



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,  
Land Reform and Islands

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport  
Committee**

c/o Clerk to the Committee  
Room T3.40

The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
EH99 1SP

[netzero.committee@parliament.scot](mailto:netzero.committee@parliament.scot)

08 May 2024

Dear Mairi,

**Scottish Land Commission – Appointment of Land Commissioners and the Tenant Farming Commissioner**

Thank you for your letter of 15 April outlining the Scottish Government's preparations for making new appointments to the Scottish Land Commission.

At our meeting on 23 April, the Committee considered your letter and agreed to take an approach as for previous appointments considered by the Committee:

- Review the draft application pack and any other materials pertaining to the appointment ahead of the applications process;
- Consider information on the proposed candidates from the Scottish Government;
- Reserve the option of hearing from proposed candidates once identified;
- Consider and come to a view on whether the process followed and the proposed appointments are satisfactory; and
- Make this view known to Parliament prior to a Chamber motion on the approval of candidates.

When providing details of the proposed appointments, it would also be helpful to receive details on how the proposed candidates contribute to meeting the requirements of Section 11 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, including that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure the Commission includes a Gaelic speaker.

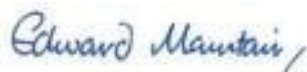
In line with the Scottish Parliament's commitment to transparency, the Committee proposes to publish both your 15 April letter and this response (as the clerks have previously indicated to your officials).

We also agreed to:

- Publish the draft application pack and the Committee's response to this once the position has been advertised;
- Publish information received on the nominees upon the conclusion of the Committee's consideration of the appointments process by annexing this in a report to the Parliament; and
- Publish any other information received from the Scottish Government in connection with appointments to the Scottish Land Commission upon receipt in line with the Committee's [privacy notice for correspondence](#).

I wish you well with the appointments process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee**