

Future agriculture policy
Wednesday 19 April 2023
Ian Boyd-Livingston, Stockfree Farming

Thank you, I enjoyed my first visit to Holyrood very much and it was great to meet you. I hope that collectively we can turn the discussion in the session into action, because action is urgently needed.

Rachael Hamilton asked me about the acreage range of farms/crofts in the survey we conducted, and I said I would provide that info after the meeting. Please tell Rachael that the largest holding surveyed was 1,235 acres and the smallest was 3.2 acres.

Jim Fairlie asked me how many of the farmers surveyed were tenants. That question was not asked, because of the personal - as well as in-person - nature of the (qualitative) survey. Interviewees were being asked quite searching questions, so the information-gathering was deliberately constrained in order to try and ensure that it did not become too intrusive. Some of the interviewees volunteered that they were tenants.

Jim also asked me whether I knew about the Macedonia report, from the work conducted by the James Hutton Institute (which Martin Kennedy, NFUS President, had mentioned in a previous session). I can't actually find any published report on this, so will enquire directly of James Hutton and see what they say. I'll revert to Jim, via you, as soon as I have the info.

Best,

Ian.