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Edward Mountain MSP
Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh

17 January 2023

Dear Edward,

Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land (RCI)

I am writing to you as Convenor of the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee to let you know that I am intending to lay an affirmative SSI to amend The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 (Register of Persons Holding a Controlled Interest in Land) Regulations 2021 in Parliament on 23 January this year. The purpose of the amendment is to extend the transitional period for all those in scope of the RCI by 12 months from 1 April 2023.

I have listened to the concerns raised by some stakeholders at this difficult time, and recognise the disruption caused by Brexit, Covid and inflationary pressures. I hope that extending the transitional period by 12 months will ease the burden on those in scope of the RCI by giving them more time to prepare their submissions before the offence provisions take effect. My officials will write to key stakeholders today in confidence to make them aware of my intention to bring forward the SSI.

The Scottish Government and Registers of Scotland will work together to deliver an engagement plan to raise awareness and help support stakeholders through the process. This will include a programme of additional awareness raising.

My officials will continue to liaise with the Committee Clerks to assist in the scheduling of the scrutiny of our proposals, and I welcome the opportunity to provide evidence should the Committee require.

I am also copying this to the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

MÀIRI MCALLAN

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

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