



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs Committee

Gillian Martin MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Climate Action and Rural Affairs
Scottish Government

16 September 2026

Dear Gillian,

Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2025: Implementation

Thank you for your letter of 3 August 2026 setting out further information regarding the implementation of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2025, and in particular the appointment process for the new Land and Communities Commissioner (LCC).

The Committee discussed and agreed, on 9 September, its preferred approach to the appointment of the LCC, which deviates slightly from the approach taken in the previous appointment round. The Committee agreed to:

- consider information provided by the Scottish Government on the recommended candidates
- reserve the option of taking evidence from recommended candidates
- consider whether the appointment process and proposed appointment were satisfactory
- report its conclusions to Parliament in advance of the Parliamentary approval motion

To note, the difference between this approach and the previous one outlined in your letter is that the Committee does not feel it is necessary to review the application pack. The Committee was also content with the proposed timetable set out in Annex A of your letter and will take this into account when considering its work programme.

You asked specifically about the Committee's intended approach to publishing information relating to the recommended candidates. Information provided by the Scottish Government on candidates would initially be shared with members on a private basis. However, in the scenario where the Committee elect to take evidence from the recommended candidate, this information would be included in public Committee papers and would therefore enter the public domain. The Committee would be grateful if the Scottish Government could notify candidates accordingly.

The Committee looks forward to engaging with you as the process progresses. I would be grateful if your officials could continue to liaise with the Committee clerks on the detailed arrangements for the appointment process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mark Ruskell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener