Written submission from Druidaig Estate

At Druidaig we have 2000 acres of hill land, 100 acres of managed forestry and 300 acres of common grazing and crofts. For certain weeks in the summer and autumn we let two houses on the place. Tenants take fishing parties up to the moor to fish our trout locks, which we stock specifically for their benefit. If the land is removed from us, for whatever reason, the facility will be lost.

Certain parts of the low ground are let for sheep grazing and the moorlands in mainly populated with red deer. We are required to cull certain numbers of deer, which we do, and I personally attend out group meetings every six months when I submit our returns. This organisation is the Association of Deer Management Group (ADMG) for the Glenelg Peninsula. I keep complete control of deer stalking at Druigaig, some of which is let, so to remove the land from us will mean the deer will no longer centrally controlled and perhaps not controlled at all.

Lastly, I am about the let three areas of ground to a company who plan to install mini hydro schemes to generate electricity. This will not just benefit us at Druidaig Lodge but the residents of Letterfearn as well.

My view of the proposed Land Reform Bill is that it will be of no advantage to Scotland to remove certain land from Landlords for it to be managed by the local community.