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25th October 2026

Dear Mark,

Further to my letter of 3 August, our first public consultation on implementation of Part 1 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2025 was launched on 20 October. The main focus of the consultation is on the approach to the community engagement obligations in section 1 of the 2025 Act, such as the content of the new Land Management Plans (LMPs), how owners of landholding in scope will meet certain obligations under this section, as well as draft guidance on properties in scope and connected persons.

As previously indicated, following this consultation my officials will consult with the new Land and Communities Commissioner (LCC), as required by the 2025 Act, before further consultation on a draft of the regulations. This is expected in Autumn 2027. After this, I expect to lay draft regulations which implement the community engagement obligations in late 2028. These will be subject to the affirmative procedure. The consultation can be found on the Scottish Government website here: <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781807755454>.

I have also set out the proposed outline timetable for laying regulations under Part 1 of the 2025 Act at the annex to this letter and for publishing related guidance.

I look forward to engaging further with you and the Committee on these areas in due course.

GILLIAN MARTIN



Annex A

Outline timetable – implementation of Part 1 of the Act

This outline timetable gives an indication of when we expect to undertake future consultations; to lay regulations in Parliament; and for the regulations to come into force. These are indicative only, and subject to change, and also dependent on Parliamentary agreement.

Decisions on the form and extent of future consultations will be taken in due course. Work is progressing towards appointment of the Land and Communities Commissioner in spring 2027.

Community-Engagement Obligations (including land management plans)	Pre-notification and transfer test (lotting)
Winter 2027-28 – further consultation on the community-engagement obligations	
	Spring 2028 – consultation on pre-notification and transfer test
Winter 2028-29 – lay regulations and publish guidance on community-engagement obligations	
Spring 2029 – CEO regulations come into force, if agreed to by Parliament LMP Portal live Enforcement grace period begins (see note below)	
	Summer 2029 – lay regulations for pre-notification and transfer test Guidance published
	Autumn 2030 – Pre-notification and transfer test regulations come into force, if agreed to by Parliament (see note below)

Note - For the Community-Engagement obligations we are proposing that these come into force soon after laying but that there is a grace period before enforcement. Questions on the length of this grace period and how it should apply are included in the consultation, which is why a date is not included in this timetable.

For pre-notification and transfer test we are proposing that there is around a year between regulations being laid and the new requirements coming into force. This is to ensure that people selling land have adequate notice and enough detail to ensure that land sales are compliant. It also allows for land management plans to be in place ahead of any lotting decisions.

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