

This year has been a challenging time for Scotland as we change and adapt to the impact of Covid-19. Land can play a significant part to the recovery and, as our work has shown over the last year, the ways we own and use land are central to creating a wellbeing economy. It is clearer than ever that land needs to be part of our economic thinking as we address recovery, renewal and climate action.

The Scottish Land Commission is working to make more of Scotland's land by stimulating fresh thinking and change in how we, as a nation, own and use land, so that the benefits from our land can be shared more widely across the population.

Throughout 2020-21 we have delivered a substantial programme of research and engagement, providing recommendations to Government and guidance to a range of stakeholders and communities.



Strategic Plan 2020-2023

Our [new strategic plan](#), published in September 2020, focuses on where land reform can make the biggest difference to promoting recovery and renewal including action to reduce inequality, support climate action, and give people and communities in Scotland the ability to bring about positive change.

Reforming land rights

Legislative proposals to address the impact of Scotland's concentration of land ownership

Our discussion paper, [Legislative proposals to address the impact of Scotland's concentration of land ownership](#), looks at three specific proposals for new legislative mechanisms and how they could work in practice. The measures are based on ideas which are normal in other countries and sectors to help markets operate effectively and safeguard the public interest. This follows our 2019 report into the impact of concentrated land ownership.



International research

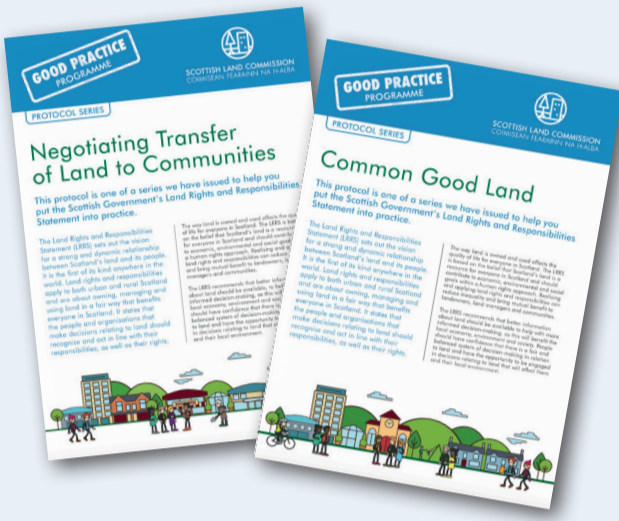
Report published on [international experience of community, communal and municipal ownership of land](#). Learning from international experience, we are looking at different models of governance to encourage shared control of land and wider individual ownership.



Embedding responsible land ownership and use

Land Rights and Responsibilities

We published [Land Rights and Responsibilities \(LRR\) Protocols](#) setting out practical advice on how land owners, land managers and communities can work together to make better – and fairer – decisions about land use.



Coordinated
23 landowner and manager self-assessments
to embed the LRR Statement as a cornerstone of land ownership in Scotland

Hosted
16 webinars and workshops
for landowners, managers and communities

Over
900 downloads
of the LRR Protocols from our website

Supported
150 landowners and communities
to improve LRR practices

Vacant and Derelict Land Taskforce Recommendations

Taskforce made a [series of recommendations](#) to Scottish Government to transform Scotland's approach to tackling the legacy of derelict land. In response Scottish Government announced a new £50m Vacant and Derelict Land Fund.



Regional Land Use Partnerships

We made [recommendations to Scottish Government](#) on the establishment of new Regional Land Use Partnerships to deliver on Scotland's big ambitions on climate action and help support green economic recovery. Five areas are now piloting the partnerships and will help inform future decisions on their wider establishment.



Reforming land markets

Review of Land for Housing

Published a [series of six research papers](#) examining Scotland's existing approach to land for housing, new housing supply in rural Scotland, and linking at evidence from across the UK and Europe. We are bringing the findings together as a set of recommendations to be published later in 2021.



Tax

Set up an Expert Advisory Group on Tax on Land and Property to advise the Commission and help shape recommendations to Ministers on reforms to taxes on land and property to help Scotland develop a robust, resilient wellbeing economy. Published [report on land and property taxation in Scotland: scoping initial options for reforms](#).



Tenant Farming Commissioner

Amnesty on Tenants' Improvements

Provided further guidance and advice to tenant farmers completing the [amnesty on tenants' improvements](#), which closed in December 2020.

52% of TFC enquiries received related to the Amnesty



Mediation Scheme

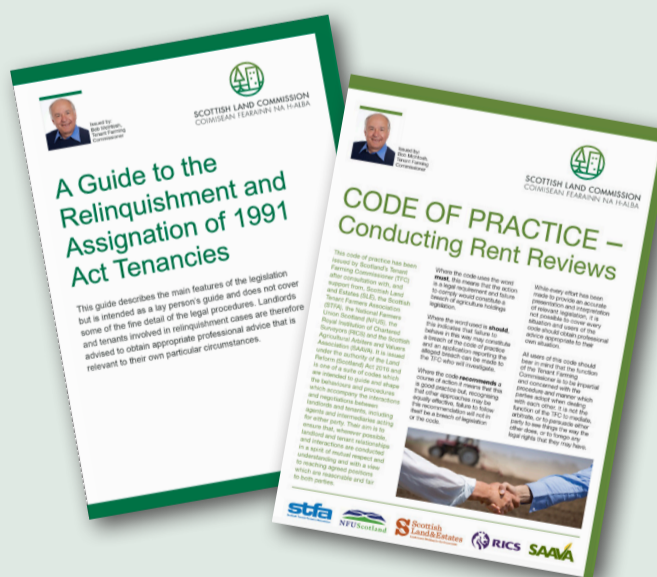
Launched a new [Mediation Scheme 2021-23](#) to promote mediation as an alternative to litigation. A two-day [Mock Mediation event](#) was run with the Agricultural Law Association (ALA) showcasing how mediation works using a real life scenario.



Code of Practice and Guidance

Published:

- [Code of Practice on Conducting Rent Reviews](#)
- [Guide to the Relinquishment and Assignment of 1991 Act Tenancies](#)
- [Panel of experienced valuers](#).



127 enquiries over the year

13% increase from 2019-20

100% of respondents to the Tenant Farming Advisory Forum survey rated the TFC's role in promoting and encouraging good relations between landlords and tenants of agricultural holdings as very or extremely effective

Over the year we also...

Spoke at and participated in

48 events

held by partners and stakeholders across a wide range of sectors



Over **3,500** people attended these events from across the UK

Hosted

16 webinars and workshops

relating to Land Rights and Responsibilities



570 people attended from local communities, stakeholders, local authorities, and more

Held

5 virtual public meetings



250 people attended from across Scotland

National Student Award

The winner of our National Student Award 2020, Heloise Le Moal, completed her report looking at [municipal forests and Loam woodland](#) and launched this year's [National Student Award](#) in February 2021.

