



Scottish Land Commission
Coimisean Fearainn na h-Alba

Programme of Work

September 2026 – April 2028

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Our Programme of Work sets out the planned work for the Scottish Land Commission to deliver on our Strategic Plan. The Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 requires the Commission to publish a Programme of Work and for it to be laid in Parliament.

Our Programme of Work takes an 18-month time horizon, and we expect to update it as required so that our work remains relevant and can respond to changing priorities within the period of the Strategic Plan. The delivery and resourcing arrangements in each financial year are set out in our annual business plans.

Our overall strategy is set out in our Strategic Plan, published in September 2026:

Our Strategy		
The ownership and use of land supports thriving people and places for all Scotland		
Outcome 1: New land opportunities <i>There are opportunities for more individuals, communities and businesses to own or use land through a range of tenures</i>	Outcome 2: Rebalancing the power of land ownership <i>The concentration of land ownership and its impacts are reducing</i>	Outcome 3: Shaping land use change locally People are confident that local communities can shape and benefit from significant land decisions affecting their places.
Priorities for 2026-29 • Supporting timely and effective delivery of the Land Reform Act 2025 • Opening up new land opportunities – for individuals and communities to own, lease or use land • Improving land data – working towards a more integrated land information system to enable policy reforms • Transparency, engagement and participation – improving accountability and public confidence in the land system		
Underpinned by proactive organisational development, sound governance and financial management		

Our Programme of Work for the period September 2026 – April 2028:

1. Land and Communities Commissioner – implementing the Land Reform Act 2025

Delivering on strategic plan priorities:

- Supporting timely and effective delivery of the Land Reform Act 2025

Workstream	Planned work	Timescale
Land and Communities Commissioner	Support government's recruitment of the Land and Communities Commissioner	Sep 26 – Mar 27
	Prepare internal governance arrangements and staffing support	Sep 26 – Mar 27
	Develop operational approach for the new Commissioner's functions	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Advise government on the development of regulations associated with the Land and Communities Commissioner	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Stakeholder engagement on the approach to implementing the new Commissioner's functions	Sep 26- Mar 28

2. Advising on reforms to law and policy

Delivering on strategic plan priorities:

- Supporting timely and effective delivery of the Land Reform Act 2025
- Opening up new land opportunities
- Improving land data

Workstream	Planned work	Timescale
Implementation of Part 1 of the Land Reform Act 2025	Advise on the secondary legislation, implementing measures including community engagement obligation, transfer test, prior notification	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Develop baseline for future review of the impact of Part 1	Sep 26 – Mar 28

Land data	Convene public bodies in a Land Data Implementation Group to collaborate on land information system improvements	Sep 26-Sep 27
	Publish annual Rural Land Market Reporting, with impact review to inform future reporting approach	Annual
	Support improvements in collation of tenant farming data	Sep 26 – Sep 27
New land opportunities	Develop a model lease for environmental purposes for Scottish Government	Sep 26 – Sep 27
	Identify options to create more small-scale land holding opportunities	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Support the leadership role of public land ownership in opening up new opportunities	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Review options to support co-operative ownership models	Mar 27 – Mar 28
Tax reforms	Collaborate with Scottish Government on route-map for land and property tax reforms	Sep 26 – Sep 27

3. Supporting practical implementation of Scotland's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement

Delivering on strategic plan priorities:

- Opening up new land opportunities
- Transparency, engagement and participation

Workstream	Planned work	Timescale
Good Practice Programme	Deliver a casework and advice service supporting improvements and relationships on the ground	Ongoing
	Support sector leadership, sharing case studies and examples of good practice	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Deliver a programme of engagement with land agents and other professionals	Sep 26 – Mar 28

	Convene the Good Practice Advisory Group, supporting collaborative leadership with membership organisations	Sep 26 – Mar 28
Supporting Community Wealth Building	Support practical implementation of community benefit agreements from land use and land use change	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Support implementation of changes in legislation and support for community land ownership	Sep 26 – Mar 28

4. Tenant Farming Commissioner

Delivering on strategic plan priorities:

- Supporting timely and effective delivery of the Land Reform Act 2025
- Opening up new land opportunities
- Improving land data

Workstream	Planned work	Timescale
Agricultural Holdings Codes of Practice	Review and refresh Tenant Farming Codes of Practice, including new Codes required by the 2025 Act	Sep 26 – Mar 28
Small landholding Codes of Practice	Develop new Codes of Practice to support the extension of the TFC remit to include small landholdings	Sep 26 – Mar 28
Casework	Provide a casework service to support the Codes of Practice, provide advice and undertake inquiries into alleged breaches	Ongoing
Relinquishment and Assignment	Fulfil statutory obligation to appoint a valuer	Ongoing
Sector development	Convene the Tenant Farming Advisory Forum to support collaborative leadership in developing the tenanted sector	Ongoing
	Develop a programme to improve data and information on the tenanted sector	Sep 26 – Sep 27

5. Corporate and organisational development

Supporting delivery of all strategic plan priorities:

Workstream	Planned work	Timescale
Organisational development	Deliver a co-ordinated programme of organisational and systems development to support implementation of the new Land and Communities Commissioner function within the Commission	Sep 26 – Mar 28
	Keep under review staffing capacity, skills, training and development in order to support expanded remit of the Commission	Sep 26 – Mar 28
Medium term financial strategy	Plan for financial implications of additional functions and expanded remit	Sep 26 – Sep 27
	Contribute to public service reform opportunities	Sep 26 – Mar 28
Communications and engagement	Continue public and stakeholder engagement	Ongoing
	Communications and engagement programme to support new Land and Communities Commissioner	Mar 27 – Mar 28

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