



SCOTTISH LAND COMMISSION
COIMISEAN FEARAINN NA H-ALBA

Annual Review 2017-18

The Scottish Land Commission is celebrating its first anniversary on 1 April 2018, after officially coming in to being on 1 April 2017.

The Scottish Land Commission was established by the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 and is a Non-Departmental Public Body with five Land Commissioners and one Tenant Farming Commissioner (TFC). The purpose of the Commission is to shape and drive a coherent programme of land reform spanning both urban and rural land, to ultimately make more of Scotland's land.

Our vision
is a fair, inclusive and
productive system of
ownership, management
and use of land that
delivers greater benefit
for all the people
of Scotland.



The Land Commissioners: (left to right) Megan MacInnes, Professor David Adams, Andrew Thin (Chair), Dr Bob McIntosh (Tenant Farming Commissioner), Dr Sally Reynolds and Lorne MacLeod

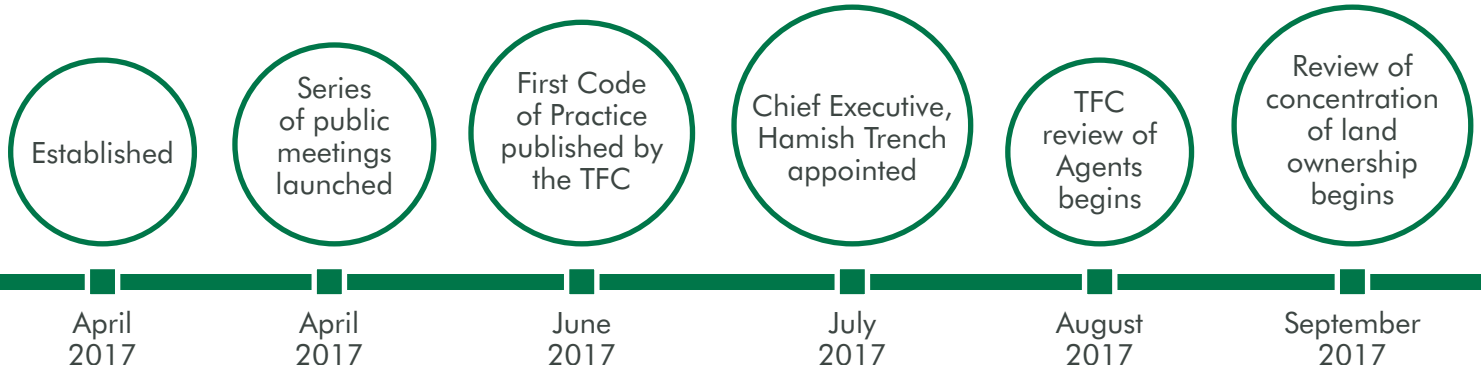
The Land Commission has carried out extensive engagement through regular public meetings in communities around Scotland, holding seminars and events on key topics such as public interest led development and publishing discussion papers, blogs and reports.



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www.landcommission.gov.scot



During – 2017/18

During 2017-18 the Commission developed and published its three year Strategic Plan and Programme of Work setting a clear focus on four priority areas:

- LAND FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT;
- MODERNISING LAND OWNERSHIP;
- LAND USE DECISION MAKING;
- AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS.

The Commission has had an extensive programme of engagement with both stakeholders and the wider public to develop the conversation about the potential of land reform to help deliver ambitions for both urban and rural communities in Scotland.

First land reform conference held in Dunfermline with 140 delegates

16 public meetings held across Scotland with over 320 attendees

Continued engagement with stakeholders including holding and attending regular stakeholder events

Publishing discussion papers on key land reform topics to encourage public debate

Establishing the Tenant Farming Advisory Forum to address issues affecting the tenant farming sector.

During the year the Commission has begun a number of reviews looking at:

Community Right to Buy mechanisms

Land Value Taxation

Land Value Capture

Scale and concentration of land ownership

Opportunities to improve access to land for new entrants to farming.



Left to Right: Commission Chair Andrew Thin, Commission CEO Hamish Trench and Cabinet Secretary for the Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Roseanna Cunningham at the launch of the Strategic Plan



Tenant Farming Commissioner Bob McIntosh (centre) meets with tenant farmers and landlords at the Royal Highland Show



Public meeting at Inverurie



The year ahead – 2018/19

The Commission has an ambitious work programme for the year ahead, progressing land reform in the four priority areas reaching across both urban and rural Scotland:

LAND FOR HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

- Launching a national initiative, with key public and private sector organisations, to prompt a more ambitious approach to bringing vacant and derelict land into productive use
- Development of proposed Compulsory Sales Order mechanisms for consultation by Scottish Government
- Reporting to Scottish Ministers on the potential options for more effective land value capture as a means of capturing the uplift in land value to the benefit of the public.

MODERNISING LAND OWNERSHIP

- Review of Community Right to Buy mechanisms and reporting to Scottish Ministers
- Review of the issues of scale, concentration and monopoly in land ownership through public engagement and collating evidence
- Report on the potential role of land value taxation in Scotland.

LAND USE DECISION MAKING

- Launch a programme of Good Practice Codes and Guidance to improve land owner/community relations, including Codes on charitable status land ownership and community engagement
- Provide direct advice to land owners and communities on community involvement with a dedicated Community Engagement Adviser
- Initiative to support urban community engagement in land reform opportunities
- Look into the connection young people have to the land in an urban environment and the ways that this can be strengthened through land reform.

AGRICULTURAL HOLDINGS

- Continued development and use of Codes of Practice to support improved landlord/tenant relationships
- Completion and follow up of the Review of the Operation of Agents
- Promoting new or adjusted joint venture options to increase availability of land for new entrants.



Review of Community right to buy mechanisms begins

March 2018

Second discussion paper in the Land Lines series published

March 2018

Concentration of land ownership call for evidence launched

March 2018

Third discussion paper in the Land Lines series published

March 2018

Publication of research report on international experience of limiting concentration of land ownership

March 2018