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Mr Mark Roberts (CEO)  
Environmental Standards Scotland  
Thistle House  
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## ESS Final Strategic Plan

Dear Mr Roberts,

I write in relation to ESS's preparations in seeking parliamentary approval for its Strategic Plan by the first anniversary of ESS vesting date, in accordance with Schedule 2 of the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021.

I understand the consultation phase closed on 17<sup>th</sup> August, and as part of that process my officials have responded positively, that the Strategy builds further on ESS's initial Interim Strategy, clearly setting out how it intends to carry out this nationally important role in monitoring the effectiveness of environmental law in Scotland and the compliance of public authorities.

My officials have also provided some more detailed feedback to the Strategic Plan, which I am sure will inform the final version, among other consultation responses ESS has received.

I look forward to seeing the Strategy laid before Parliament in the coming weeks, and I would like to thank your team for the commitment that has gone into getting your organisation to this important milestone, clearly setting out how ESS will ensure high environmental standards are in place, and adhered to, across Scotland.

**MICHAEL MATHESON**

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