



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon

Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,
Land Reform and Islands

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40

The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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27 June 2024

Dear Mairi,

APPOINTMENTS TO THE SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION

Thank you for your letter of 8 June in which you provided a draft application pack for appointments to the Scottish Land Commission (2 new Commissioners and a new Tenant Farming Commissioner).

The Committee had previously set out our intended approach to consideration of the appointments and this has been reflected in the draft pack. The Committee indicated it would review the draft materials and you have asked the Committee to reflect on specific parts of the pack.

The Committee did not have comments on the role description or person specification and was content with the dates provided for the appointment round.

The Committee discussed the proposed Parliamentary Scrutiny section and in particular your request for an indication of whether the Committee might meet with candidates, if it chooses to do so, in a public or private meeting of the Committee. The Committee wishes to reserve the option of meeting with nominees prior to making a recommendation to Parliament as previously stated. The Committee also wishes to decide at the time how it might do this. To provide potential applicants with as much information as possible, the Committee may wish to meet with candidates—

- Informally – this will not be part of a formal Committee meeting;
- Formally in private – this will be part of a Committee meeting and will be in private; and
- Formally in public – this will be part of a Committee meeting and will be in public. This will mean the session will be broadcast and available to view afterwards. A transcript (Official Report) will be produced and this will form part of Parliamentary records.

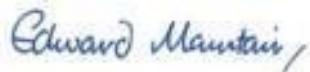
The Committee also notes that the work of the Scottish Land Commission is within the remit of the NZET Committee and it is likely the successful applicants will be invited to give formal, public evidence in the course of the role if successful.

The Committee has requested details of how the nominees meet the requirements of section 11 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, including the steps taken to ensure the Board includes a Gaelic speaker.

The Committee notes from your correspondence of 15 April that a Public Appointments Adviser has been allocated to every stage of the appointment round. The Committee would welcome details of the risks identified to this appointment process, what this means in practice, and how this differs from other appointment rounds. It would be helpful to have this by 16 August 2024.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you well in the appointment process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee