



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Amanda Bryan
Chair
Crown Estate Scotland

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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By email only

(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)

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05 October 2017

Dear Amanda,

Update on Crown Estate Scotland

I am writing on behalf of the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee to thank you, Ronnie Quinn and Andrew Wells for giving evidence to the Committee on 26 September 2017. The Committee is extremely keen to ensure that the devolution of the Crown Estate to Scotland is as successful as possible so very much appreciates the opportunity to hear from you on the operation of the interim body and its future plans.

Following the meeting, the Committee has several points on which it wishes to seek further information.

During the session, the Committee raised the issue of how Crown Estate Scotland works with regulators and other bodies to best protect Scotland's natural environment. You helpfully gave us some illustrations of the actions you take in certain areas, such as around working with local groups when you lease fishery areas. However, the Committee would be keen to learn more of how you view your environmental responsibilities as a responsible landlord. For example, when leasing Crown owned land (foreshore/seabed) to fish farm operators, how do you ensure that operators are matching your expectations for the protection and enhancement of the marine environment at each site? While the Committee appreciates that you have no regulatory or statutory function in relation to the fish farming industry, it would be keen to know how you ensure that such operations are not damaging to Crown owned property or have any wider environmental impacts.

You also helpfully spoke at the meeting on how, to raise capital you decided to sell existing assets rather than borrowing from the Scottish Government. It

was explained that this was because the organisation wished to raise its own capital and that you had put in place a “pipeline of sales” amounting to approximately £10 million for the first year of your operation. While the Committee recognises that it is for the Crown Estate Scotland to decide how to best manage its assets, the Committee would be grateful if you could provide further detail of this decision.

The Committee would appreciate a response to this letter by **1 November 2017** and I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Dey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee