Written submission from Dennis McKay

I am deeply concerned about the dropping of Part 3 Information About Control of Land from the Bill. This was in the December consultation and its removal marks a retrograde and very suspicious move. I am convinced that something underhand is going on.

I feel that it is vital that the reasons for the removal of this be thoroughly investigated. The reasons given are entirely unconvincing. In times where global money laundering, tax evasion and fraud are rife, it is vital that the owners of land in Scotland be identifiable to everyone. Having the parent company registered in the EU would ensure that there are directors who are identifiable and who can be held accountable for the actions of land owners. They would also be required to submit publicly available Annual Returns and Accounts to the relevant Registry including details of the names of beneficial owners.

Talk of trusts being able to own land in Scotland is a red herring. There is no evidence of offshore trusts owning any land in Scotland whatsoever. What is really going on here?

It is a backward country that does not allow its citizens to know who owns its land. If it is beyond the competence of the Scottish Parliament to provide legislation that guarantees this, then there is little hope for the parliament at all. Other countries manage it – why can't we?