

F/T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee
Scottish Parliament

12 December 2023

Dear Edward,

Thank you for the Committee's continuing work on the appointments to the Scottish Land Commission. As you are aware, the Scottish Government is also committed to introducing Land Reform legislation to further improve transparency of land ownership, help ensure large scale land holdings deliver in the public interest, and empower communities by providing more opportunities to own land and have more say in how land in their area is used.

It is important that the proposals in the Bill are robust to address the problems identified and are compliant with ECHR given the proposed impacts on relevant landowners. To ensure this we are giving further consideration to measures in the Bill. Land reform is complex, and we are taking time to ensure that we have fully considered all responses to the consultation and subsequent comments from a range of stakeholders. We are also carrying out a series of thorough impact assessments to ensure we fully understand what the effects of various measures will be.

To allow time for this further consideration and ensure we get the proposals right for introduction, we are planning a slight delay to the introduction of the Bill. It remains a Programme for Government commitment for 2023-24.

We are also committed to bringing forward measures in the Bill to ensure that tenant farmers and small landholders are given equality of opportunity to access the new agricultural support framework. We will ensure that the future four tier agricultural support framework is able to work for all types of land tenure.

As we finalise the preparation of the Bill I have asked my officials to keep the Committee updated on progress towards introduction in line with usual Bill processes. I look forward to engaging with the Committee as the Bill progresses.

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

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

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

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG
www.gov.scot



INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE

Accredited
Until 2020

