

Dear Sir or Madam,

I welcome this consultation on a forthcoming Scottish Climate Change Bill. While Scotland alone can make only a modest contribution to reducing the total effect of human activity on climate change, the Bill could be one small step which, when combined with the actions of other nations, could have an important impact. Moreover, we cannot expect developing countries to act until wealthy countries such as Scotland do more to reduce greenhouse gases.

I support the target of an 80 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 but would also emphasise that there is a need for a strategy to get to that distant goal. In particular, annual emission reduction targets would help to stimulate action and monitor progress. A programme of practical action also needs to be put in place to set out the intermediate steps towards this emission reduction goal.

Despite my strong support for the forthcoming Climate Change Bill, I am concerned that some of the actions sometimes proposed for reducing emissions could have a negative effect on other aspects of the environment, especially biodiversity. I believe that it is possible to reduce emissions without damaging key habitats and wildlife. Scotland's blanket bogs and seas are habitats which are of European or even global significance, and are host to many types of wildlife.

Given the rapidity of current climate change, I also feel that the Scottish government needs to take more action to increase the capacity of Scotland's wildlife to adapt to shifts e.g. in weather conditions, habitats and food sources. For example, this might include greater protection for key marine habitats which are a major source of biodiversity.

Yours faithfully

Sara Davies