

**Minister for Small Business, Innovation, Tourism
and Trade**

Ministear airson Gnìomhachasan Beaga, Ùr-ghnàthachadh,
Turasachd agus Malairt
Richard Lochhead MSP/BPA



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
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Ryan Crighton

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Our Reference: 202300391154

Your Reference: Just Transition Fund

24 January 2024

Dear Ryan,

Thank you for your letter to Humza Yousaf MSP, First Minister. I hold some responsibility for just transition within my portfolio remit and I would like to reply on the First Minister's behalf.

I fully appreciate your points concerning the challenges facing the region. Several recent publications including the PwC Green Jobs Barometer (11 Dec 2023) and Fraser of Allander Institute (18 December 2023) outline Scotland's leading status in green job creation with the renewables industry alone supporting more than 42,000 FTE jobs across the Scottish Economy. The Scottish Government is committed to continuing to foster a supportive policy environment to build upon this success and realise the huge potential in our net zero aspirations. We will continue to set out more clearly actions which the Scottish Government will undertake to support the existing workforce and encourage new job market entrants to take advantage of the job prospects offered by Scotland's net zero transition within our forthcoming Just Transition Plans.

We have been clear about the difficult budget decisions that have had to be made in the coming year, but we have been equally clear about our commitment to prioritising the Just Transition Fund programme over the full 10-year lifespan. For that reason, we will continue to fund support for our existing projects in 2024-25, and over the course of this year, we will be evaluating the next phase of the Just Transition Fund. We will be engaging directly with stakeholders across the region in due course as part of this process. However, my Just Transition Fund officials would be happy to discuss this further with you if helpful and in the first instance and I would recommend contacting Lorne Bonfield within the Just Transition Fund Team at Lorne.Bonfield@gov.scot to make the necessary arrangements.

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Tha Ministearanna h-Alba, an luchd-comhairleachaidh sònraichte agus Rùnaire Maireannach fo chumhachan Achd Coiteachaidh (Alba) 2016. Faicibh www.lobbying.scot

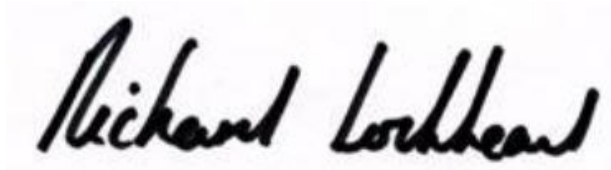
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Yours sincerely



RICHARD LOCHHEAD

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