Written submission from John Gordon

While I can understand the motives behind this Bill, I feel it has a number of flaws. Any form of right to buy is a bad idea, especially when it is applied to only one section of society. If it is deemed necessary then it should be applied to everything. I also feel that there is no need for government interference in any form of tenancy. Why can’t the landlord and tenant make an agreement themselves and stick to it? It happens in the commercial property sector without any issues so I fail to see why it can’t in the agricultural sector. The constant legislative interference has got us to the present farcical state and impasse, and it is time now to allow sensible commercial agreements to flourish.

Community involvement is not necessarily a good thing. It is fine if everyone agrees but generally they don’t, and one only has to look at the existing community buyouts to see the many cracks appearing. It would be a mistake to rush into legislation of this sort, without learning some lessons of the past. I fail to see how this aspect of the proposed legislation will in actuality benefit many people in Scotland. I am sure there will be a certain number who will make some benefit out of it, but generally the vast bulk of a community won’t notice any tangible advantage, and it seems a huge upheaval for very little. I urge the government to do some of the proposals and see how they work in practice, before launching into some of the wilder aspects of the proposals. If needed they can be introduced later.