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Dear Rob

Thank you for your letter of 28 November regarding your conclusions from the Committee's scrutiny of Low Carbon Scotland: A Behaviours Framework and, the Scottish Government's draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme, and requesting my response on the views and recommendations.

The views expressed by the Committee and by stakeholders during this process, together with the recommendations made in the report, provided valuable insights and raised useful questions that the Scottish Government is currently considering as it works to prepare the final version of the Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

I have considered your views and recommendations and reply below in the same order they appear in your letter. Annex A responds to your comments on the Low Carbon Scotland: A Behaviours Framework. Annex B responds on the draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme.

I hope you find this response helpful and I look forward to the debate in January on the draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme. Climate Change remains one of my top priorities and I look forward to working with the Committee and the wider Parliament on this important issue.

Kindest regards

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## ANNEX A

### Low Carbon Scotland: A Behaviours Framework

#### **ISM Tool**

I welcome the Committee's interest in the ISM tool. Building on the dissemination work with public bodies that we outlined in the [ISM Progress Report](#) and our engagement at the Sustainable Scotland Network (SSN) event in November, the Scottish Government is running introductory workshops on ISM for local authorities and other organisations with a climate change remit in January. Officials are currently considering how we can further support local authorities in using the ISM tool to strengthen policy design and delivery.

Further, in relation to your comments on RPP2, the Scottish Government is committed to using the ISM tool to inform and strengthen RPP2 policies and proposals, particularly those focused on individual and household behaviours. This does not mean a one size fits all approach to each policy or proposal, but tailoring how we use ISM to improve our understanding of behaviours, considering when and how the ISM tool can be best applied. To date, we have held four workshops on RPP2 policies and proposals and three more are in the pipeline.

#### **Engagement and leadership**

In response to the Committee's comments on the need for leadership, the Public Sector Climate Leaders Forum met for the first time on 5 December, and I was pleased that Claudia Beamish MSP was able to attend. The focus of the discussion was on how the issue of climate change leadership across the public sector can best be promoted and supported through the new governance structures we have established. I was very encouraged by the tone of discussion and positive ideas that came forward, including the proposal to develop a model to support all public bodies become Climate Change Exemplar organisations, of which demonstrable and defined leadership will be a central criterion. Also, as noted above, officials are currently considering how we can further support local authorities in using the ISM tool to strengthen policy design and delivery.

In addition, the Scottish Government provides support to the 2020 Climate Group to deliver a number of initiatives that focus on leadership, particularly in the business sector. Examples include the early adoption of the Waste (Scotland) Regulations and a recent transport pledge from the group which includes a commitment to use electric vehicles where possible. We will continue to work with the group on developing this important agenda.

In relation to the Climate Challenge Fund, my officials are considering with Keep Scotland Beautiful (KSB), who administer the Fund on our behalf, how communities applying for support under the Fund may take advantage of the ISM tool. The benefits of the tool will be promoted at the annual 'Gathering' of Climate Challenge Fund communities in 2014, and it is our intention to include training on the use of the ISM tool within KSB's on-going community support programmes.

#### **Behaviour change areas and assessment of progress**

The Scottish Government has ambitious climate change targets and achieving behaviour change across the population is essential in achieving these targets. This is why the [Low Carbon Behaviours Framework](#), published in March 2013, set out a number of key indicators across the key behaviour areas of home energy, transport, food and consumption which we will use to track progress. An update on these indicators will be provided in summer 2014 as part of the Key Scottish Environmental Statistics publication.

The Scottish Government also published [Key Behaviour Areas - Data for Scotland](#) in September 2013, which highlighted progress in the uptake of a range of low carbon behaviours. The Scottish Government is committed to publishing an update on the uptake of low carbon behaviours before the next full Report on Policies and Proposals which is due in 2016.

With reference to the Committee's call for behaviour change areas to be considered holistically, the Scottish Government is promoting this approach via its 'Greener Together' campaign, a public information campaign that encourages people in Scotland to engage in more green behaviours, more often. The campaign, delivered via a range of media, is built around the proposition of 'being part of creating a cleaner, greener Scotland' and aims to bring together the ten key behaviour areas to ensure they are intrinsically linked. For example, the campaign's website ([www.greenerscotland.org](http://www.greenerscotland.org)) encourages visitors to sign up to 'My Greener Plan' which enables users to undertake and record a variety of actions from each of the ten key behaviour areas.

I also undertook to provide the Committee with the most recent data on the agricultural sector. Emissions from agriculture and related land use contribute about a fifth to the Scottish total: about 10 MtCO<sub>2</sub>e. Since 1990, emissions have reduced by around 30%. In addition to this decrease in absolute emissions, Scottish farms have become more efficient, reducing the amount of carbon associated with agricultural products. For example, average milk yields have increased by around 15% since 2002 and average cattle meat yields have increased since 2002 by around 7%.

The agricultural industry in Scotland has also made substantial efficiency savings in the way it uses fertiliser. The amount of fertiliser used on tilled land has reduced by 16% over the ten years to 2011. Over this same time period, total cereal yields have increased by 9% from 6.1 tonnes per hectare to 6.6 tonnes per hectare and oilseed rape yields have increased by 30%, from 3 tonnes per hectare to 3.9 tonnes per hectare.

### **Educating young people**

Sustainability and global citizenship are embedded in the Curriculum for Excellence where experiences and outcomes and outdoor learning have been promoted consistently and strategically as an approach to learning. Young people can develop skills, confidence, knowledge, attitudes and values through learning for sustainability which help equip them for jobs and life. Learning for sustainability has been embedded within the suite of Standards to support teachers in actively embracing and promoting principles and practices of sustainability in all aspects of their work. All fully registered teachers must have secure knowledge of current educational priorities such as learning for sustainability and courses of initial teacher education must provide teachers with a grounding in this subject.

Learning for Sustainability, the report of the One Planet Schools Working Group was published on 17 December 2012. The Group defined Learning for Sustainability as a whole school approach that enables the school and its wider community to build the values, attitudes, knowledge, skills and confidence needed to develop practices and take decisions which are compatible with a sustainable and equitable society. The Learning for Sustainability Implementation Group is taking forward the 31 recommendations resulting from the report and will ensure that all learners have an entitlement to learning for sustainability.

## **Media**

I note the Committee's views on the need to use of the media to support communication in this area, and I can confirm that it is our intention to continue to utilise a broad range of media approaches on the key behaviour areas. As noted above, the 'Greener Together' campaign is built around the proposition of 'being part of creating a cleaner, greener Scotland' and aims to bring together the ten key behaviour areas to ensure they are intrinsically linked. To date, both the overarching campaign and the sectoral campaigns have been delivered via a range of media including TV, radio, outdoor adverts, social media, bus adverts, and local and regional press.

We are also sponsoring a new series of TV programmes which promote low carbon living in an entertaining and engaging way. This follows on from the series of four 'Too Good to Waste' programmes aired on STV in April 2012 featuring eight Scottish celebrities. Independent evaluation of the series has shown very encouraging ratings with evidence of instant behaviour change across the focus groups. The new series will focus on the celebrities passing on newly learned low carbon behaviours to their friends, family and local communities.

## **ANNEX B**

### **Draft Scottish Climate Change Adaptation Programme**

#### **General**

I welcome the Committee's views on the importance of mainstreaming climate change adaptation across Scottish Government departments and the need to extend this approach to other organisations. The long-term sustainability of Scotland in a changing climate will depend on businesses, government, organisations, communities and the individuals in them accepting responsibility for their share of action and working collaboratively. This needs to be supported by national policy and that is why planning for the changing climate is being comprehensively embedded in to Scottish Government policy.

The Committee makes some helpful comments and recommendations in relation to project timescales, budgets and responsibilities.

Timescales were included in the draft Programme as required by the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. With regards to budgets, the Scottish Government is investing in and planning for the changing climate by firmly embedding climate change adaptation and related costs into the associated policies and proposals set out in the Programme.

It is vital that the Scottish Government provides clear leadership in promoting a sustainable approach to climate change adaptation. This Programme is the Scottish Government's first step towards ensuring that existing and future Scottish Government policy helps drive and support adaptation activity in Scotland. In taking forward the Programme, the Scottish Government will work collaboratively with a wide range of local, national and international partners in delivering the policies and proposals.

While the Scottish Government as a whole is responsible for the policies and proposals in the Programme, the impacts of climate change will affect us all. My vision is that the overarching framework set out in the Programme provides the basis for everyone in Scotland to contribute towards the delivery of the objectives within their own organisation, business or community.

#### **Monitoring and Assessment**

Appropriate measurement and reporting of the Scottish Government's progress towards implementing the objectives, proposals and policies set out in the Programme is vital for transparency and accountability.

The monitoring and reporting requirements are set out in the Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009. Scottish Ministers must provide the Scottish Parliament with an annual report on progress and, before the expiry of 2 years of the Programme being published, an independent assessment of the Scottish Government's progress towards achieving the objectives and implementing the policies and proposals set out in the Programme.

It is important for the evaluation of the Programme to be an on-going process to ensure the right measures are in place to address the effects of climate change. We are currently considering options for monitoring and reporting of the Programme and the views of the Committee and stakeholders will be taken into account when finalising the framework for evaluation.

Discussions are underway with the Adaptation Sub-Committee (ASC) of the Committee on Climate Change regarding the arrangement for the first independent assessment and subject

to the outcome of these discussions, I will be writing to the ASC following publication of the Programme to formally request that the ASC carries out the first independent assessment of the Programme.

### **Resilience and response to emergency situations**

Responding to the consequences of climate change will present challenges and increased demands on all emergency and volunteer services. The Committee rightly recognises the vital role all emergency and volunteer services play in responding to extreme weather events and the role local partnerships play in helping to build the resilience of local communities.

While it would not be appropriate for the Scottish Government to prescribe how statutory emergency responders should engage with each other, the Scottish Government works closely with both sectors to develop and promulgate good practice.

Preparing Scotland Guidance on Building Community Resilience, published in April 2013, sets out good practice for Responders in working with communities and the voluntary sector. It recommends taking an assets-based approach to working with the voluntary sector.

The Resilience Advisory Board Scotland (Voluntary Sector), RABS (VS), continues to act as a Forum for the development of further integration of voluntary and statutory sector responders. The group has representation from the voluntary sector, local authorities and other public sector responders and the Regional Resilience Partnerships.

The Scottish Government also supports a number of mechanisms which enable groups to share good practice among themselves. The Ready Scotland website highlights a number of examples of good practice involving partnership working between the statutory and voluntary sectors. In addition, the Scottish Government maintains the Voluntary Emergency Responders Guide, which raises the profile of the services which national voluntary response organisations provide, includes contact details and provides specific guidance on cross-sector engagement.

### **Infrastructure and the built environment**

Business, individuals and key services rely on infrastructure and the built environment on a daily basis. It is therefore of great importance that our infrastructure and built environment is capable of withstanding the challenges of climate change both now and in the future. I am grateful to the Committee for their recommendations under this section and Scottish Government officials will give them careful consideration when finalising the Programme.

The consultation draft Scottish Planning Policy identified climate change as a principal overarching policy to be factored into all planning decisions and the policy included adaptation to climate change. The revised Scottish Planning Policy is expected to be published in Summer 2014 and is the most appropriate place to identify the planning system's approach to adaptation. A position statement on the SPP will be provided when the proposed National Planning Framework 3 is laid in Parliament in the New Year.

In addition, National Planning Framework 3 Main Issues Report consultation identified the importance of water resource management and noted the potential for long term opportunities for a strategic approach to sustainable flood management linked with other measures such as woodland planting and peatland management. The Scottish Government is considering all responses to the consultation and intends to lay the proposed National Planning Framework 3 before the Scottish Parliament in the New Year for the statutory 60 days of Parliamentary consideration.

With regards to energy sector, the Scottish Government recognises that developers, including those engaged in renewables, may need to take into account in their future siting decisions the risk of climate change, not only in terms of local impacts such as weather events, flooding and subsidence, but possible impacts on global supply chains. Scottish Government will consider carefully how to raise awareness of potential risks, including through engagement with Scottish Renewables and other industry stakeholders.

The Scottish Government also recognises that broadband infrastructure providers have to take into account the risk of climate change along with the visual, noise and other impacts on the environment when designing networks and siting structures. The Scottish Government supports close working between infrastructure providers and relevant authorities to minimise negative impacts of deployment and maximise the reach of broadband enabling infrastructure.

Transport infrastructure, roads rail, airports and ports – and the businesses that use these assets – are also all important components of Scotland's economy. With climate change challenges both now and in the future, we need to make sure that our transport infrastructure is adapted to cope. Some key actions already in place to ensure that our transport infrastructure is resilient to climate change include:

- Wind barriers on the new Queensferry Crossing will protect the crossing from the effects of wind.
- New trunk road infrastructure construction takes account of the impacts of climate change. For example, the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route (AWPR) reviewed the effects of Climate Change with a specific focus on drainage and flooding performance and accommodated such risk by increasing the return period storm events to take account of the predicted increased frequency of storms events of particular scales.
- Trunk road scheme designs (where applicable) also commission Flood Risk Assessment's (FRA) to assess the potential impact on the trunk road network of flood risk from nearby rivers and burns.
- The design of the Borders Railway Project incorporates resilience to a range of weather variables resulting from future climate change, including temperature extremes of -20°C to +35°C and a variety of rainfall intensities.
- Retrofitting landslide mitigation for existing roads. The Scottish Road Network Landslides Study identified debris flow locations across the Scottish Trunk Road Network.

## **Business**

You suggest that the Scottish Government review and, if necessary, update existing maps to show alternative road and rail routes that could be used by businesses and individuals during extreme weather events. Traffic Scotland system is already well developed in providing detailed information to the travelling public through various media, such as internet radio, website, social media and variable message signs. This system will continue to be developed. Weather information has also been further enhanced through the Met Office providing 4 levels of expected impact. Links to such warnings are also provided on the Traffic Scotland website.

Trunk road network has a network of alternative strategic emergency diversion routes which can be activated in the case of closures for any reason. The A83 Rest and Be Thankful – because this is an area more prone to landslide – has its own specific diversion plan which also includes alternative modes such as the Western Ferries serviced from Dunoon to Gourock. As part of our Climate Change Adaptation work, we are working closely with Scottish Local Authorities, SGORR, Police Scotland and other organisations to share good practice and information.

With respect to the railways, the Network Code requires that Train Operators propose diversionary routes to deal with disruptive events, this can be for engineering operations or other disruption and each operator is free to propose what's best for them. This is then included as part of the contingency plan agreed by Network Rail and the Operators which also includes the details of emergency timetables. Network Rail manage this process on behalf of the industry, and arrange regular reviews of these plans. They are also required to consult stakeholders prior to implementation to ensure contingency plans are introduced cooperatively.

It is also worth noting here that as with all travel disruption, the general public have to play their own part in displaying behaviours based on informed decision making.

I note your views on the need to the benefits of local and shorter food supply chains and the recommendation to strengthen this area in the final Programme. As I noted in my evidence session to the Committee on the 6<sup>th</sup> November, the agri-food, as well as the aquaculture and sea fisheries food supply chains are of profound importance, and we need to ensure they are resilient to the impacts climate change.

The benefits of local food systems and short supply chains are broad ranging and in recognising these benefits, the Scottish Government have funded the Sourcing For Growth Initiative over 2013-15 which will help shorten supply chains by linking up Scottish food producers with manufacturers interested in sourcing Scottish raw materials. The Scottish Government are also funding a Market Driven Supply Chain project over 2013-17 with Scottish Enterprise which will work with a range of stakeholders to help ensure there are efficient supply chains in the food and drink sector. This builds on the Cultivating Collaboration supply chain project from 2008-2012 which helped over 300 companies generate sales and cost savings of £10.92m.

In addition to this wider industry work, the Scottish Government funds organisations such as Nourish Scotland, a grassroots food organisation that works toward sustainable, localised food system. In addition, the Scottish Government's Eat in Season campaign seeks to increase awareness about what foods are in season when, and to encourage Scots to eat foods at the right time throughout the year. Nourish Scotland provided a detailed response to the public consultation on the draft Programme which will be considered as part of the consultation analysis to inform any revisions to the Programme.

In response to your comments on the potential vulnerabilities of small and medium sized businesses, the Scottish Government will continue to provide targeted support to assist small and medium sized businesses (SMEs). The Scottish Government, its agencies (in particular, Scottish Enterprise, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and Scottish Environment Protection Agency) will continue in ensuring that businesses have a good understanding of the range of risks they may face from the impacts of the changing climate. Raising awareness of climate change and how businesses can act to address risks and seek opportunities in order to make a positive contribution will be important. Resource Efficient Scotland programme offers comprehensive information, advice and support to businesses, third sector and public sector organisations to implement energy, material resource and water efficiency measures. The implementation of resource efficiency measures will produce cost savings, increased competitiveness and reduced emissions. The Scottish Government is investing £7m annually establishing a more accessible service and the programme is targeting savings of at least £21m per year to organisations in Scotland and will provide some form of support to at least 12,500 organisations per year (including 12,000 SMEs). In addition the Scottish Government funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to provide interest-free loans of £1,000 -



£100,000 to install renewable energy technologies or measures that reduce energy or resource consumption to SMEs. Investing in resource efficiency will have twin benefits of reducing carbon emissions and increasing business resilience to a changing climate by reducing exposure to the price volatility of critical raw materials.

The Committee also requested that the potential international impacts of climate change for businesses and supply chains are taken in to account in the final programme. Impacts of the global climate are expected to be felt by most businesses irrespective of their size, location, markets, products and services. The Climate Change Risk Assessment for Scotland identified this as an issue but the evidence base was too uncertain. As the evidence base improves, we will consider what action might be needed.

I also undertook to look into the legal position on how the Procurement (Scotland) Bill may maximise opportunities for Scotland. While EU law does not allow any Member State to discriminate in favour of its indigenous businesses, removing barriers to SME participation in public procurement markets could contribute significantly to Scotland's economic growth. The Procurement Reform (Scotland) Bill, as introduced to Parliament on 3rd October 2013, contains duties and measures that are designed to ensure that a public body considers, and where relevant acts, to ensure that its procurement activities improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of that body's area and that it also acts in a manner which facilitates the involvement of SMEs, the Third Sector and Supported Businesses in the process.

### **Agriculture and forestry**

I note your views under this section and your recommendations on how the section on agriculture and forestry could be strengthened in the final programme. These will be considered by officials when finalising the Programme.

Scottish Government funded climate change advisory activity, which includes Farming for a Better Climate and Future Proofing Scotland's Farming, is helping land managers to develop skills in sustainable farm practices in order to prepare for the impacts, opportunities and risks that both economic and climate change present. One of the key objectives of these programmes is to raise awareness that the adoption of climate friendly farming measures has cross cutting benefits and can result in improvements to business resilience, water and air quality and biodiversity.

The reform of the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) has been one of the most important decisions for Scotland's agricultural industry in recent years. Now that Europe has reached a deal, we know the shape of the support system until 2020 and can plan for the future. Work is continuing on the detail of the system and we are working closely with stakeholders on the final programme. This month, we published a consultation on the implementation of CAP Direct Payments from 2015. The Stage 1 consultation for the SRDP 2014 – 2020 took place in the summer, and the Stage 2 consultation has now commenced.

Recommendation 10 of the WEAG report on 'Integration' recommended that the next SRDP should encourage better integration between woodland creation and farming or deer management, including: (1) making use of 'agroforestry' measures in the Rural Development Regulation; and (2) supporting woodland creation models which combine grazing and shelter. A proposal for Agroforestry has been submitted for the next SRDP that includes two options to encourage agroforestry: (1) Proposals for existing woodlands; and (2) Proposals for new woodlands.

In addition to work on agroforestry, a programme of related research is also being taken forward to improve our understanding of climate change impacts on woodlands and how

resilience to threats such as extreme weather events and pests and disease affecting trees and forests, can be improved in future, see:

<http://www.forestry.gov.uk/website/forestresearch.nsf/ByUnique/INFD-98EDL2>

Forestry is a land use based on long-term planning. This is reflected in related aspects of, and risks identified in, the (draft) climate change adaptation programme. Guidance has been developed by FCS and is now available to assist land managers in making decisions on appropriate adaptation strategies for the longer term. The guidance is available at <http://www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechangescotland>.

### **Land use and the natural environment**

I welcome the Committee's interest in seeing that the health of Scotland's ecosystems improves and the benefits that nature provides are maintained and enhanced. I can reassure the Committee that the 2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity and Scotland's Land Use Strategy both champion the adoption of an ecosystem approach and an integrated approach to land and water management. I would also like to highlight the on-going Regional Land Use Framework Pilot projects in the Scottish Borders and Aberdeenshire which are trialling an innovative approach aimed at providing a mechanism to guide future decisions on how the land is used in these areas, in order to achieve multiple benefits for the environment and society. These policies were already in the consulted upon Climate Change Adaptation Programme. I have ensured that these are reflected in the final Programme.

### **Marine environment**

Scotland's Marine Atlas was published in 2011 and provided the evidence base for the development of Scotland's first National Marine Plan. As part of the Planning Scotland's Seas consultation, a Draft National Marine Plan was consulted on from 25 July – 13 November 2013, alongside proposals for Marine Protected Areas and Draft Marine Plans for offshore renewables.

Since the publication of the Marine Atlas in 2011, Marine Scotland has developed National Marine Plan interactive (NMPi), a GIS based web tool. NMPi, which is updated on an on-going basis, hosts the GIS data which underpinned the Atlas. This work has been undertaken, and is continuing, in partnership with SNH, SEPA JNCC and MASTS.

I undertook to provide the Committee with clarification on where the 2014-15 draft Scottish Government budget details spending on Marine and Fisheries. I refer the committee to pages 98 and 99 of the 2014-15 Draft Scottish Government Budget and I would draw your particular attention to page 99 and the commitment that Marine Scotland will in 2014-15 and 2015-16 fully implement an integrated approach to marine planning and management as provided for in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. NMPi is part of this work.

### **Communities**

The Scottish Government has published guidance for communities on Community Emergency Planning on the Ready Scotland website. This guidance was developed in consultation with community groups and statutory responders. It identifies straightforward measures which communities can take to make themselves more resilient, and provides resources such as customisable templates which can be used by community groups. This guidance has been widely used by Scottish communities, usually working in partnership with local authorities.

Preparing Scotland Guidance on Building Community Resilience published in April 2013 sets out good practice for emergency responders to working with communities and the voluntary sector on community resilience plans.

Examples of good practice are shared on the Ready Scotland website. For example, as part of this year's Ready for Winter campaign, the Scottish Government worked with a community resilience group in the Scottish Borders, and the Scottish Borders Council to produce a video-clip which shows how they carried out a "live-play" exercise to test their community resilience plan.

A key mechanism through which the Scottish Government will ensure wider engagement with communities in meeting the objectives in the Programme will be through its support for Adaptation Scotland. Adaptation Scotland's approach will ensure direct engagement with communities in order to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges they face as a result of climate change and what they can do to take action.

### **Flooding**

I welcome the Committee's recognition of the new flood risk and hazard maps which will be powerful tools in supporting the development of local flood risk plans and targeting investment. I should clarify that the maps have not been delayed. The planned completion date for these is the 22 December (in line with the date specified in the EU Floods Directive). From this date the maps will be publicly available from SEPA. Given the proximity to Christmas we are not planning any immediate proactive publicity around the maps. We are planning to publicise the completion of these maps in early January. SEPA is working with partners such as local authorities to develop a communications strategy that will clearly communicate the maps, and what they mean, to a wide range of interests. If the Committee would find it useful we would be happy to arrange a briefing with SEPA officials.

The Committee was also interested to hear of SEPA's work in developing and administering the new flood warning schemes. This is an important piece of work and Transport Scotland for example, recognise that further work is necessary to strengthen their links with SEPA to allow a consistent and joined-up warning system. Through this, they will be able to better inform users of the transport network about the likelihood of flooding and if flooding is either about to happen or has happened. This will also allow them to prioritise the necessary mitigation work to reduce the risk of flooding in the future. Transport Scotland's concentration of the first couple of years of the Adaptation Programme (2014-16) will be to gather together all relevant information that will inform their future plans.

I note the Committee's request for an update on how the Scottish Government will prioritise investment in flood risk management to help those who are most vulnerable. There will be a prioritisation process taking place over the course of the next year and I will provide an update towards the end of 2014.

As you know, in October, the Scottish Government published the report, *Flood Disadvantage in Scotland: mapping the potential losses in wellbeing*, which sets out the impact of flood risk on vulnerable communities and looks at issues at a domestic level.

The report aims to help policy-makers and practitioners explore the potential of an approach to flood and climate change adaptation planning and management focused on the underlying vulnerability of people and places. Along with a copy of the report each local authority received a list of flood disadvantaged neighbourhoods identified in its area.

The report was presented as a basis for discussion and potential further development and we have asked local authorities for feedback on the report. We will use the feedback to decide whether and how this work should be updated and improved, e.g. to take account of the new flood maps, pluvial flooding and flood defences. I will provide the Committee with future updates as this work stream is taken forward.

### **Social Justice**

I welcome the Committee's interest on social justice. Research<sup>1</sup> suggests that not only are the most deprived people often more exposed to specific climate change impacts, they also find it harder to recover when they occur.

The draft Programme seeks to address some of the most important impacts of the changing climate on Scotland's society. The Climate Ready Society theme has a number of policies and proposals to understand the effects of climate change on people, homes and communities and; build the resilience of communities against climate change impacts, in particular on vulnerable people.

However, more targeted support may be required for those in society who are likely to be the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. We are currently considering how we can better understand the equalities implications of climate change impacts.

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<sup>1</sup> Adapting to the Differential Social Impacts of Climate Change in the UK, Sniffer, 2009. Available at [http://www.sniffer.org.uk/files/7513/4183/8010/UKCC22\\_LiteratureReview\\_web.pdf](http://www.sniffer.org.uk/files/7513/4183/8010/UKCC22_LiteratureReview_web.pdf).