

Mairi Gougeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands
Scottish Government
St Andrew's House
Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG



21 October 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

With COP26 fast approaching, I wanted to reiterate the support of the NFFN to the efforts of your Government to show leadership on the international stage in the global fight against the twin crises of biodiversity loss and climate change and to champion a Green Recovery. I also wanted to send you the attached report, [Rethink Farming: A Practical Guide for Farming, Nature and Climate](#). This is a part of our wider Rethink Farming campaign, which offers practical insight into how farms and crofts can deliver for biodiversity recovery and help mitigate the worst impacts of our warming world.

As we sought to demonstrate during your recent visit to Peelham Farm, we share your aspiration to bring about change on a landscape scale and we were pleased to have the opportunity to discuss with you some of the measures which you might support to initiate that change on the ground and in the mind-set of farmers and crofters. The "Code Red" for humanity in the IPCC's recent Report reaffirms the need for urgent and immediate action, reflected in so many other reports in similar vein.

We know that food production is critical to the success of our economy. We also know that "business as usual" is not an option in the face of such severe crises. Our aim is to mainstream nature friendly farming and nature-based solutions as a powerful response to those crises. As we showed you, Nature is a "shareholder" in our businesses. We believe that taking that approach strengthens the resilience of our businesses and will help to reinforce Scotland's iconic natural environment and combat climate change.

You have appealed to farmers and crofters and members of the public to "get behind " your "national endeavour" to change Scottish agriculture for the better. As we told you at Peelham, we will do that, in a spirit of constructive collaboration.

We wish you and your Government every success with COP26 and hope that what follows will accelerate the process of change so urgently needed.

Yours Sincerely,

Michael Clarke, UK Chair, **Nature Friendly Farming Network**

