The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs Committee

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

5 November 2026

Dear Cabinet Secretary

Scottish Land Commission (Number of Land Commissioners) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/284)

At its meeting on 4 November 2026, the Rural Affairs Committee considered the Scottish Land Commission (Number of Land Commissioners) Regulations 2026 (SSI 2026/284).

As you may know, Donald MacKinnon MSP has lodged motion S7M- 01834 seeking to annul the instrument and he attended our 4 November meeting to set out his reasons for doing so. The Committee intends to consider the motion recommending annulment at its meeting 18 November. We welcome the opportunity to hear from you at this meeting ahead of formal consideration of the motion.

To support discussions at that meeting, the Committee agreed to write to you and to the Scottish Land Commission to invite your views on some of the points raised by Donald MacKinnon MSP at Committee in advance of the consideration of that motion.

The Committee would welcome the Scottish Government's views on:

- the impact of reducing the number of Land Commissioners from five to four on the Scottish Land Commission's capacity to carry out its work;
- the cost savings expected to result from the reduction in the number of Commissioners;
- the impact on the Commission's work of no longer having a Gaelic-speaking Commissioner, including how this was considered in light of the requirements placed on public bodies and the specific needs of the Commission as an organisation; and
- whether reducing the number of commissioners was considered during the development and scrutiny of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2025, and if not, why it is being taken forward separately.

Contact: Rural Affairs Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email rural.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.

The Committee would welcome a response by **Thursday 12 November.**

Yours sincerely,



Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener