Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs
Gillian Martin MSP

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs Committee
Scottish Parliament
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30 October 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to let you know that the recruitment campaign for the new Land and Communities Commissioner is now live.

The advertisement can be accessed here: Appointment of the Land and Communities Commissioner to the Scottish Land Commission - Scottish Government Recruitment Careers

For the Committee's awareness, I also attach an updated timetable for the appointment process.

Please thank the Committee for their consideration to date and officials will continue to keep Committee clerks informed of progress as the appointment process moves forward.

Yours sincerely,

GILLIAN MARTIN

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APPOINTMENT PLAN

Stage in Process	Dates (TBC)
Committee consider role in the appointment process	September 2026
Recruitment Panel Planning Meeting to develop recruitment papers	September 2026
Recruitment papers approved	October 2026
Advertising opens	30 October 2026
Advertising closes	27 November 2026
Shortlisting	Early-mid December 2026
Interviews	January 2027
Scottish Ministers' decision on preferred candidate	Early / mid February 2027
Preferred candidate advised by Scottish Government that their name is to be put forward to Rural Affairs Committee for consideration.	February 2027
Rural Affairs Committee / parliamentary consideration of preferred candidate	February – early March 2027
Pre-appointment checks	March 2027
Parliamentary vote	March 2027
Appointment date	April 2027

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