

Written submission from Robert Gladstone

I understand that you are seeking views on the proposed amendment to section 79 of the Land Reform Bill to allow assignation of 1991 Act Tenancies.

I am totally opposed to this amendment, and I consider that it would be a fundamental breach of my property rights.

I am a small landowner with 2 secure agricultural tenancies. I have very good relations with my farm tenants, and I accept that under present legislation, they have the right to pass on their leases to a family successor. I consider that it would be totally wrong and inequitable to allow them to assign to a third party for value.

If, in the long term, they do not have family successors, I would expect the lease to end and that I would have the freedom to do what I want with my own property.

The proposed amendment is extremely complicated and I am sure will lead to future difficulties and litigation.

I am in the business of letting land long term, and find nothing at all in the Bill that will encourage me to let land. It is totally one sided and discriminatory legislation.

I hope you will take account of my comments.