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Edward Mountain MSP
Convener
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee

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31 January 2024

Dear Convener,

Appointments to the Scottish Land Commission

I wanted to update you on the work to finalise the appointments to the Scottish Land Commission following the Parliament's approval of the of the proposed Chair and two Land Commissioners on 21 December 2023.

I am pleased to be able to report that all the necessary pre-appointment checks were completed last week, and I subsequently issued formal appointment letters to Michael Russell for the role of Chair and Land Commissioner, and to Deborah Roberts and Craig MacKenzie for the role of Land Commissioner. I can confirm that they will all take up their appointments to the Scottish Land Commission on 1 February 2024, in line with the timescale set out in the application packs.

I also wanted to let you know that Andrew Thin's last day as Chair of the Scottish Land Commission will be 31 January 2024. Although Andrew Thin's term as Chair was extended to 18 March 2024 to ensure transitional arrangements were in place, Andrew wrote to me on 27 January to tender his resignation as both Chair and Land Commissioner, with his last day being 31 January. I have accepted his resignation and am extremely grateful that Andrew Thin was willing to remain in the post of Chair until the appointment of his successor commences.

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I would once again like to thank the Committee and its staff for their hard work in relation to this appointment round.

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

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