Written submission from Prof. David Adams

CONSULTATION ON LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL

I served as an Adviser to the Land Reform Review Group, especially in relation to Part Five, Land Development and Housing. Several of the recommendations made in this section draw on research I have undertaken over the past three decades, funded by the Economic & Social Research Council, the Scottish Government, the UK Government and others. I believe these recommendations would make a very significant difference to the operation of urban land markets in Scotland, and thus to the places where most of the people of Scotland live.

These recommendations are currently the subject of a separate consultation by the Scottish Government, overseen by a Sounding Board, of which I am a member. To assist the consultation process, I have produced six short briefings on key recommendations, which can be accessed at: http://policyscotland.gla.ac.uk/urban-land-reform/

I understand that this separate consultation on urban land reform is due to be completed by late September or early October and that a report will then be presented to Scottish Ministers. It seems to me that this timescale would allow for further sections to be added into the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill to cover the following LRRG recommendations:

- Compulsory Sale Orders
- Majority Land Assembly
- Statutory Rights of Pre-Emption.
- Urban Partnership Zones

I consider these issues just as significant to the people of Scotland as many of those currently included in the Bill. I would therefore request the Committee to urge the Scottish Government to bring forward appropriate amendments so that the implementation of these important recommendations from the Land Reform Review Group is not further delayed.