Submission from Gordon Ferrie

I would like land ownership to be fairly spread across Scotland for the benefit of everyone living in Scotland not only the small number of landowners who have attained wealth and land through hereditary wealth and status. Land Reform is one of the key issues in making Scotland a fairer, more equal society where everyone has the chance to prosper.

From personal experience I make the following points:

1. I totally support Community buy- outs where the local people introduce an effective local economy based on green energy, rural industries, protection of the local environment and local employment. I do not support landowners who allow estates to be used occasionally by rich friends or the gentry to shoot animals and birds.

2. All sporting estates should pay tax.

3. Tenant farmers should have the legal right to purchase a farm and its property at a value set by an impartial, statutory body.

4. All landowners should be required to publish in a local system e.g council offices, library etc an annual report which should include size of estates, economic report to include breakdown of rural industries, employment levels, profit/loss, plans to benefit local people, estimated value of estate, address of landowner and an annual map showing land ownership and land use.

5. In rural areas a National scheme similar to Scandinavia/Russia should allow people who live in cities to build and maintain basic cabins. These would require strict planning controls, money can be borrowed from a government and cabins could only be sold at or under the rate of inflation - government would be given first option to buy - approach similar to allotment with a greenhouse or cabin. These should not allow individuals to make money from housing.

6. In cities land should be taken back from speculators and used by local housing associations to build affordable housing.

7. Foreign landowners should be monitored closely and where land is not used to the benefit of the country, a system of compulsory purchase should be available to the government.

8. Any energy/industrial proposals which impact on the local environment e.g wind farms, fracking etc should require a local local referendum based on a 'Benefits to the local community' Community Plan.

These comments are based on someone who loves Scotland and wants it to become an Independent country. Land Ownership is an ingrained
representation of the Establishment, inherited wealth and a corrupt use of power and control. Give our land back to all the people who live in Scotland and be proud to see our country prosper.