

Jim Martin
Chair
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Ìrean Àrainneachdail na h-Alba

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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

29 September 2022

Dear Mr Mountain,

Many congratulations on your appointment as Convener of the Committee.

On 23 September 2022, Environmental Standards Scotland (ESS) completed an investigation into Scotland's compliance with statutory limit values for the air pollutant nitrogen dioxide. The main finding of the investigation is that measures should be taken by Scottish Ministers to strengthen the effectiveness of the law underpinning the systems in place to improve air quality in Scotland.

Given the importance of complying with statutory limit values, ESS has issued its findings in the form of an improvement report, which I have attached. In accordance with the UK Withdrawal from the European Union (Continuity) (Scotland) Act 2021 ("the Continuity Act"), a copy of the improvement report has been laid in the Scottish Parliament, sent to Scottish Ministers and published on ESS' website.

Under section 30 of the Continuity Act, the Scottish Ministers must now prepare an improvement plan and lay it before the Parliament setting out what they propose to do in response to the recommendations within the improvement report. If we are able to support the Committee in any way with regard to our findings, please let us know.

I hope to be able to meet you in the near future to discuss ESS' work.

Yours sincerely,

Jim Martin
Chair, Environmental Standards Scotland

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