Parliament for the South Scotland Region