

Our Ref: ECH/AB
By email

17 February 2016

Mr R Gibson MSP
Convener
Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environmental Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Mr Gibson

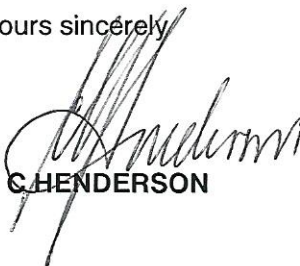
Agricultural Remedial Order

I am very grateful to you and your fellow Committee Members for writing at length as to the procedural challenges facing the Committee in seeking to bring forward corrective legislation to correct the deficiencies which are apparent in the original 2014 Remedial Order.

Driven by the desire to try in some way find a mechanism to avoid the ongoing hardship and clear distress which is now evident for these families, particularly now faced with formal Court process, is there any way that the Committee in seeking to right the defect which we are aware of relative to compensation provision for these tenants could be added as part of a minor amendment to the current Land Reform Bill passing before the Committee per the Agricultural Holdings Section? It does strike me that there is primary legislation being explored and discussed and the Committee having devoted significant time, effort and resource to the defect combined with the desire to see it corrected may have the opportunity or ability to catch this core point before the Committee and the current Session of Parliament comes to an end on 24 March 2016. Failing that the Committee will look to include this defect and the urgency for its correction in its legacy report but anything that we could have done within this current Bill given it does touch on the Agricultural Holdings legislation would, for obvious reasons, be welcome.

On behalf of the families of those affected tenants can I thank the Committee for its continued support and action in trying to find the remedy to the defect which they were assured would not come to pass under the Remedial Order 2014.

Yours sincerely



E.C. HENDERSON