

Submission to the RACCE Committee written by NFUS tenant farming representatives from around Scotland

We are writing to express our support for the Scottish Government S79 amendment to the Land Reform Bill, which will permit existing 1991 Act tenants to assign their leases to new entrants or progressing farmers subject to a landlord's right of pre-emption.

As tenant farmers we can see the significant benefits arising from this measure, including secure tenancy opportunities for new blood entering the industry and the creation of a farming ladder to allow progression into, through and out of the tenanted sector.

However, we are concerned that the S79 amendment has not had a fair hearing within NFUS with regional meetings attended by mainly landowning interests, and that the strength of support for the amendment by tenant farmers will not be reflected in submissions to the RACCE Committee by NFUS.

While NFUS has a Tenant's Working Group, it is a sub-group of the NFUS Legal and Technical Committee which is without any secure tenant members. Similarly, only one secure tenant currently sits of the NFUS board of directors consisting of over 20 people. This structure means that views of NFUS 1991 Act tenant members are often not reflected in NFUS policy.

John Dickson, Argyll & the Islands, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Hugh McCulloch, Chair of NFUS Bute Branch

William Hamilton, Highlands, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Robert Barr, Lothian & Borders, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Drew Kennedy, East Central, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Andrew Kirkland, East Central, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Iain Mackay, Argyll & the Islands, NFUS Tenant's Working Group & New Generation Group

Duncan McEwen, Forth & Clyde, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Christopher Nicholson, Dumfries & Galloway, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Brian Shaw, Dumfries & Galloway, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Stewart Wyllie, Dumfries & Galloway, NFUS Tenant's Working Group & New Generation Group

John Elliot, Lothian and Borders, NFUS Tenant's Working Group

Craig Archibald, Argyll & the Islands, Chair of NFUS Islay Branch

Hugh Parker, Dumfries & Galloway, Chair of NFUS Wigtown Branch