

## ANNEX for EIR: 202400392748

### Question 2:

Below is the table provided detailed budget lines for tackling the biodiversity crisis giving explanations of the type of work which is funded under each area.

#### **Budget lines for tackling biodiversity crisis:**

<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>L3 Budget name</b>	<b>L4 Budget name</b>	<b>L4 what it buys</b>
RALRI	Agri Environmental Measures	Agri Environmental Measures Resource	This budget enables ongoing payments to be made for previous capital awards, helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change and maintain measures which protect and restore nature.
		Agri Environmental Measures Capital	This budget provides funding to farmers and land managers to undertake measures of agri-environment benefit, including to mitigate and adapt to climate change and to protect and restore nature, especially in Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
	Forestry and Land Scotland	Resource	The resource budget will support the sustainable management of Scotland's national forests and land.
		Capital	The capital budget will support the expansion of Scotland's national forests and land, supporting landscape scale land use change, community and partnership working, woodland creation, biodiversity and peatland restoration, consistent with the Scottish Government's climate objectives and in line with the Bute House Agreement.
	Natural Resources & Peatland	Natural Resources	This budget supports delivery of wildlife policy and management, and provides capital for Atlantic Rainforest restoration
		Peatlands	Funding in response to the twin crises of climate change and the

			<i>loss of biodiversity, to intensify our efforts to restore degraded peatland in order to help lock in carbon and reduce peatland emissions, and to deliver co-benefits for biodiversity, water quality, natural flood management and community amenity.</i>
	<i>Scottish Forestry</i>	<i>Program and Running Costs</i>	<i>This funding is used to deliver Scottish Government's forestry strategy and functions, including forestry policy, the processing and assessment of woodland creation applications, the award of grants, compliance and regulation, the promotion of sustainable forest management and investigation and protection of tree health.</i>
		<i>Depreciation</i>	<i>Depreciation of inherited assets &amp; cross border charges also classified as depreciation.</i>
		<i>Woodland Grants</i>	<i>Forestry grants support delivery of Scottish Government's climate change targets through woodland creation and tree planting, including on farms and next to rivers, and to restore and protect Scotland's Atlantic Rainforest.</i>
		<i>Forest Research (Cross Border Services)</i>	<i>This funding supports the provision of cross border forestry functions and research as set out and agreed in the Tri-party MoU. The encompassed areas of shared interest include research commissioning and delivery (including inventory and statistics), Plant Health, UK Forestry Standard and Woodland Carbon Code, forestry economics advice and support for international forestry policy.</i>
<i>TNZJT</i>	<i>National Parks</i>	<i>LL&amp;TT NPA Capital</i>	<i>Capital expenditure on infrastructure assets.</i>
		<i>LL&amp;TT NPA Resource - Staff Costs</i>	<i>Staff costs for Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Authority.</i>

		<i>LL&amp;TT NPA Resource - Depreciation</i>	<i>Charges relating to depreciation of capital items.</i>
		<i>LL&amp;TT NPA Resource - Other</i>	<i>Programme and other Operating expenditure for delivery of Loch Lomond and The Trossachs National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP).</i>
		<i>Cairngorms NPA Capital</i>	<i>Capital expenditure on infrastructure assets.</i>
		<i>Cairngorms NPA Resource - Staff Costs</i>	<i>Staff costs for Cairngorms National Park Authority</i>
		<i>Cairngorms NPA Resource - Depreciation</i>	<i>Charges relating to depreciation of capital items.</i>
		<i>Cairngorms NPA Resource - Other</i>	<i>Programme and other operating expenditure for delivery of Cairngorms National Park Partnership Plan (NPPP).</i>
	<i>Nature Restoration</i>	<i>Natural Restoration</i>	<i>Policy development and implementation to manage and restore Scotland's biodiversity and landscapes, including provision of the Nature Restoration Fund and continued commitment to the Central Scotland Green Network.</i>
	<i>NatureScot</i>	<i>NatureScot Resource - Staff costs</i>	<i>Staff costs to undertake statutory functions and deliver NatureScot Corporate Plan.</i>
		<i>NatureScot Resource Consumption - Depreciation</i>	<i>Charges relating to depreciation of capital items.</i>
		<i>NatureScot Resource - other</i>	<i>Programme and other Operating expenditure to deliver statutory functions and NatureScot Corporate Plan.</i>
		<i>NatureScot capital</i>	<i>Capital expenditure on infrastructure assets and competitive streams of Nature Restoration Fund.</i>

### **Question 3 – Explanation of why Regulation 10 (4) (e) applies to the information requested**

Regulation 10 (4) (e) applies to all of the information you have requested in Q. 3 'How many recommendations from the Just Transition Commission have been implemented?'

The Just Transition Commission's advice has been invaluable to Scottish Government progress on just transition planning in recent years. Since 2021 the Just Transition Commission has formally provided the Scottish Government with almost 300 recommendations and forms of advice, covering many portfolios across government varying greatly in scale and scope. By definition, the advice is often intended to inform policy development for the oncoming decades as we transition to a fairer, greener net zero and climate resilient economy.

An exception under regulation 10(4)(e) of the EIRs (internal communications) applies to all of the information you have requested because it is internal communication between Scottish Government Ministers and officials about the implementation of the Just Transition Commission's recommendations and advice in the development of our just transition plans for sectors, and regions across Scotland.

This exception is subject to the 'public interest test'. Therefore, taking account of all the circumstances of this case, we have considered if the public interest in disclosing the information outweighs the public interest in applying the exception. We have found that, on balance, the public interest lies in favour of upholding the exception. We recognise that there is some public interest in release as part of open, transparent, and accountable government, and to inform public debate. However, there is a greater public interest in high quality policy and decision-making, and in the properly considered implementation and development of policies and decisions. This means that Ministers and officials need to be able to consider all available options and to debate those rigorously, to fully understand their possible implications. Their candour in doing so will be affected by their assessment of whether the discussions on the implementation of the JTC's almost 300 recommendations and advice will be disclosed in the near future, when it may undermine or constrain the Government's view on that implementation process while it is still under discussion and development.

As such due to the nature of the recommendations and the exception under regulation 10 (4) (e) it is not feasible to provide nor quantify the number of recommendations that have been implemented.

Below I have provided an explanation on the process of implementation of the JTC's vast collection of advice and recommendations.

In response to the first Commission's final report in March 2021, we published our world leading [just transition planning framework](#). In this response we, accepted the 105 headline and sub-recommendation made in the Commission's report, and committed to developing just transition plans for sites, sectors and regions throughout Scotland. We started with the last year's publication of draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition plan, with a final version set to be published later this

year. This is alongside draft plans for Transport, Land Use and Agriculture and the Built Environment and Construction sectors, as well as a draft site plan for Grangemouth that will also be published in 2024.

In addition to the recommendations of this initial report, the Just Transition Commission has subsequently provided further advice, via published reports and correspondence with Scottish Ministers. As such, our Just Transition Plans will set out a long-term vision of the actions needed from now to 2030 and 2045 to reach net zero in a way that is fair and just. Our approach is guided by our planning framework and informed by the Commission's multiple recommendations, and therefore will necessarily be iterative, with Plans designed to be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances as we progress towards net zero.

