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*Dear Richard + colleagues*

I would like to thank you for your letter of 29 May, and the advice that you and your co-signatories have provided on a just and green recovery from COVID-19.

While our response to COVID-19 continues in earnest, so must our response to the climate emergency. The Scottish Government continues to be absolutely committed to our world-leading climate change targets, including net zero by 2045 and a 75% reduction in emissions by 2030.

Importantly, these targets are underpinned, as part of the Climate Change (Emissions Reduction Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019, by the principles of Just Transition, which dictate that no one is left behind as we pursue net zero emissions. I believe that as we begin building our recovery from COVID-19, these principles are more important than ever. For this reason, the Scottish Government has asked the Just Transition Commission to provide written advice on how to apply a just transition focus to our recovery work.

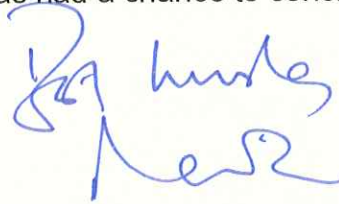
COVID-19 is the biggest challenge we have faced in our lifetimes. However, Scotland has pulled together, and there are now sustained signs that we are making progress against the virus.

The journey has been very challenging and while we are not there yet, we must think about our destination. As I have said before, when things come apart – when the kaleidoscope of our lives is shaken – there is an opportunity to see them put back together differently, and see a new way of doing things. We do not have to just rebuild, we can reform.

Our ability to embrace new behaviours, ways of living and thinking has been striking, as has our resilience, adaptability and creativity in the face of adversity. Positive behaviours have emerged that we must seek to embed as we move forward.

As your letter emphasises, the impact of COVID-19 has given us an opportunity to re-imagine the Scotland around us. It has proven just how important it is that we strive for a society that is resilient to the other challenges that we face, such as the climate emergency. I agree that the decisions we make in the face of this crisis will have a long-term impact on our future. The Scottish Government is therefore determined to ensure that we deliver a recovery that is not just sustainable, but is inclusive, fair, and champions wellbeing.

The proposals you set out are welcome and we will now take time to consider them as part of our commitment to and development of, a green recovery. The Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform would be pleased to meet with you when she has had a chance to consider these proposals.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nicola Sturgeon', is positioned above the printed name.

**NICOLA STURGEON**