



Scottish Land Commission
Coimisean Fearainn na h-Alba

Programme of Work

April 2025 – September 2026



Our Programme of Work sets out the planned work for the Scottish Land Commission to deliver on our Strategic Plan. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 requires the Commission to publish a Programme of Work and for it to be laid in Parliament.

Our Programme of Work takes an 18-month time horizon, and we expect to update it as required so that our work remains relevant and can respond to changing priorities within the period of the Strategic Plan. The delivery and resourcing arrangements in each financial year are set out in our annual business plans.

Our overall strategy is set out in our current Strategic Plan, published in September 2023:

Our Vision: the ownership and use of land supports thriving people and places

Our Strategy: People, Power & Prosperity - we work to achieve these high-level outcomes:

- **People** - people participate in and influence decisions about how land is used;
- **Power** – power and control in land is shared more widely through diverse ownership and governance;
- **Prosperity** - the value and benefits of land are used fairly to create economic prosperity and wellbeing.

We do this by:

- Advising on reforms to law, policy and practice;
- Supporting practical implementation of Scotland's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement;
- Promoting good relations between agricultural landlords and tenants through the functions of the Tenant Farming Commissioner;
- Engaging people in why land matters and how they can be involved;
- Underpinned by sound corporate governance and organisational development.

Our Programme of Work for the period April 2025 – September 2026:

1. Advising on reforms to law, policy and practice

We will provide evidence, analysis and advice to Scottish Ministers, Parliament and stakeholders.

1.1 Land Reform Bill	<p>Provide advice, analysis and evidence to inform development and implementation of the primary and subsequent stages of the Land Reform Bill;</p> <p>Identify and plan for the resource and corporate implications for the Commission of potential new functions arising from the Bill;</p>	Ongoing
1.2 A Land Reformed Scotland	Engage on envisioning what a land reformed Scotland looks like and advise on a programme of reforms that would complete Scotland's current land reform journey;	Apr 25- Apr 26
1.3 Priorities for policy advice	<p>Advise and promote opportunities in policy and practice to support more diverse models of land governance including crofting and other small-scale land opportunities;</p> <p>Provide advice to inform Scottish Government's Review of Community Rights to Buy including convening a Reference Group for the Review, and consider other reforms to support community land ownership, including examining the role of the Scottish Land Fund;</p> <p>Deliver on the commitment in the Scottish Government's Tax Strategy to explore the role of tax in land reform and net zero outcomes through research, engagement and development of a route map;</p> <p>Advise on the strategic opportunity for leadership through public land ownership in delivering land reform outcomes including diverse land ownership, housing and community benefit;</p>	Apr 25- Sept 26
1.4 Research and data	Refresh the Commission's research strategy to harness opportunities for collaboration and external funding including co-ordination with the RESAS strategic research programme;	Apr 25-Sept 25

	<p>Publish annual reporting on the rural land market, providing data and analysis to inform policy;</p> <p>Advise on improvements to land data integration and availability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Apr 25-Sept 25</p>
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2. Supporting practical implementation of Scotland's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement

We will provide advice and guidance to help people and organisations implement the LRRS principles.

2.1 Good practice in land ownership, use and management	Review and refresh the Land Rights and Responsibilities Protocols with accompanying guidance and case studies	Apr 25- Apr 26
	Deliver a programme of engagement and CPD for land agents and other professionals in collaboration with partners	Ongoing
	Provide advice for land owners and managers seeking to be proactive in implementing the LRRS	Ongoing
	Provide advice to communities and land owners where concerns are raised about implementation of the LRRS to support good practice	Ongoing
	Convene the Good Practice Advisory Group as a regular means of stakeholder engagement and collaboration	Ongoing
	Review ways the Good Practice Programme could be expanded to extend impact	Apr 25-Sept 25
2.2 Community benefits from land and natural capital	Provide advice on good practice and support implementation of community benefits from land and natural capital.	Apr 25- Apr 26

3. Promoting good relations between agricultural landlords and tenants through the functions of the Tenant Farming Commissioner

We will support delivery of the statutory functions of the Tenant Farming Commissioner, seeking synergies with our wider work programme.

3.1 Codes of Practice, Guidance and casework	Ensure Codes and Guidance address current and emerging issues to support good relations. Respond to casework enquiries or alleged breaches of Codes of Practice.	Ongoing
3.2 Relinquishment and Assignment of Agricultural Tenancies	Fulfil the statutory requirement to appoint a valuer when required to enable relinquishment and assignation of agricultural tenancies	Ongoing
3.3 Tenant Farming Advisory Forum	Convene the Forum as a regular means of stakeholder engagement and collaboration Identify ways to improve and share data on tenant farming to better inform policy	Ongoing Apr 25 – Apr 26
3.4 Land Reform Bill Part 2	Advise on development and implementation of tenant farming reforms in Part 2 of the Land Reform Bill.	Ongoing

4. Engaging people in why land matters and how they can be involved

We will involve the public and stakeholders in our work, build collaboration and use our convening role to bring different expertise and perspectives together with a shared focus.

4.1 Public engagement	Stimulate and inform the public conversation on land and land reform through publications, blogs, media and communications	Ongoing
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	Refresh and improve the Commission's website to improve accessibility and functionality	Apr 25 – Apr 26
4.2 Communications and events	Deliver a programme of online and in-person events to support our work programme and broaden engagement in land reform	Ongoing
4.3 Convening Stakeholders	<p>Convene discussions to promote collaboration and insights across sectors related to land</p> <p>Convene standing groups including the Community Land Leadership Group, Tenant Farming Advisory Forum, and Good Practice Advisory Group and develop new arrangements for promoting human rights considerations in land reform.</p>	Ongoing

5. Being an effective organisation

We will develop our systems and staff to ensure that we are able to deliver our core objectives effectively.

5.1 Organisational development	Proactive organisational development including staff training and development that supports an open and collaborative culture	Ongoing
5.2 Medium term financial strategy	Keep resource planning and medium-term finance strategy under review in order to remain flexible and able to adapt to future priorities	Ongoing
5.3 Strategic planning	Plan for implications of potential changes in Commission functions arising from the Land Reform Bill	Ongoing
	Ensure the Commission is ready to develop its next Strategic Plan due in September 2026.	Apr 26 – Sept 26