

Written submission from the Scottish Property Federation

Stage 2 – Land Reform (Scotland) Bill

We write in support of Amendment 114 to the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill, which we have seen under the name of Alex Ferguson MSP.

The Scottish Property Federation

The Scottish Property Federation is a voice for the property industry in Scotland. We include among our members; property investors including major institutional investors, developers, landlords of commercial and residential property and professional property consultants and advisors. As part of the wider British Property Federation our members are based from across the UK, with over 400 corporate members overall and over 150 either based in Scotland or with interests in Scotland.

Amendment 114 - Reversion of land to further sustainable development

The intention behind this amendment is to permit the former owner of an interest in land taken over by a community body (under Part 5) to exercise a right to re-acquire the land if that land is not being sustainably used by the community body and where the former owner can demonstrate plans to further sustainable development.

This reflects concerns raised by the Scottish Property Federation in its submission to the Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee in its call for evidence on the Land Reform (Scotland) Bill last year. In our submission, we raised the issue of ensuring that land acquired by community bodies is in fact used to further sustainable development and we are pleased that a safeguard to this effect has been proposed in the amendment.

We wish therefore, on behalf of our members, to indicate our strong support for the amendment.