

EIR 202400422704 – ANNEX A

Question 1

Since September 2023, £14.6 million in funding support has been delivered through the Just Transition Fund to support projects across the North East and Moray.

Question 2

The answer to your question is yes. This is reflected under ‘Schedule 3.8 Scottish National Investment Bank’ in the Autumn Budget Revision 2023-24, which can be found [here](#).

Question 3

The answer to your question can be found [here](#). Under regulation 6(1)(b) of the EIRs, we do not have to give you information which is already publicly available and easily accessible to you in another form or format. If, however, you do not have internet access to obtain this information from the website(s) listed, then please contact me again and I will send you a paper copy.

It may be helpful to know that we consulted upon a draft Scottish Biodiversity Strategy (SBS) and Delivery Plan in September 2023, and received over 600 responses. The consultation papers are in the public domain and can be found [here](#). We intend to publish our consultation response, later in 2024.

The Delivery Plan is intended to capture both the breadth and depth of actions that are needed across Scotland to achieve the aims and outcomes set out in the SBS, to reverse biodiversity loss. Many respondents to the consultation asked for more detail related to actions set out in the draft Delivery Plan, i.e. for actions to be more Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely (SMART). We are currently working across Scottish Government and with our delivery partners to make actions SMART where possible, and to identify appropriate delivery leads; and to finalise which actions to include in the Delivery Plan.

Question 4

Following our successful leadership of the Edinburgh Process, we remain committed to playing our part internationally. The purpose of the Edinburgh Declaration was to support the

adoption of the draft Decision and renewed Plan of Action on subnational governments during COP15. This was achieved with the adoption of Decision 15/12, ensuring that the voices of subnational governments are embedded within the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

While this process has now concluded, we are building on this legacy by embedding the principles of the Edinburgh Process into domestic policy arrangements, by taking a 'whole of government, whole of society' approach to policymaking, in particular through our environment and biodiversity strategies.

Scotland has recently become President of the Regions4 Development Network, a global network focusing on the twin crises of climate change and biodiversity loss, and sustainable development. Regions4 were key delivery partners in the Edinburgh Process, and they are strong advocates for the advancement of multi-level governance within high-level political fora.

We continue to work closely with key international partners through our membership of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Advisory Committee on Subnational Governments, the High Ambition Coalition for 30x30's Subnational Taskforce and the RegionsWithNature platform.

Question 5

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Question 6

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All Scottish Government public consultations are published on the Citizen Space website, and our two public consultations that specifically reference the Natural Environment Bill can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

Question 7

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Question 8

The Nature Restoration Fund makes funding for nature restoration projects available through two main strands, as follows:

- The competitive strand, which is administered by NatureScot; and
- The Edinburgh Process strand, which provides direct allocations to Local Authorities (LA) and the National Parks (NP)

Since 2021, the following budget has been allocated for projects funded through the NRF:

NRF - Allocated Spend

	2021/22		2022/23		2023/24		2024/25	
	Capital (£m)	Resource (£m)	Capital (£m)	Resource (£m)	Capital (£m)	Resource (£m)	Capital (£m)	Resource (£m)
Competitive Strand Schemes (NatureScot)	5		4.5	2.75	6	2.75	6	2.75
Edinburgh Process Strand (LAs & NPs)	5		6.5		5.5		5	
Total	10		11	2.75	11.5	2.75	11	2.75
Year total		10		13.75		14.25		13.75
Grand Total		10		23.75		38		51.75

Your right to request a review

If you are unhappy with this response to your EIR request, you may ask us to carry out an internal review of the response by emailing the Scottish Government's Freedom of Information Unit via foi@gov.scot.

Your review request should explain why you are dissatisfied with this response, and should be made within 40 working days from the date when you received this letter. We will complete the review and tell you the result, within 20 working days from the date when we receive your review request.