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Michael Russell  
Chair  
Scottish Land Commission  
*Via email*

27 January 2025

Dear Michael,

## Land Reform Bill

I want to write to thank you for the Commission's advice on Part 1 of the Land Reform Bill. As the advice notes, the Bill is a significant step forward in addressing Scotland's long-standing challenges with concentrated land ownership.

The advice is clear that you are seeking to simplify and strengthen the proposals. I too want the legislation to be as simple, understandable and robust as possible, to ensure it fully achieves its aim of changing for the better how land is owned and managed in our rural and island communities.

I know you have also sent this advice to the Scottish Parliament's Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee and that you may be asked to give further evidence to the Committee. I very much welcome the ongoing scrutiny of the Bill by the Committee and am keen to consider your advice alongside the Committee's recommendations on the Bill when it publishes its Stage 1 report. I look forward to appearing before the Committee on the Bill myself in February.

I am also grateful for the SLC's continued support of the Bill. Scotland has a proud history of land reform since devolution, including the establishment of the Commission in 2017, and I know this Bill will complement existing legislation and build on the success of those reforms.

Yours sincerely,



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# MAIRI GOUGEON

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