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By email: steve@treesforlife.org.uk

3 June 2025

Dear Steve,

As you are aware, NatureScot recently announced that it intends to carry out further work on the application to translocate beavers to Glen Affric.

I fully recognise the significant efforts that have been made by Forestry Land Scotland, Trees for Life, and partners to consult with local communities and stakeholders as part of the process to apply to NatureScot for a licence to translocate beavers to Loch Beinn a' Mheadhoin in Glen Affric.

It is clear, however, that there remains considerable concern about the proposal among the local community and its representatives. In light of this and given we are now in the beaver kit dependency period when young beavers are reliant on their parents and trapping and translocation is not appropriate, NatureScot plan to undertake further engagement over the summer with those most likely to be affected before any licensing decision is made.

I also fully support the approach being taken by NatureScot and that further consultation with those land managers who may be impacted by beavers will be beneficial. Given the concerns from the local community, it is only right that NatureScot take the time to undertake further engagement with land and fisheries managers to ensure that appropriate mitigation measures will be agreed before any licensing decision is made.

I understand that there may be frustration around the timeframe for this licencing decision, but with proposals such as this we have to ensure the best chance of success for wildlife living alongside the people and communities most affected.

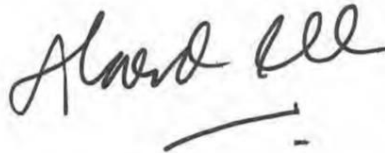
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The Scottish Government supports the targeted reintroduction of beaver populations. However, we need to ensure that where translocations take place, measures are put in place to ensure rural people and beavers are able to thrive.

The delay in determining the application by NatureScot has generated a considerable amount of correspondence on this issue which seems to have originated from social media. As such, I would be grateful if you could publish this letter on your media outlets, including those of the Scottish Rewilding Alliance, to provide an update on the latest position on this application to your members.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alasdair Allan', with a horizontal line underneath.

ALASDAIR ALLAN
MINISTER FOR CLIMATE ACTION

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