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Dear Michael,

Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your continued support on the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill. When we met in February to discuss the draft proposals for the Bill, you suggested areas where the Commission could support the Government in the Bill's development, perhaps looking at ways in which it could be strengthened based on the Commission's knowledge and experience. I wanted to write to you to welcome this offer of working together.

I said when the Bill was introduced in March that I looked forward to the detailed consideration by the Scottish Parliament. I know when you gave evidence to the Net Zero, Energy and Transport Committee that you spoke about how you are already considering how some of the Bill might work in practice, such as the reporting requirements of Land Management Plans. You also noted that further work was required in areas such as the definition of land to which the provisions apply, the transfer test proposals and the role, responsibilities and functions of the Land and Communities Commissioner.

I appreciate some early discussions have already taken place between our respective officials about some of these points and that this will continue. I welcome this collaborative approach and indeed any further advice from the Commission over the course of Stage 1 of the Bill.

The Bill sets out ambitious proposals that will change how land is owned and managed in our rural and island communities. I want the legislation to be as robust as possible to ensure it fully achieves its aim.

Yours sincerely,



MAIRI GOUGEON