



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,  
Land Reform and Islands  
Scottish Government

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
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Dear Mairi

### **Appointments to the Scottish Land Commission**

I am grateful for your letter of 17 January responding to mine of 22 December.

However, I am still unclear how the Scottish Government believes the media became aware on 1 December of Michael Russell's proposed appointment to chair the Scottish Land Commission.

The Committee was assured by the Scottish Government's public appointments team that none of the candidates were made aware of their status as successful or unsuccessful nominees for appointment until the morning of 13 December, and the Committee itself was being asked to keep names confidential. It is on these matters we seek clarity.

I also reiterate that the Committee is seeking to raise this issue with you in a constructive spirit, in order to ensure that lessons are learned in relation to future rounds of public appointments by the Scottish Government.

I would be grateful for a response by 15 February.

Yours sincerely,

Edward Mountain MSP  
Convener  
**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**