Written submission from Eileen McCann

These are my opinions but I agree with others, including Andy Wightman, that the bill has been softened and does not go far enough.

- The proposals on land ownership do not go nearly far enough.
- The provision for offshore non-EU trusts and companies disallowed from owning land had been removed.
- If there were loopholes in this clause it should have been tightened. I would like to see not just an EU company but an EU named citizen/s as the owners of land.
- I agree with and am including Andy Wightman’s response to this section:

  1. 219. We consider that the Scottish Government should reflect further on options for ensuring that the land registration system reduces the scope for tax evasion, tax avoidance and the use of tax havens, and that the Government should explain prior to Stage 2 what additional provisions can be included, whether in the Bill or otherwise, to achieve this objective.7

In addition the bill should:

- Embed the realisation of human rights, and the policy intent of delivering greater diversity in land ownership, into the purpose of the Statement on Land Rights and Responsibilities.
- Toughen up the requirements for information from proprietors on who owns and benefits from ownership of Scotland’s land, by requiring certain information to be disclosed
- Give further powers to Scottish Ministers to intervene in land ownership, in the public interest, to further sustainable development, and support the creation of new settlements
- Toughen up the requirement for land owners to engage with communities, and to seek their consent to local land management decisions