



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Bill Barron  
Chief Executive  
Crofting Commission  
By email only

**Public Audit Committee**  
Room T3.60  
The Scottish Parliament  
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27 February 2023

Dear Bill

### **The 2021/22 audit of the Crofting Commission.**

As you will be aware, the Public Audit Committee took evidence from the Auditor General for Scotland (AGS) on the above section 22 report, at its [meeting on 2 February 2023](#). At this meeting, the Committee agreed to write to the Crofting Commission about issues raised during the evidence session once follow-up information had been received from Audit Scotland. The Committee received this [further written evidence from the AGS on 9 February 2023](#).

The Committee very much welcomes confirmation from the AGS that the Crofting Commission has worked quickly to address and implement all the recommendations raised in the 2020/21 audit report. We note that the AGS describes the scale of this progress as being ‘significant’. We were also pleased to hear the auditor state—

“I was very impressed by the total lack of defensiveness over the recommendations, and the acceptance that the Commission had to put things right”.

We note that the AGS concluded his section 22 report by stating that the activity and the actions that have been taken will require time to bed-in and that this must remain an area of focus for the Crofting Commission to ensure that improvement is sustained.

**The Committee is interested in the action the Crofting Commission is taking to ensure that improvement can be sustained in the long-term.**

The Committee also recognises the important role that the Crofting Commission plays in delivering key services to the crofting community. In his follow up response, the AGS provided information on the range of community engagement work that the Crofting Commission undertakes. The Committee further notes that in the AGS's response, he states—

“Outcome four of the Commission's Corporate Plan is ‘the future of active crofting is supported by well-informed engagement with stakeholders’. There are no key performance indicators aligned to this outcome”.

**The Committee is interested to hear directly from the Crofting Commission on the details of how it engaged with the crofting community as part of the process of implementing the auditor's recommendations.**

**Further, the Committee would be interested to understand whether the Crofting Commission has any plans to develop key performance indicators for outcome four of its Corporate Plan.**

I would be grateful if you could provide a response to this letter by **27 March 2023**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard Leonard". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Richard Leonard MSP**  
**Convener**