Written submission from David Kennedy

1. Section 18 (2) deals with the Commission publishing an annual report and who it is to be provided to. It is not clear if this will be made publicly available.

2. Section 20 (1) (a) refers to “any law or policy”, but it is not clear if this refers to Scottish law only or UK law as well.

3. Section 20 (1) (b) states a function of the Land Commissioners is “to recommend changes to any law or policy”. However, section 20 (1) makes no mention of recommending a new law or policy as opposed to changes to an existing one, which seems like a major omission to me.

4. Section 42 (9) (a) I consider the definition of a community based only on a postcode is unimaginative and last century. Virtual communities of people wanting to use land for a common purpose, but who are not all living on that land, should be considered valid as well. For example, a group of outdoor sports enthusiasts who wish to develop a piece of land for their virtual community organised on the internet and meeting on the land to take part in those activities.

5. Section 36 No timescale is stated for the registration of land. A timescale should be stated. Perhaps it is in the referenced “Land Registration etc. (Scotland) Act 2012” but it should be mentioned in this bill.

6. I regard it as a major omission in this bill that no maximum amount of land to be held by one landowner has been stated. We will be no nearer to a fairer distribution of land without such a maximum.

7. My overall impression of the bill is that it has some good aspects but is rather underwhelming. Much more radical action is required to have a significant impact on land use and availability. This bill really is just the beginning and much more needs to be done, and soon.