



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Mairi Gougeon MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs,
Land Reform and Islands

By email only

**Net Zero, Energy and Transport
Committee**
c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

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12 September 2023

Dear Mairi,

Scottish Land Commission – Appointment of Chair and Land Commissioners

Thank you for your letter of 11 August 2023 outlining the Scottish Government's proposed approach to appointments to the Scottish Land Commission. This included consideration of draft role descriptions, person specifications, an appointment plan and a draft applicant information pack.

The Committee had agreed prior to the summer recess that it would like to review this information ahead of the applications process, as part of its role in scrutinising ministerial appointments to the Commission.

The Committee agreed it will take the same approach to consideration of these appointments as it did with the appointments to the Board of Environmental Standards Scotland which is—

- Receive information on the proposed candidates from the Scottish Government;
- Consider and come to a view on whether the process followed and the proposed appointments are satisfactory. We will consider this at our meeting on 5 December, on condition that all relevant information held by the Scottish Government is provided in good time for inclusion in the papers for the meeting. I have today written to you separately on this point; and
- Make this view known to Parliament prior to a Chamber motion on the approval of candidates.

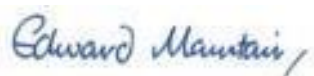
When providing details of the proposed appointments, it would also be helpful to receive details on how the proposed candidates contribute to meeting the

requirements of Section 11 of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016, including that reasonable steps should be taken to ensure the Board includes a Gaelic speaker.

For clarity the Committee has agreed not to hear from candidates (either at a formal meeting or informally) as part of the appointment process. However, as the Committee with responsibility for scrutiny of the work of the Scottish Land Commission, we will be taking an interest in the work of the Chair and the Commissioners once appointed.

I wish you well with the appointments process.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Edward Mountain".

Edward Mountain MSP

Convener

Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee