The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Rural Affairs Committee

Michael Russell
Chair
Scottish Land Commission

5 November 2026

Dear Chair

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 intend to consider the motion recommending annulment on 18 November. This will involve an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary, followed by formal consideration of the motion.

To support the Committee's scrutiny of the instrument, we agreed to write to you and to the Scottish Government to invite your views on some of the points raised by Donald MacKinnon MSP.

The Committee would welcome the Scottish Land Commission's views on:

- the implications of reducing the number of Land Commissioners from five to four for the Commission's work, governance and ability to fulfil its statutory functions and any other capacity implications;
- the financial implications from the reduction in the number of Commissioners; and
- the impact on the Commission's work of no longer having a Gaelic-speaking Commissioner, including on the delivery of the Commission's Gaelic language plan, which Hamish Trench referred to in evidence to the Committee.

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

Yours sincerely,

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.



Mark Ruskell MSP
Convener