Written submission from Charles MacLean

My Wife and Son are the landowners of a small agricultural and woodland estate which I manage for them. Some 90% of the Agricultural land is in a 1991 secure tenancy which has been in existence since well before my Father purchased the estate in 1966. Relations are excellent and a further 90 acres that were in hand are now also let to the tenant under a 5 year SLDT.

The tenant has told me that given his secure position he has no interest in buying the farm even in these days of very low interest rates. The farm rent is currently approx £35.0/acre. For this rent the tenant securely occupies 700 acres of mixed land and over £1m of residential property.

The tenants have been very successful farmers over the years and have become substantial landowners in their own right by astute land and property purchase. Indeed I can confidently say that they own far more agricultural land and other agricultural interests than we do.

And good luck to them. I enormously admire business success in agriculture or anything else.

But now my Government comes along, uninvited by either party, determined to add to the value of the tenants agricultural interests and decrease ours.

Why?