Written submission from Elderslie Estates

Elderslie Estates comprises some 4,000 acres to the west of Glasgow where we are involved in most of the usual estate management activities. The Estate has been a family business since 1775.

This is not the place to comment on the political and philosophical ideology behind the legislation, Suffice it to say that we have been dismayed by the process of agricultural tenancy reform which, in our opinion, will result in the demise of the tenanted agricultural sector sooner rather than later. A robust and sustainable tenant farming sector is not best served by crippling legislation.

Keys comments on the bill.

- Land Commissioners must have professional knowledge of and experience in rural matters, in particular there should be one with a forestry qualification.

- The phrase “sustainable development” runs through the bill, but is never defined. There must either be a definition, or the word removed and replaced with whatever is in the Scottish Governments mind.

- The Tenant Farming Commissioner is tasked with ensuring compliance with codes of practice. Penalties are envisaged if the codes are not complied with. This is unacceptable. A code of practice is just that, it is not a regulation and cannot be the cause of penalties for non-compliance.

I should be delighted to amplify any of these points.