

Minister for Climate Action  
Ministear airson Gnìomhachd na Gnàth-shìde  
Alasdair Allan MSP  
Alasdair Allan BPA



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Mr Peter Cairns  
Executive Director  
SCOTLAND: The Big Picture  
By email:  
[peter@scotlandbigpicture.com](mailto:peter@scotlandbigpicture.com)

4<sup>th</sup> April, 2025

Dear Mr Cairns,

I am writing to you regarding Scotland: The Big Picture's Lynx to Scotland webpage ( [Show your support | Lynx to Scotland](#) ) asking people to show their support for the reintroduction of lynx to the Scottish Highlands by writing to John Swinney MSP, the First Minister of Scotland. This campaign appears to have generated a considerable amount of correspondence, which falls under my portfolio as Minister for Climate Action, and I would therefore be grateful if you could publish my response below on your website.

I would like to assure both you and the signatories of your campaign that the Scottish Government is determined to work to improve Scotland's natural environment and fight biodiversity loss.

We are pursuing a number of different actions to meet the aims and objectives of Scotland's Biodiversity Strategy. Our new Biodiversity Strategy sets out our ambition to halt the loss of nature by 2030 and make significant progress to restoring nature by 2045. The strategy is supported by a series of 6 year rolling delivery plans, the first of which, published in November 2024, includes over 100 actions to ensure we are on track to halting biodiversity loss by 2030.

Further to this, a new Natural Environment Bill will put in place statutory targets to restore and protect nature. It will also include provisions to modernise the way in which national parks and deer are managed; and provide powers to update environmental impact assessment and habitats legislation to support delivery of our net zero and biodiversity goals. Together, these form our Strategic Framework for Biodiversity, which will drive a step change to accelerate the pace and scale of our efforts to halt the loss of biodiversity.

Turning to the reintroduction of lynx. I would like to reiterate the First Minister of Scotland's statement regarding lynx; and to inform both you and the signatories of your campaign that the Scottish Government has no intention of reintroducing lynx.

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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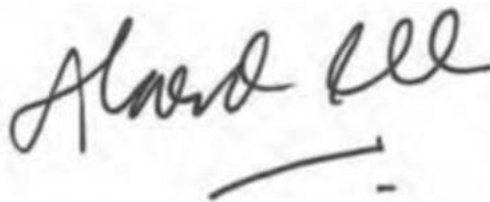
The Scottish Code for Conservation Translocations sets out when conservation translocations may be appropriate, and the types of situations in which they may cause problems to wildlife, people, and the environment. However, the Scottish Government does not believe that there is the necessary support amongst the Scottish public in general and land managers in particular for such a reintroduction to take place at present. For example, when NatureScot undertook a public consultation for the reintroduction of species under the Species Action Framework, very few people suggested that large predators such as lynx should be the focus of action.

NatureScot currently chairs the National Species Reintroduction Forum (NSRF), which is made up of a range of organisations from the conservation, land use, public and Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) sectors. If NatureScot were to receive any formal proposal for lynx reintroduction, then this would be put to the NSRF for discussion and consideration.

Reintroduction projects are often complex and need careful consideration and planning to ensure national and international best practice guidelines are met. Any proposed lynx reintroduction would require a significant amount of consultation, as well as evidence to assess the risks and benefits associated. Ensuring that the views of those who would be most affected are fully taken into account is a priority for NatureScot and the Scottish Government.

I do appreciate the comments of both you and the signatories of your campaign and hope this information provides some clarity as to why the Scottish Government currently has no intention to reintroduce lynx to Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Alasdair Allan**

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