Written submission from D. Dobie

I am a farmer. My children are beneficiaries of a trust that owns 350 acres of let land.

I am disappointed that the Land Reform Bill has not seemingly addressed two issues.

1. Where a tenant farmer with a 1991 Act lease owns other land of a greater area/economic value, he should not enjoy the same enhanced protection rights as a tenant whose sole livelihood is the farming unit he occupies.

2. Where a tenant has other business interests that provide the majority of his/her income the same should apply.

This would be a fair way of bringing some land back to the market. The Land Reform Bill is for the most part backward looking and does not reflect the rise in agribusinesses both in the arable and livestock sectors where traditional modes of occupation look increasingly anachronistic.

I am also a game farmer rearing game for shoots throughout Scotland. The reintroduction of sporting rates will add an additional cost to the sport. It should be realised that the provision of Fieldsports in Scotland is delivered in the main by a number of small businesses and private individuals and syndicates. These activities do not generate significant profit but they do play a vital roll in supporting fragile and remote rural communities. An additional annual cost such as rates will make some shooting activity unviable and this will impact rural communities and businesses such as game farming. Sporting rates were removed from the Val Roll because it was an uneconomic levy to collect and the benefit to rural communities of that delisting outweighed the net levy forgone.-similar in many ways to the current system of small business rate relief. I do not consider circumstances now are any different to the past.