

Date : January 2022  
 To : Scottish Land Commission  
 From : Gemma Cooper, Head of Policy Team, Rhianna Montgomery,  
 Rural Business Policy Advisor

## **LAND RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT AND SELF ASSESSMENT-FARMER COHORT REVIEW**

### **Introduction**

1. At an initial meeting, the Land Commission outlined planned work into a review of the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement and a self-assessment process related to this. NFUS was approached to work with the Commission on a farmer-led cohort review of the Statement and the attached self-assessment process. It was agreed that NFUS and the Commission would approach the project jointly. The following report outlines the main findings and will inform the Commission in its next steps in relation to Land Rights and Responsibilities policy.

### **Executive Summary**

2. By way of an executive summary, the main recommendations and rationale for these are provided below. These have been compiled from the whole project, including the focus group discussions and survey work carried out. For ease, these are grouped into LRRS principles, concept of self-assessment and commentary on the current draft self-assessment forms.

	<b>Issue</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Aim</b>	<b>Evidence</b>
<b>LRRS Principles</b>				
1.	Low farmer awareness of principles	Work with stakeholders to raise land manager awareness of LRRS principles.	Ensure that land managers are aware of LRRS and how this may affect them.	Survey 1, focus groups.

2	Lack of clarity over how LRRS fits into wider land use and agricultural policy.	Scottish Government to express how the principles fit into other policy.	Ensure policy cohesion.	Focus groups.
3	Farmer perception of SLC (who have a duty to promote the principles)	SLC to work with NFUS Legal and Technical committee on an ongoing basis providing speakers and updates on their work.	Build a relationship with farmers and ensure that practical agriculture is represented in SLC policy.	Focus groups.
4	Lack of understanding of what community engagement is.	NFUS to produce a document to highlight regular types of community engagement.	Ensure that farmers have full recognition for what they are already doing for communities.	Focus groups.
5	Concern about lack of transparency from community groups (including community councils).	SLC to produce a guidance document that provides landowners with clarity over what they can reasonably expect from community groups.	Help ensure that land managers can be clear about community intentions.	Focus groups, survey 2.
<b>Self-Assessment for LRRS (Concept)</b>				
6	Poor farmer perception of use of 'self-assessment'.	The 'self-assessment' should be rebranded, so it helps industry perception.	Encourage farmers to undertake this voluntarily.	Focus groups, survey 2.

7	Lack of clarity over benefits to farmers of undertaking an assessment.	SLC to reconsider if self-assessment is a concept that farmers can reasonably be expected to carry out.	Ensure that farmers are only asked to provide reasonable information.	Focus groups, survey 2.
7	Concern over potential for compulsory self-assessment	Any process relating to self-assessment against the principles must remain voluntary.	Ensure that any process remains voluntary.	Focus groups, survey 2.
8	Fear over how information will be used caused by lack of clarity and danger of misuse of information.	SLC should provide clear guidance over how any information gathered will be used.	Ensure that farmers can be confident about the safety of their details.	Focus groups, survey 2.
<b>Self-Assessment for LRRS (Current draft)</b>				
9	Level of detail requested in form far too detailed and personal.	SLC to reduce the requested level of detail to minimum requirements.	Reduce the burden on farmers completing the form.	Focus groups, survey 2.
10	Duplication of information already available or gathered elsewhere.	SLC to engage with RESAS and SG to understand what information farmers are already submitting.	Reduce duplication for farmers	Focus groups, survey 2.

## Methodology

- It was agreed that NFUS would work jointly with the Land Commission to hold a series of focus groups with farmer members. The methodology was agreed jointly with the Land Commission, although this did alter as the project progressed.

4. The revised program of events comprised two focus groups to introduce the principles, one meeting where Commission staff were present and a final focus group to discuss participant experiences of using the self-assessment template for their own farms. None of the focus group participants elected to provide their completed self-assessment forms to the Commission.
5. The full Statement contains six principles, it was agreed that the focus for the project would be on the principles of most relevance to farmers, summarised as;
  - Principle 2- (A more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure)
  - Principle 4 (Holders of land rights should act in accordance with good stewardship)
  - Principle 5 (Improved transparency of information)
  - Principle 6 (Greater collaboration/community engagement in decisions about land)
6. Ahead of the first focus groups, participants were provided with a briefing outlining the Statement principles and the focus group process. (Appendix 1 and 2). Ahead of the first focus group, an initial survey was carried out (Appendix 4)
7. Ahead of the final focus group, participants were provided with an additional briefing (Appendix 3). In addition, a further survey was carried out (Appendix 5).

### **Recruitment of Farmers**

8. In the first instance, NFUS invited participants from the Legal and Technical Committee and Board of Directors. Following this, NFUS did an open call to members. NFUS Legal and Technical Committee were invited a second time at a committee meeting. It proved difficult to recruit members willing to participate in the project.
9. Originally, NFUS had planned to hold one initial focus group. Unfortunately, two participants were unable to attend as planned, meaning that the sample group of farmers was smaller than required. As a result, it was necessary to hold a second initial focus group to ensure a large enough sample size of farmers undertaking the self-assessment process. Participants are noted as below.

### **Focus Group 1**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Local Authority Area</b>	<b>Farm Type</b>
Farmer 1	Fife	Sheep
Farmer 2	Lanarkshire	Beef/arable
Farmer 3	Dumfries	Beef/sheep/arable
Farmer 4	Highland	Beef/arable

## **Focus Group 2**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Local Authority Area</b>	<b>Farm Type</b>
Farmer 5	Aberdeenshire	Beef/sheep
Farmer 6	West Lothian	Arable/diversified
Farmer 7	Midlothian	Pigs

## **Survey 1 Results-Pre-Focus Group**

10. Ahead of the initial focus group, a survey was sent to NFUS members. This resulted in 61 responses from across the NFUS regions. The survey was completed by members from a variety of farm types. Members were asked about familiarity with LRRS principles, views on these, familiarity with the self-assessment process, who would carry out any self-assessment, and what would encourage them to carry self-assessment out.

## **Summary of Responses**

11. A summary of responses is noted as below, fuller information is available in Appendix 4.

- Most respondents noted that they were not at all familiar with the LRRS.
- Most respondents were not familiar with the self-assessment process.
- Respondents were likely to carry out a self-assessment process themselves.
- Respondents felt that easy to use guidance or financial incentive would make them more likely to carry out a self-assessment.

## Consideration of Responses

12. When asked about familiarity with the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement, the majority (31.15%) of respondents stated that they were not at all familiar with the statement. A further 29.51% stated they were somewhat familiar. There were no respondents that stated they were extremely familiar with the statement. This suggests that farmers generally have a low awareness of LRRS and the associated principles.
13. Respondents were asked how familiar they were with LRRS self-assessments, over half of respondents were not familiar at all (50.82%). 29.51% of respondents were not so familiar with LRRS self-assessments. It was also found that 16.39% of respondents were only somewhat familiar with self-assessments. Whilst self-assessment has been used for managers of larger land holdings, this suggests that farmers are generally not aware of it.
14. When asked who is most likely to carry out a self-assessment on their farm or croft, 77.05% of respondents stated it would be carried out by themselves. 9.84% stated they would have a consultant carry out the self-assessment. Other responses included another family member or an employee. 8.20% of respondents chose option "other" and when asked to specify stated either that they were unsure, or it was not applicable.
15. Following this, respondents were asked what would encourage them to carry out a self-assessment on their farm or croft. The overall themes of the responses to this question were the simplicity of the assessment and if they were provided with easy-to-follow guidance. Another common response was that they would be encouraged to carry out a self-assessment would be a financial/tangible reward for carrying it out.

**Survey 2 Results-Pre-Focus Group 3**

16. In response to member concerns, a meeting was organised by several NFUS regions. Following this meeting, a second survey was circulated to members to allow them to provide their views directly. This survey received 97 responses, as noted below. The survey was designed to complement the information obtained via survey 1. Members were asked to outline beneficial and detrimental impacts on their business of completing a self-assessment, how they felt about the principle of self-assessment and how they felt about voluntary and compulsory self-assessment.

**Summary of Responses**

17. A summary of responses to survey 2 is noted as below, full comments from the open questions are provided in Appendix 5.

- Most members noted that they were within 5 miles of a settlement.
- Members noted both beneficial and negative impacts of completing a self-assessment, there were significantly more negative impacts noted.
- Most members felt neutral or negative about the principle of self-assessment.
- Most members felt neutral, negative, or very negative about a compulsory self-assessment.
- Most members felt neutral, negative, or very negative about a voluntary self-assessment.
- There were mixed views on what information members considered it was reasonable for them to share.

## Consideration of Responses

18. To understand geographical context for responses, responses were asked how close their business was to a settlement. Many respondents (28/97) stated that they were within 1 mile proximity of a settlement. 38 were within 5 miles or less from their nearest town or village. The remainder were more than 5 miles from a settlement. Most of the respondents were within 5 miles of a settlement, suggesting that LRRS is of more concern to those who are within relatively close proximity to a specific community.
19. To understand how respondents felt about their relationship with their local community, they were asked to rate their relationship out of 5 (with 1 being poor and 5 being excellent). 92 out of 96 respondents rated their relationship as 3 or above. Thus, most of the respondents felt that their relationship with the local community was positive.
20. To give context to how respondents felt about their local community, and to understand how they engaged, respondents were invited to outline how they engaged with their local community currently. Some respondents noted more formal routes of engagement such as community councils or other groups. Some noted engaging as a member of the community with schools or clubs, or with friends. Some noted general day-to-day exchanges when encountering the public. From the open text box response, a word cloud was created-with word size corresponding to frequency of use.





21. Many of the respondents noted that they engaged informally when they encountered the public; often when the public was taking access to their farms. Some noted involvement in local community councils, schools and other groups. A minority used more formal means such as Facebook, blogs or the media.
22. Next, respondents were asked what benefits they felt there were to them in carrying out a self-assessment. The word cloud below provides an overview of key words. There was limited recognition of some benefits, some respondents used this question to provide a negative response or could not find any benefits. The word cloud below notes commonly used words in responses.



- 23. Next, respondents were asked to comment on any detrimental impacts that completing a self-assessment would have for their business. Many were not supportive of the proposal for a self-assessment. This is mainly due to concerns about duplication of information. The transparency of what the information they provide will be used for is also of major concern for members, especially as this information is already provided for other schemes. Another concern expressed related to pressure to complete a large amount of paperwork, on top of an already heavy workload. There was significant feeling that self-assessment adds to that workload, is essentially a time cost, and does not provide any tangible benefit to the business.
  
- 24. Respondents were asked to consider what information it was reasonable for them to share. There were mixed views, some felt none, some noted basic information, and some felt comfortable sharing broader plans relating to their business, future plans, conservation or cropping.

## Focus Groups 1 and 2

### Introductions

25. The focus groups commenced with introductions from the participants and staff present, followed by an outline from the NFUS Head of Policy Team about what the Statement meant for NFUS members. The Commission Head of Policy then provided context regarding the self-assessment format and provided participants with the opportunity to ask any questions.

26. There are six principles in the Statement, for relevance the discussions were focussed on principles 2, 4, 5 and 6.

27. There were a number of initial comments from the groups around the future of the Statement and self-assessment process:

*'The fear for members is, as we go forward, this could become a legal requirement....95 percent of our industry is a one person business....it is a huge burden to do these things.'*

### Transparency

28. Participants were invited to share examples of where they were demonstrating principles relating to transparency and community engagement.

29. Several participants said they were actively being transparent with contact information at access points. One challenge was noted as:

*'We have a sign on the end of the farm road so if stock escape there is a phone number...the issue is that we now have everybody calling, because adjacent landowners, although they have websites, the reps are not contactable.'*

30. Another participant noted concerns with providing contact information, saying:

*'We have a sign on the end of the road, but we have not put phone numbers up because there have been examples of farms being raided.'*

31. In the same vein, another participant noted concern over the negative implications of providing contact information, particularly in the context of more intensive forms of farming such as pig and poultry:

*'I am an intensive farm, so perhaps the type of farming that the public don't want to see. I would be worried that I would have protestors at the end of my gate. I can see for a pastoral dairy scene, it might work, but not all farms are nice and cosy....there have been lots of farms who have had people coming in at 2am to take videos'*

## **Engaging with Communities**

### **Examples of Engagement**

32. There were several comments in relation to engaging with communities.

Participants described regularly carrying out engagement, but that did not necessarily see this as anything out of the ordinary. Activities described were often carried out repeatedly, or at set times of year.

33. Participants did not appear make an immediate connection with their activities being community engagement. Engagement described covered two main themes: engagement providing a specific goodwill gesture and engagement relating to public education.

34. Except for one example, an egg honesty box, which was undertaken in conjunction with a noticeboard with items of local interest on the farm, there was no commercial incentive for participants in carrying out the community engagement. Thus, most activities carried out occurred at financial cost to the farmer in question.

35. One participant said:

*'I engage with the community a fair bit more than I realised. I provide a tractor for local processions, I clear snow, I try to engage with people walking as I have a core path running through the farm.'*

36. Another participant said:

*'My wife is keen and has an information board saying what she has been seeing, birds and wildlife etc...and an honesty box with eggs to try to engage. My wife is a member of the community council, so this helps give direction, if there are any issues.'*

37. Participants noted several positive examples of where they were making land available for activities which benefitted the local community. One participant noted regularly undertaking visits for the Royal Highland Education Trust (RHET), which facilitates visits for school children to farms, to educate them about farming. Another noted that he provided a field for the local agricultural show and gala day at no cost, something which is commonplace amongst the farming community. Similarly, a participant noted:

*'We have given a small piece of land to the community for an 'in bloom' competition (for a polytunnel). It is not a big issue for the landowner and really beneficial to the local community.'*

38. A similar example was outlined:

*'The local football club is very community oriented, and we have agreed to host an advertising sign on the way into Dingwall. That has been used for a wide variety of things and attracts a great deal of interest.'*

### **Stewardship of Land**

39. Participants were invited to provide examples of where they were demonstrating good stewardship of the land. There was a general feeling that the public was not aware of the work carried out by farmers in terms of environmental sustainability and specific measures. There was concern from both focus groups regarding potential duplication of Good Agricultural and Environmental Condition (GAEC) requirements.

40. With reference to GAEC, one participant noted:

*'How do we check with this that we are not duplicating something which is already there?'*

41. There was concern that there is a lack of understanding about what farmers are already undertaking in terms of requirements and paperwork relating to farming. There was worry about 'administrative over-burden'. Additional input noted

*'I have recently carried out an exercise to look at the extend of rules covering the farming industry. There were five sides of A4 paper just naming the legislation that we have to comply with.'*

42. Carrying on the theme of farmers undertaking environmental stewardship, one participant noted what he was undertaking as part of the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (AECS).

*'Under AECS I do habit enhancement for wading birds. But the community won't be aware of it.'*

Another participant noted: *'I did do an environmental scheme planning hedges, partly for biosecurity, high health for cattle, but it also ticked the boxes for wildlife corridors. I found it worked well'.*

43. Continuing the theme of a lack of awareness of what farmers are doing another participant noted:

*'I have three or four acres of woodland I planted, and hedges. I deliberately leave bits wild, there are a whole pile of things that I try to do. Because it is the right thing to do....I don't crow about it'.*

44. A link was made between tenure on the land and ability to carry out environmental stewardship. One participant reported to having ownership of some land and other parcels of land under a variety of tenure arrangements, of differing durations. The participant reported that this affected his ability to undertake stewardship measures, noting:

*'I would like to do more, but I have to abide by the seasonal let'.*

### **Focus Group 3**

45. Participants were concerned about providing feedback with Commission staff present. As a result, the final focus group was reconvened later with only NFUS staff present. The final discussion was for participants to provide feedback on completing the self-assessment for their own farms. Keeping the conversation on track was a challenge, as participants felt strongly negative about the topic of discussion.

### **Initial Comments**

46. The NFUS Legal and Technical Chair opened the meeting, followed by an outline from the Head of Policy Team. Members were asked for their thoughts on the initial details requested, which they felt negatively about.

47. Participants were not clear what benefit there was to them completing the draft and several felt that they did not have a clear enough view of the bigger picture for what the Commission was seeking to achieve. One participant noted:

*'There is no value in this document for me....it is only for being used against me and my business 'There is a demand here for information that I already give to other public bodies, in full confidence... a lot of this information is private and confidential, such as which bodies I am a part of...this is a direct intrusion on my human rights'.*

48. Another participant said:

*'The whole thing is assuming that I have a poor relationship with my community already, I don't see any benefit to my farm'.*

49. In a similar vein, one participant commented;

*'It must be remembered that farmers are part of the community....there is not a them and us'.*

50. Time taken to complete the form was a key concern, one participant noted:

*'Farmers don't have the time to complete this...I spent 5-6 hours trying to fill out this form'.*

*'as it stands, this is not palatable to me....it needs to be simplified immensely'*

51. Duplication was another key theme, one participant noted:

*'This is duplication of SAF forms....all of the information is already there. This is duplication of stuff we are already giving out'.*

52. There was significant concern over how information gathered might be used, one participant noted:

*'People could misuse this information....they (communities) are quite happy to see this information. The fundamentals are all wrong, they should have to be properly constituted and clearly visible who they are, with agendas and minutes published'.*

*'this is a one sided document in its current form. We need a lot more safety nets to stop those who have single issue problems using this as a weapon against industry'.*

## **Section 2-Transparency**

53. Concern over the level of information being sought remained a key theme in the group discussion around the transparency section of the draft forms. One participant noted;

*'Where is this information going and what is going to be done with it? Why do I have to provide it again? This form is going to cost me money (time) to comply with, and I don't get any return from that cost.'*

54. Another participant said;

*'I strongly feel this is about making us read the guidance. Transparency of ownership has nothing meaningful in it....what are significant changes...there is nothing to say what the definition of this is....my definition could be very different to somebody else. This feels very intrusive, asking for details of farm managers etc-no other business would be asked this.'*

## **Community Engagement**

55. Participants were invited to discuss the community engagement section of the draft forms.

56. Concern about the definition of 'significant change' was also voiced by another participant, who said;

*'We have a sign at the end of the road with our phone number, I don't think we should put any more information out. Significant change is very subjective....if we are going to be doing something that affects the community, we tell them about it!'*

57. This was picked up by another participant who said;

*'If you think something will affect the community, you let them know. It has to be a two way street, how it is communicated is the issue. We had an example where there was a pipe band through the farm that upset the cattle.'*

58. Another participant said;

*'We should always be pressing the assumption that farmers are part of the community. It can be hard to get agreement with a community....not everyone is going to be reasonable.'*

59. In a similar vein, one participant said;



*'I am concerned about harassment (by a community), how many times can a community approach a landowner (for information) within a certain period of time?'*

60. Several participants noted concerns over the potential need to engage with local communities in relation to everyday farming activities;

*'I am worried that everyday land use is not included now, but it could be soon...things like working after 10pm, etc. etc.'*

61. In relation to community engagement, several participants noted that they undertook this, but that there was no formal plan in place;

*'We don't have a formal plan for engaging with the community, we just try to communicate as much as we can....we have notice boards near where people walk, bee keeping areas in woodland and give land to an in bloom....we just try to be accommodating wherever we can'.*

62. Another noted;

*'We attend community groups, we don't consider this as community engagement per say. We speak to locals very regularly.....we live in a very rural community which helps-there are very few days when I don't engage with a member of the public. I used to calve adjacent to the village hall, somebody came to tell us there was a calf on the way and then everyone came to watch! I feel this form is too prescriptive'.*

### **Diversification of Ownership and Community Ownership**

63. The section on diversification of ownership promoted some discussion from participants.

*'I don't have any issue as long as there is a willing buyer and willing seller. I have no objections to diversifying ownership....but I am insulted to be asked if I am complying with the rules!'*

*'I don't get anything from this....when did you last sell land...it was compulsory purchase, why do you need to know that?'*

64. The theme of willing buyer, willing seller, was echoed by another participant who said;

*'I agree with willing buyer, willing seller...there are good and bad intentions when it comes to land. There is huge landscape change currently and different motives around buying land'.*

### **Good Stewardship**

65. The good stewardship section promoted the most conversation and the most feeling that the form was duplicating. One participant said;

*'This section is an insult, it is not relevant at all....if I wasn't looking after my land, I wouldn't be filling out the form.....I don't want to be involved with this section at all'.*

*Another noted;*

*'There is regulation for good stewardship already....it is a compliance already. This is irrelevant to be included in this document. We are so regulated anyway; we are always having to make sure we are compliant'.*

*'This is overlapping with GAEC.....as for buildings, as a tenant these are covered under the terms of my lease'.*

66. Quality Assurance was also noted as an example of where stewardship information was already provided;

*'most of this is already provided for quality assurance so I can't see the point of this part of the document'.*

### **Conclusions**

67. The main themes are grouped into the recommendations in the executive summary as they relate to NFUS recommendations as to how it feels SLC may progress.

68. It was clear that awareness of the principles is low, as is the level of understanding of what LRRS means for farmers and how it applies to them. There is no clarity over how LRRS relates to wider land use and agricultural policy. In trying to use the principles to frame the self-assessment process, there is significant duplication of information being sought, particularly in relation to good stewardship of land. Duplication of information was a recurring theme throughout the project and farmers had strong frustrations about the impact of this in terms of their time.

69. There is significant and recurring concern over the level of detail being sought and how it could be misused. This relates particularly to extreme groups and local communities, where transparency is not always reciprocated-without any repercussion. Farmers felt very much that the level of information being sought was not reasonable, that it was an invasion of their privacy on an individual and commercial basis. There was also a feeling that there was significant information in the public domain already and questioned if it was their job to provide information and suggested that individuals who had to find it themselves could be less likely to use it for spurious means.

70. There was not a consensus on what information farmers should reasonably be asked to share. Some felt that there was enough information in the public domain already, others felt that basic details should be provided. Some felt that more information on issues such as cropping, or biodiversity projects could reasonably be made public. This could be because those who engaged with the project did not feel they had enough clarity about how this fitted into the 'bigger picture', what the destination for information was or who might have access to it. Providing assurances around this will be important going forward.

71. Many farmers are positive about community engagement and are actively carrying this out. There were a huge number of positive examples provided during this project. Often this is for recurring local social events or for local clubs or schools and normally it is on a purely goodwill basis. There is a danger that formalising reporting community engagement too much could jeopardise the many informal means of engagement that occur currently.

72. Farmers generally feel negative about any self-assessment process, although there is a clear preference that any process must remain voluntary and not compulsory. As farmers are likely to complete any forms themselves, if self-assessment is to be retained or progressed, it must be made as simple as possible. A rebrand has been suggested to make any process something that farmers can use to help them provide a positive narrative about farming and food production.

Ends.

## APPENDIX 1



# Briefing

Date : 6 October 2021  
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## LAND RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES-AN OVERVIEW

1. The following briefing is a summary of the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS). A full version is available here:  
<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2017/09/scottish-land-rights-responsibilities-statement/documents/00525166-pdf/00525166-pdf/govscot%3Adocument/00525166.pdf>
2. There are a number of case studies in the main document which outline delivery of the Principles. There is also further information in the main document which outlines how LRRS relates to high level strategy and also what steps Scottish Government is already taking in pursuit of LRRS.

### Introduction

3. Land Reform is all matters relating to ownership, use and management of land in Scotland. The Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS) is a key reference point for land reform and seeks to inform policy and practice relating to it.

4. The principles in the statement are intended to be mutually supportive and they apply to 'land' as defined under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. The principles underpin Scottish Government's vision for a stronger relationship between the people of Scotland and the land, where ownership and use of land delivers greater public benefits through a democratically accountable and transparent system of land rights and responsibilities.

### **Vision**

5. Scottish Government's vision for Scotland is '***A Scotland with a strong and dynamic relationship between the land and people, where all land contributes to a modern and successful country, and where rights and responsibilities in relation to land are fully recognised and fulfilled***'.

### **Aims**

6. In working towards the overall vision, the statement has three key aims.
  - Inform the development of policy and action relating to land including:
    - Planning
    - Housing
    - Urban regeneration
    - Farming
    - Caring for the environment
    - Or any other government activity that relates to land
  - Encourage and support others with significant responsibilities over land to consider how their decision-making powers could contribute to realising the vision in the Statement.
  - To encourage everyone to recognise responsibilities and rights in relation to land.
7. The Statement is underpinned by key principles, as outlined in the table below.

<p><b>Principle 1</b></p>	<p>The overall framework of land rights, responsibilities and public policies should promote, fulfil and respect relevant human rights in relation to land, contribute to public interest and wellbeing, and balance public and private interests. The framework should support sustainable economic development, protect and enhance the environment, help achieve social justice and build a fairer society.</p>
<p><b>Principle 2</b></p>	<p>There should be a more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure, with more opportunities for citizens to own, lease and have access to land.</p>
<p><b>Principle 3</b></p>	<p>More local communities should have the opportunity to own, lease or use buildings and land which can contribute to their community's wellbeing and future development</p>
<p><b>Principle 4</b></p>	<p>The holders of land rights should exercise these rights in ways that take account of their responsibilities to meet high standards of land ownership, management and use. Acting as the stewards of Scotland's land resource for future generations they contribute to sustainable growth and a modern, successful country.</p>

<b>Principle 5</b>	There should be improved transparency of information about the ownership, use and management of land, and this should be publicly available, clear and contain relevant detail.
<b>Principle 6</b>	There should be greater collaboration and community engagement in decisions about land.

8. The following provides a more detailed outline of each principle.

### **Principle 1**

- Scotland's land is a resource for all people.
- The model should contribute to economic, environmental, and social goals.
- The benefits can be utilised through ownership, leasing and access to land and provision of raw materials.
- Land rights are key to the realisation of human rights.
- People should have confidence that there is a fair and balanced system of decision making in relation to land and have the opportunity to be engaged in decisions relating to land that impact on them.
- Existing guidance should be considered where this exists.
- In the context of the Statement, public interest should not be thought of in opposition to private interest.
- Public interest also includes the effect on individuals, who are members of the public.
- Decisions taken about how to realise the full public benefits from Scotland's land and buildings must take sustainable development and the wellbeing of our environment and communities into consideration.
- In the context of LRRS this means ensuring that more people, as communities and individuals, can benefit from land related opportunities (economic growth, cultural and social development and environmental improvements).

## **Principle 2**

- The Scottish Government policy memorandum which accompanied the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2016 noted that land reform has the potential to empower greater numbers of people.
- It noted that, over time, land reform can change patterns of ownership in Scotland to ensure greater diversity of ownership, diversity of investment and sustainable development.
- A diverse pattern of land ownership can support a range of scales of ownership and management, adopted to local needs.
- Access to land and premises is a key requirement for all forms of enterprise.
- It is important to build on the mix of tenancy arrangements to ensure greater choice for those wishing to enter the agricultural industry.
- There can be occasions where the scale or pattern of ownership or control, or the decisions of land managers can be a barrier to the development of the local community.
- Access to land can provide a range of benefits, including supporting local economic development.
- Offering more people the chance to own and lease land can contribute to a fairer Scotland

## **Principle 3**

- Land is a key asset for supporting local and national growth and social and environmental aspirations.
- Having control over land as a resource can help contribute to increased community resilience, enabling and empowering communities to adapt land uses to their sustainable development needs.
- All types of land ownership, private and public, can contribute to sustainable development.
- In recent years, there has been a growing awareness that community-based organisations are best placed to deliver many benefits in a rural and urban setting.
- Community ownership can support wellbeing and resilience by giving local people the opportunity to identify and respond to their own needs.



- The ownership or lease of land or buildings can empower communities by strengthening local people's voices.
- Community landowners, as with other landowners, are encouraged to practice high standards of landownership and stewardship.
- Community landowners are expected to collaborate with other communities, surrounding landowners and public authorities.
- Private landowners are expected to see communities as valuable partners in promoting sustainable development and land use.

#### **Principle 4**

- The holders of land already have duties under legislation (e.g pollution control, building safety regulations etc).
- For the purpose of the Statement, meeting high standards of ownership goes further than that.
- Landowners should take decisions about their land in ways that support social and economic development and protect and enhance the environment.
- Many landowners make significant contributions to public good.
- Good stewardship means being aware that decisions about land can have an impact on people's lives.
- High standards of land management and good stewardship of land means promoting the sustainable development of land by contributing to better economic, social, cultural and environmental outcomes.
- Those who own, manage or use land are responsible for the good stewardship of that land and it is well looked after and, where possible, improved.
- The work of the Tenant Farming Commissioner will play an important role in further developing good stewardship over time.

#### **Principle 5**

- Information about land and buildings provides the foundation for transparent decision making.
- Provision of information can also be a key component of participation-which is a key element of the human rights framework.
- Better information can help with more informed decision making, land use and management.
- Many landowners and decision makers are transparent, but this is not universal.

- In some cases, the owner or decision maker is not clear and this can hinder engagement and resolution.
- In relation to land use and management, the aim of this principle is to ensure that reasonable and helpful information is made available in a clear and accessible fashion.

### **Principle 6**

- Wide public engagement on decisions relating to land and buildings can help build trust between landowner, land managers, communities and others.
- Strong relationships between those who manage or own land or buildings, and the affect communities, helps foster mutual understanding of the issues.
- Good engagement supports communities to express themselves and become involve in the decisions that affect them.
- Engagement enables landowners, managers and communities to develop positive and co-operative working relationships that can lead to creative solutions to issues.
- This principle is supported by the Guidance in Engaging Communities in Decisions Relating to Land.

### **Human Rights**

9. In preparing LRRS, Scottish Government identified relevant Treaties and International principles. Human rights in relation to land include both core civil and political rights (e.g. the protection of private property) and wider social, cultural and environmental rights.

### **LRRS Relationship with Other**

10. The LRRS has a wider policy context within the work of Scottish Government. The table below outlines this in more depth.

<b>Human Rights and International Standards</b>	European Convention on Human Rights International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Voluntary Guidelines on the Governance of Tenure United Nations Sustainable Development Goals										
<b>National Performance Framework</b>	<b>Purpose</b>	The Purpose of the Scottish Government is to focus government and public services on creating a more successful country, with opportunities for all of Scotland to flourish, through increasing sustainable economic growth.									
	<b>Selected National Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ We live in a Scotland that is the most attractive place for doing business in Europe.</li> <li>■ We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.</li> <li>■ We reduce the local and global environmental impact of our consumption and production.</li> <li>■ We live in well-designed sustainable places where we are able to access the amenities and services we need.</li> <li>■ We value and enjoy our built and natural environment and protect and enhance it for future generations.</li> <li>■ We have strong, resilient and supportive communities where people take responsibility for their own actions and how they affect others.</li> <li>■ Our public services are high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.</li> </ul>									
<b>National Plans and Strategies</b>	Scotland's Economic Strategy										
	Fairer Scotland Action Plan										
	Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights										
<b>Land Strategies</b>	Scottish Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement			Land Use Strategy		National Marine Plan		National Planning Framework 3			
<b>Related National Policies</b>	2020 Challenge for Scotland's Biodiversity	Climate Change Plan 2017*	Creating Places: a policy statement on architecture and place	Flood Risk Management Plan for Scotland	Guidance on Engaging Communities*	Homes Fit for the 21st Century	Low Carbon Scotland	National Islands Plan*	National Peatland Plan	National Transport Strategy	Our Place in Time: the Historic Environment Strategy for Scotland
	Physical Activity Implementation Plan: A More Active Scotland	Pollinators Strategy	Regeneration Strategy	River Basin Management Plans	Scottish Rural Development Programme	Scotland's National Food & Drink Policy: Becoming a Good Food Nation	Scottish Forestry Strategy	Scottish Planning Policy	Scoping report on a Strategic Vision for the Uplands	The Future of Scottish Agriculture: a discussion document	The Scottish Plant Health Strategy

\*the document is proposed or under development

Ends.

## APPENDIX 2

### Self-assessment format

NFUS members are being invited to participate in the Scottish Land Commission's Land Rights & Responsibilities self-assessment pilot scheme. This includes active participation in two workshops and approximately ½ - 1 day of 'homework' between the meetings.

The self-assessment process has recently been redesigned based on feedback from 23 participants to date. The process for NFUS members is lighter-touch, with less evidence required, a greater focus on understanding how the LRRS applies to NFUS members, and consideration given to the actions members may wish to take in the future to further land rights and responsibilities.

There is no obligation on participants to provide information on their practices to the Scottish Land Commission. This is a self-assessment process that aims to encourage land owners and managers to proactively consider their approach to fulfilling land rights and responsibilities. It is not designed to collect data on participants or to make judgements about their current or future practices.

This is a pilot project and the Land Commission is interested in feedback from NFUS members on how the process works for them.

#### Workshop 1: 9th December

An introduction to the Scottish Government's Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS) and discussion about how each principle applies in the context of the individual members. Participants will be asked to explore what good practice does or could look like for them.

#### Homework

Participants will be asked to review their practice in relation to each of the principles and bring feedback on this to the second workshop. This will allow individuals to extend their understanding of the LRRS and consider more fully how this applies in their context. The Scottish Land Commission Good Practice Advisers will provide support for individuals if requested. A template will be provided to aid this process but does not have to be completed or shared with either the Land Commission or other participants.

#### Workshop 2: 16th

In the final workshop participants will be asked to share examples of their own good practice in realising the LRRS and steps they have considered implementing to further Land Rights & Responsibilities. Participants will be asked to provide feedback on the self-assessment process.

#### FAQs

Q. What data or information will the Land Commission collect from the self-assessments?

A. We will create an anonymised note of both workshops including feedback on how the LRRS applies in a farming context and feedback on the self-assessment process. This will feed into a report on the self-assessment pilot project. We will not collect or use data that can be attributed to individuals unless specific permissions are given for this purpose by individual participants.

Q. Previous participants had to complete a form, provide evidence and score themselves on each principle. Has the process changed and if so, why and how?  
Yes, this a pilot project and we are trialling a different approach with NFUS members based on feedback from previous participants.

We will provide a template for NFUS members to complete at home but participants will not be asked to share this with other participants or with the Land Commission. Some participants may wish to share this information with us or other participants in the spirit of transparency and to assist them in developing their understanding of LRRS and actions they may wish to take in the future.

There is no longer a score option in the template and participants do not need to provide any supporting evidence, though they may wish to do so.

Q. What about confidentiality?

A. You do not have to share any information with the Land Commission or other participants that you do not want to share. We will request that participants keep the workshop discussions confidential.

If you do choose to discuss your self-assessment with Good Practice Advisers they will keep factual notes of the discussion. We will not publish this information, however, the Land Commission is subject to freedom of information requests and a privacy note outlining this will be provided before participation.

## APPENDIX 3



# *Briefing*

Date : 20 December 2021  
To : Members  
From : Gemma Cooper  
Direct dial : 0131 472 4000  
E-mail address : gemma.cooper@nfus.org.uk

## **LAND RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STATEMENT-MEMBER FAQ**

The following briefing outlines the current farmer review workstream that NFUS is engaged with, as well as useful background on LRRS and self-assessment.

### **The Farmer Review Workstream**

#### **What is the background to the piece of work with the Land Commission?**

The Commission contacted NFUS to discuss a farmer led review of the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS) and an accompanying pilot of a self-assessment process. NFUS agreed to be involved in this work jointly with SLC to ensure that farmers' voices were heard - this route was approved by the NFUS Presidential team.

#### **What is the purpose of the work?**

The purpose is to review how farmers are demonstrating the principles and for attendees to complete a pilot self-assessment form to provide their feedback on this from a farmer's point of view.

#### **Who else is SLC working with?**

SLC has already carried out the same exercise with Scottish Land and Estates and Community Land Scotland.

## **What happens next?**

NFUS will submit a report to SLC outlining the views of the farmer group.

## **Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement (LRRS)**

### **What is the Land Rights and Responsibilities Statement?**

The LRRS is a key policy and practice guidance for land reform in Scotland, including on matters relating to ownership, management and use of land and associated rights in Scotland.

### **What are the principles of the Statement?**

Scottish Government's principles are:

- The overall framework of land rights, responsibilities and public policies should promote, fulfil, and respect relevant human rights in relation to land, contribute to public interest and wellbeing, and balance public and private interests. The framework should support sustainable economic development, protect, and enhance the environment, help achieve social justice and build a fairer society.
- There should be a more diverse pattern of land ownership and tenure, with more opportunities for citizens to own, lease and have access to land.
- More local communities should have the opportunity to own, lease or use buildings and land which can contribute to their community's wellbeing and future development.
- The holders of land rights should exercise these rights in ways that take account of their responsibilities to meet high standards of land ownership, management and use. Acting as the stewards of Scotland's land resource for future generations they contribute to sustainable growth and a modern, successful country.
- There should be improved transparency of information about the ownership, use and management of land, and this should be publicly available, clear and contain relevant detail.
- There should be greater collaboration and community engagement in decisions about land.

## **What is the point of the principles?**

1. To inform development of government policy and action relating to land.
2. To encourage and support others who have responsibility over land to consider how they might realise the vision in the Statement.
3. To encourage all to recognise our responsibilities and rights in relation to land.

## **What is the background for LRRS for Scottish Government?**

The Scottish Government must, by law, promote the principles in the Statement when exercising its functions.

## **What is the background for LRRS for the Land Commission?**

The Land Commission is required to have regard to the Statement when exercising its functions.

## **Where does the self-assessment process fit in?**

The self-assessment process is a voluntary mechanism that the Scottish Land Commission feels will enable land managers to help demonstrate the various principles.

## **NFUS Member Input to LRRS and Self-Assessment**

### **What opportunity have members had to input into the principles and the self-assessment process?**

When the original principles were being developed, NFUS engaged with Scottish Government via its stakeholder engagement and consultation process.

Most recently, members have had the opportunity to input views on the self-assessment proposals via the Legal and Technical Committee agenda and meeting in October.

### **What other recent consultation has NFUS done on LRRS?**

- At the October Legal and Technical meeting, LRRS and the self-assessment forms were an agenda item and members were invited to comment.
- Since November, NFUS has had an open survey monkey for members to provide thoughts on the principles and the self-assessment process. This remains open and can be accessed via this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NGHMFTG>



- NFUS will shortly open a member consultation on LRRS to feed in views to the (separate) Scottish Government consultation that is currently open for views.

**APPENDIX 4**



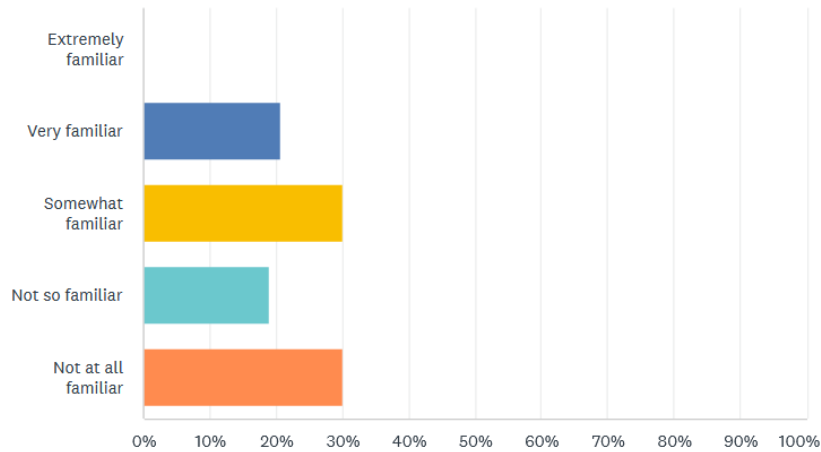
# Briefing

Date : 25 January 2022  
To : SLC  
From : Gemma Cooper/Rhianna Montgomery  
Direct dial : 0131 472 4000  
E-mail address : gemma.cooper@nfus.org.uk

## SURVEY 1-MEMBER RESPONSES

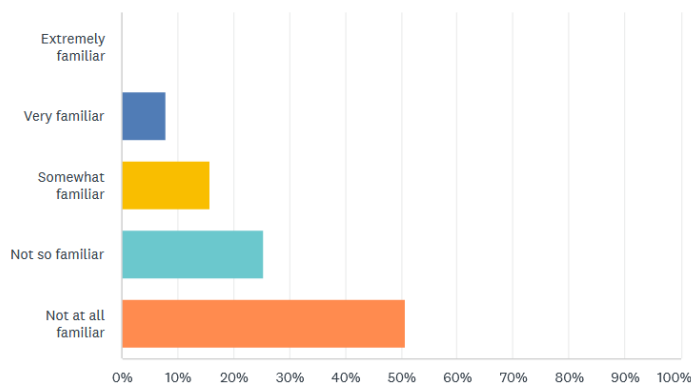
How familiar are you with the land rights and responsibilities statement (LRRS)?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 0



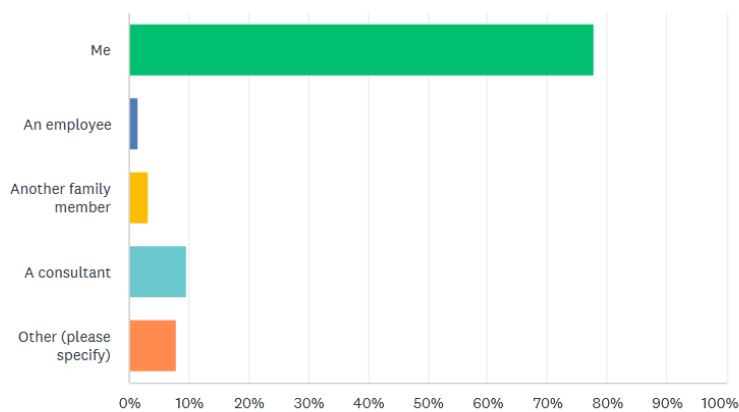
Land managers can assess their business against the LRRS principles. How familiar are you with the LRRS self-assessment process for landowners?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 0



Who would complete a LRRS self-assessment for your farm/croft?

Answered: 63 Skipped: 0



**Question: What would encourage you to complete a self-assessment for your farm/croft?**

- If I agreed with where this is likely to take us I would do it willingly
- Protection of something we have worked to achieve and own without retrospective government intervention
- I would not be keen at all to complete such a form.
- We would not need much encouragement to complete this against LRRS
- A condition of financial support.

- Obviously if doing so was a condition of subsidy. But also, if beneficial in 'telling our story' / marketing our farm. Also, simply good practice engaging with community and environmental bodies, so would have no problem doing this (as something we already do)
- A short email explaining what it was for and giving a good argument for why it will benefit all of us if I do fill it in.
- Very simple process
- From the details published it will take a considerable amount of time to complete the self-assessment. Therefore, the question has to be - what will be the benefit of completing this assessment to the business?
- It would need to feel relevant to me.
- If I had any confidence the direction of travel with LRRS had any meaningful desire for a two-way benefit.
- Cash and confidence in those who judge
- Landowners need to work with LRRS not against. Badly worded. It would need to be simple, have clear objectives and community engagement.
- Greater awareness that they're relevant to us as farmers, rather than being for estates.
- How easy would it be.
- Understanding the benefits of doing it.
- A tangible reward for the effort such as recognition with the local community and acceptance of how we work being for the best of the points in the LRRS.
- Plenty others things to do, unless it was easy tick box I wouldn't bother
- Self-assessment forms published.
- Money
- A guide on how to complete the self-assessment and how the information in which I provide is used
- Financial assistance

- If I could see the point and if I could see why it is necessary and not just more bureaucracy by well-meaning busy-bodies
- Being able to keep a grip on what is happening or is planned, thereby having a voice.
- if I knew it was meaningfully implemented across all of Scotland and achieving its outcomes based on the right legislation being put in place
- Some understanding of what LRRS means on the ground day to day
- Simplicity
- A thank you for being a good custodian would go a long way.
- Self-interest?
- Only if it was a legal requirement
- More information and a good reason to do so
- If there was a perceived benefit, I would complete one
- More guidance as to what LRRS means
- Grants to assist with public use/access
- For the best interest of the business and the future security for next generations
- Compulsion only
- Simple explanation for a start Simple language and guidance
- Money
- A vision of the future greater good or a financial incentive.
- A payment for public goods, access
- If it was simple, logical and a lot briefer than that one which was sent out initially. This is becoming ridiculous. SLC are Scot Govt puppets.
- Only if it could benefit the people managing the land
- I would have to be convinced that there was a good reason for doing it and a clear understanding of what the information was to be used for. Equally, that any such information remains my property and that it will not be used to diminish my existing rights or add any additional responsibilities or obligations on me or the land

- Reasonable remuneration for my time, especially given that many of those who wish to access the land I manage fail to accept any responsibility that comes with their right to take access, a right that I whole heartedly endorse as being fundamentally positive and progressive.
- Online, simple. Not sure i would do it unless you had to! Another thing to do, farmers have enough paperwork to do!
- Financial gain.
- Nothing
- A common sense approach to what it really means to be a landowner. Not a lesson from an aggrieved, Marxist who thinks that the .and belongs "tae thu peepull".
- If it was easier to understand
- Some curb on unfettered irresponsible invasion
- To see the benefit in doing so. At the moment it feels slightly one way in benefitting policy.

## APPENDIX 5



# *Briefing*

Date : 25 January 2022  
From : Gemma Cooper/Rhianna Montgomery

Direct dial : 0131 472 4000  
E-mail address : gemma.cooper@nfus.org.uk

## **SURVEY 2-MEMBER RESPONSES**

### **Question-How do you engage with your local community currently?**

- On a limited basis - we have good engagement with the community council and some local sports clubs.
- No real need to I go about my activities, and it does not impact on them
- Speak to neighbours daily
- Through local Facebook groups, our local paper & face to face
- By talking to people, Community Council, neighbours etc
- Verbally on an adhoc basis
- Website, Blog, Talking
- Smile, there is only us and our larger neighbours and a hotel so we all rub along
- We are on local committees I.e., Parent Council, Community Council, local village hall trustee and committee
- Talk at primary school
- Children at local school. Attend community events.
- Yes - through Community Council
- Support local church,hall,shinty club,swi and local show
- Community council.
- I am in regular conversation with my neighbours
- face to face or email
- I talk regularly to those I know. I don't know the incomers
- Main engagement from Christmas tree sales
- Pre-nursery groups, farm visits, conducted tours
- Through the local media, and through daily interaction with others.

- Talk to neighbours and passers-by
- Support Resilience Committee and Community Council activities. i.e., Deliver logs, supply food, shovel snow etc
- Speak to neighbours re any developments/ potential farm related inconveniences. Use road signs when moving livestock and having closed gates across public side roads
- We host signs advertising the occasional event on our land in view of the main road. We have the community wind turbine on our land. we used to host school visits before muller pulled the plug
- I acknowledge someone walking in the fields
- Local DISCUSSION
- I share information with friends and people who ask me questions. My community has a large proportion of second homes (over 50%) and I have little to know engagement with the owners of those properties.
- Informal discussion as part of that community.
- Vis chair hall committee
- They're friends and people we know from living in the community.
- Face to face conversations with the good neighbours, the nasty ones prefer to ignore us or only communicate by email.
- Try to operate responsibly with care to avoid inconvenience
- Facebook and direct contact
- Allow walkers along river bank
- Encouraging walking and allowing use of stubbles
- speak to them in pub
- We've really closed the ranks in this current climate but would love to be able to engage with the children with farm visits
- WORK WITH SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY COUNCIL
- Don't really unless there is a problem



- Just chat to them and try to be friendly most are respond quite well. When I shift stock, I try to ask people where stand and they are very good at doing so. But unfortunately, there is always one who didn't put their dog on a lead when I was shifting sheep up a rd and the little dog ran up the fence side and caused a problem the woman didn't acknowledge her error or apologise. Can live without t\*\*\*s like that
- Shop and fuel, shinty club
- Talk to them when I meet them, help them when I get a request to clear drives roads etc of snow etc
- I am on the Community Council and Hall Committee
- I talk to them whenever opportunity arises, wave in car as we pass
- Support neighbours when needed
- Signs and speaking to people
- Not much some folk walk or ride horses I usually chat to them and occasionally have to tell them to keep dog on a lead
- Community councillor
- Very rarely have the opportunity to engage
- The poor relationship relates to grazing cattle in the village area, (individual crofters day to day activity), we (the grazing committee) have held an open meeting, about reintroducing grazing of cattle within the village after a break. we (the grazing committee) have also distributed a leaflet setting out responsibilities of householders with boundaries onto the common grazing.
- Do not unless there is a problem
- Very limited with village tend to go to larger town 7 miles away
- Through the planning system
- Countryside classroom on wheels, interview for sustainable Kintore
- Verbal when seen
- They usually hassle us the farmer - noise/OSR bangers/ Grain Drier
- Help out when asked

- Participation on community bodies
- Coastal pathway round farm, picnic benches, seats and access to historic site.
- Normal day to day farming and local events
- Main engagement is to facilitate affordable housing in converted farm outbuildings and static caravans
- Have tried to repair paths, add signage, remove padlocks on gates put in place by previous owners, restore properties (this is probably what has been best received), created three new houses let at affordable housing rates, donating to local causes, allowing some community activity on land.
- Community Council; specific engagement events; partnership with one community to run an asset; ad hoc dialogue and liaison for minor issues.
- Attend Community Council Meetings approx. 4 times a year. Website and Facebook
- Casually
- By direct contact
- It's an island farming setting. Crofting is a key part of community life already. I communicate with tourists using signage to ask them to put dogs on leads etc.
- Community council and Development Co
- Attend local galas school events Used to do farm visits
- We don't, there is a sign on a track that runs through the farm and that's it
- Sometimes I attend a community council meeting
- Speak regularly, as small conurbation
- Business partners wife in village council.
- One to one conversation usually
- Have friends in the village
- Generally, when opportune
- Say hello, drop off some produce and generally be friendly.
- By being friendly and polite

- Anglers access the farm, we host horse and pony shows, host auto cross events, have lots of dog walkers and have in the past hosted races/runs. As well as being an access track between 2 main roads

**Question-What do you feel are the potential beneficial impacts for your business of completing a self-assessment?**

- There are few real benefits to be drawn. Generally, where people have an input and it is not listened to they feel slighted, by not having an input they may feel they should have a say but they do not feel ignored.
- None - this is an unacceptable duplication of information which is already held by the following bodies - RPID, Crofting Commission, Land Register and Companies House if a Ltd or LLP.
- None just another bureaucratic unnecessary task which takes time away from running your business
- No advantage
- None
- None
- Public transparency
- Limited to nil. We already communicate well. I am unaware of there being any doubt about ownership of land around here.
- Demonstrate positive farmer practise and receive useful feedback
- clarity of expectations and reduction of potential misunderstandings of land use
- Nil, The Gov doesn't care about rural Scotland, larger farms and wouldn't make a better decision despite better information
- There are no clear benefits as the majority of information being asked is already being provided to the Scottish Government via IACS and census.
- to allay any fear within the community that our business does not affect them
- Awareness of positive benefits
- None
- Greater understanding or what we are doing by the general public
- None really
- It would probably help educate the local community on food production, land use and care of the countryside.

- Despite trying very hard to be positive about this I cannot honestly think of any way that completing a self-assessment will be of the slightest benefit to me or to anyone else
- None
- more support both ways
- Don't know
- Not sure what you consider self-assessment to mean, in broader terms All contact with the general public must be good.
- None
- Unless people engage in discourse on issues that directly affect them and the communities they live in, then the views of those communities will not be represented, so a beneficial impact of self-assessment is that wider views can be taken into account. With wider views being expressed and understood, it's more likely that initiatives which may not have been considered through existing input, might be considered because of more extensive discourse.
- Keeping the compulsory self-assessment in check
- Looking at what we do and when and where we do it.
- Gives local community formal insight to what we do and how it affects them
- Acts as a reminder and perhaps a mind jogger on some aspects
- Don't really feel there is any benefit to the business. Police might find us quicker if a car is off the road or there are cattle out ....if they can be bothered to follow up and not just clear the scene and disappear again
- None
- I can't see any benefits
- Assess how I might better engage with elements of the community.
- I suppose it removes the prospect of any surprises. For example, I recently submitted a planning application, and received consent for a new house on the edge of the village; the neighbours to the site were very upset and fought it quite hard. A consultation would draw out where new development might be over a period of time (we are too small a settlement to have housing zoned in a local plan).
- Community less likely to be surprised by developments when consulted.
- Easy to get point across, not nervous can re right comments
- No benefit, just more paperwork.

- Not known
- None - life is difficult enough without having to complete yet another form
- Letting people know information they might not have
- Better contact with community
- Not sure, because I don't know what this entails
- None
- None
- Hopefully it will build a picture of what's happening in an area and what potential there is for more engagement
- None
- None why should I, I know nothing about any of the local house owners or their businesses or jobs
- Getting the fact and experiences over rather than tick box
- None, pointless
- Difficult to find potential benefits
- May help me understand the needs of others.
- I can see no benefit unless it becomes part of our 'cross compliance' for support payments
- I am a civil, polite person, mind my own business and keep my nose out of other people's business. I pick up the litter, plastic bags and glass bottles, takeaway rubbish from the fields by the main roads. I attempt not to inconvenience anybody anywhere. I don't need a government bureaucrat dictating that I must write a self-assessment every time I go about my 7 day a week business. I can't think of any beneficial impacts.
- Being aware of attachment and benefits of the land.
- None, just more point less hassles
- Hopefully information can be gathered and acted upon
- None. I don't see how giving the name or details of the owner is safe or sensible. I don't expect non-agricultural folk to understand our farming policies, so engaging them is a waste of time. I don't engage with any other business on how they run their firms.
- I can't see any real benefit, common grazing land would come under the management of the grazing committee, I'm sure if someone wants to know who

owns a piece of land in their area they could ask around. the estate is signposted that is National Trust for Scotland, so they could contact them.

- No benefit what we have been doing has worked in the past and filling out a form will make no difference
- No benefit whatsoever.
- Farmers normally know what is required for their holding leaving it to agents and SRUC is just an agents charter they often have no knowledge of the land / farm and don't have the time to do in depth studies
- None
- HSE issues all over the farm ! We have a public walkway passes the farm & public think they have the right to walk through farm
- NONE
- None
- None
- Currently uncertain if there really would be any benefit
- find the views of people who may not voice them in public
- is there any?
- I do not foresee any beneficial impact for me by completing a self assessment, however it provides data that can be pooled to give an overall view of our local area.
- To be honest - probably just a way to show that we're not doing nothing but on Mull everyone knows what we're doing anyway.
- Very little. Key information about who owns and manages the business is already well known in the community. Much of the rest of the information required, and questions asked feels more like an exercise in us having to justify ourselves.
- formalises the arrangement
- Too small to benefit really
- None
- I don't see any advantages.
- Not sure
- To get the point across that snp are destroying estate and the need to invest in them
- It will provide some much-needed work for career bureaucrats, otherwise they might not have enough to do.

- Not sure - would like people to be educated in the appreciation of their local rural area
- None at all. Everything I do is within the law.
- Absolutely none, land managers and owners should not need to explain the countryside to visitors
- To consider future decisions
- None, there is too much info required here, which has no relevance. Perhaps it does for urban and non-agricultural business. Asking for data which is relevant to GDPR and then stating that it may be divulged in terms of an FOI is an oxymoron.
- No obvious benefits
- Not a lot
- No benefits from doing an externally designed government sponsored SA. I already behave as a responsible citizen and don't believe that politicians or civil servants know any better than I do in such matters.
- Don't know
- Broad view of general public
- Explain to others what I do-justify my existence.

**Question: What do you feel are the potential detrimental impacts on your business of completing a self-assessment?**

- Potential problems could arise from allowing people to think they can or should have an impact about how landowners use their own property. There has to be an understanding that farmers won the land, the land is our business, and it should not be for others to dictate how that should be done just because they can see it.
- Information is being requested that is not asked of other businesses. It is already held by public bodies which are regulated and subject to FOI requests and are accountable. This information could be accessed by any organisation, most will not be meaningfully regulated and not subject to FOI etc requests. Local authorities in the form of Planning also regulate much of the activity that impacts on the public. A waste of my time and it will impact on my Human Rights.
- Unnecessary task
- The requirement to say how business decisions are made is nothing to do with anybody except persons involved within the business To be asked if we have

considered letting buildings and or land to the community is to me 1 small step away from being told we must.

- Anyone being able to access information - including those with malicious motives
- The risk of too much personal information being made public, and doubts as to what the information will be used for and by whom.
- restrict practice, 'barrack room lawyers' too well informed
- My time, too much info that is confidential, quickly out of date and they will not make better decisions
- Too much private information which could be used against our business, private and organisation. Why should private information be available when other businesses, private residencies, organisations aren't
- there are always members of communities that look to cause trouble. the politics of envy is prominent in my area.
- As above - bureaucracy
- Time and disclosure
- A waste of time.
- Possibly increased objections to any planning applications.
- Unsure until we see the assessment
- Privacy and personal information impacted. Duplicating assurance schemes.
- Time-consuming to no useful purpose: encouraging "box-ticking" by using meaningless buzz words.
- Private info falls into wrong hands
- Don't know
- I cannot see why contact could be detrimental
- Political interference
- Self-assessment may well result in the expression of ill-informed opinion rather than considered views, which can easily result in alienation from the peer group.
- Divulging information that can and even with assurances be used to the farm and agriculture in general detriment
- What does the general public know about modern farming in practice?
- Extra work that we simply don't have the time or bandwidth available to address this. This far outweighs any benefits
- Realising there is perhaps much to do!



- Too much information could be ammunition, but we don't have anything to hide so shouldn't be a problem. It does feel as though it is none of anyone's business but that is an emotional response not a business response. However, the form in its present form is far too invasive and irrelevant. Common sense and practicality seems to go out the window when things get official...20 pages? really?
- More forms paperwork
- Exposure to NIMBY Creating a starting point for the local community to dictate how a farm is farmed There is no guarantee that muck, pesticide, fertiliser or indeed working (harvest) restrictions might be brought in
- It could cause friction. If members of the community are opposed to a plan, they become hostile. Social media is regularly 'weaponised' due support or oppose things, or to draw attention to something that motivated people want others to know. There is scope for consultation to be a precursor to campaigns of negative effort, which presumably makes everyone's lives worse.
- More pointless paperwork
- this will have a cost in terms of time and effort and may frustrate plans.
- Waste of time, if known one reads them
- Makes me feel strange, not good for my mental health.
- We are trying to make a living, running our business (throughout the pandemic), addressing issues of fly tipping (at our own expense) and irresponsible access from uninformed (or uninterested) members of the public so time is precious and not for yet more form filling
- None
- Needless interference and additional bureaucracy
- Intrusion of privacy. danger of being singled out for criticism. time taken filling it out.
- None waste of time
- Use time and energy creating a template which may at best not be relevant to future needs /demands at worst creates barriers between business and community
- Anyone being able to poke their nose into my business or activities
- invasive and unnecessary
- More mental stress of what it might lead to. If you are a livestock farmer, you could be providing information which could make you a target for animal rights

activists constituting themselves as perhaps a community concern group or some other name. I truly believe that a large majority of the community will have no interest in looking at it but the small minority who constantly have something to complain about will find it a useful tool.

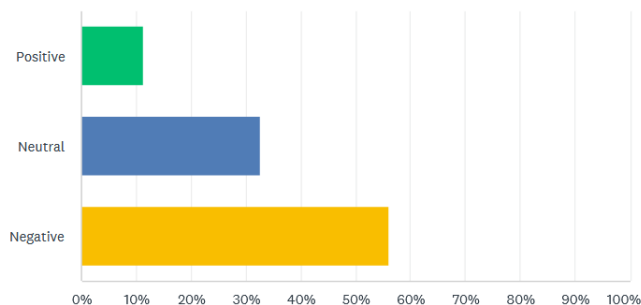
- Can't think of any.
- The 'anti farming brigade' will have access to my details. I am currently negating with a registered charity for the sale/lease of some land which is commercially sensitive information. I don't want this in the public domain as it will give other parties the opportunity undermines my position.
- A complete waste of time. There are more than enough laws, inspections and nosey people to keep a "so called bad person/ landowner" within the realm of decency. I am an organic, permaculture, pasture fed livestock association, (PFLA) member, QMS, and inspected by the council. We TB test our cattle and any animals are looked at by the welfare officer before going on the boat or into the mart. We have had a lot of the farm in environmental schemes for the last 22 years, all this is INSPECTION AND RULES TO BE obeyed WITH NO END OF PAPERWORK. it all has to be inspected at a cost to my time and to the taxpayer. We don't need anymore.
- None
- Not sure sometimes you worry about other agencies and mission creep
- May not be accurate. It's an opinion
- None
- Time, effort. where would common grazing details go?
- We live in a close knit community where we all know each other and have been very lucky to have kept away from most crime so why should we make it easier for criminals to get information about us and our work we already have web sites for our holiday enterprise and Scot Gov have already got all our details regarding the farming we do so should not require it again
- Waste of time
- None only thing will be that some detractors will say that the farmers don't have the knowledge
- Every decision about land use becomes a negotiation with the local community, presumably in the form of the local community council.
- Potential for hassle from outspoken individuals

- None to think of, the public need to be better informed of the rules of the countryside but firstly laws need updated to protect farmers, their property and their animals
- Anonymity is my legal right
- Additional red tape over issues that already have recognised mechanisms
- From my involvement with the community, there are some odd vocal views out there which do not represent the views of the majority
- Without any clarity on where it's taking land ownership etc it's difficult to say what that would be
- Waste of time
- Only really a sense that this is the thin edge of the wedge.
- Particularly for larger members adjacent to a number of communities this could become a burdensome exercise. In addition, if the principle is accepted it is likely SLC will want more information in the future or request that it is a condition precedent for the receipt of BPS, grants etc. Given the fundamentally subjective nature of many of the issues this would be a worrisome development particularly if SLC were making the rules / guidance and then acting as judge and jury on their implementation. As I said at the Zoom meeting, I think it's important NFUS use their strong position with Government to make clear their misgivings about this proposal. It should NOT be assumed that Gov will necessarily support what SLC want in this area. I think there's a real chance that SLC are driving this agenda much more than the Gov are.
- Makes what is a good relationship bureaucratic, for some most likely increases expectations above what can be delivered.
- Very few
- Gives ammunition to any anti
- I don't need more paperwork or assessments. There are quite enough already. I have a small croft, not an estate.
- None
- Nobody listens to landowners
- "I want to beat you with a stick...first, I shall help you make the stick"
- There's a general anti farmer attitude & the public seem to like to think they are the experts
- It's a waste of time and Money. It is detrimental to running a private business.

- They are time consuming, opens the farmer up to lawsuits should any of the information on a publication be it sign or social media, is incorrect or becomes outdated
- Depression
- Too much info that is not needed and there is no legislation which requires it.
- No idea who has access and for what reason. If activists gain access and disagree does that leave you a target?
- Another piece of paperwork that doesn't appear to benefit the core business
- By marshalling farmers thoughts along a predetermined format, the government are attempting to promote an agenda without openly admitting it. This is extremely bad for democracy, whether you agree with the agenda or not.
- Don't know
- Public think farmers get in the way of conservation by all the misinformation that is out there
- No value for us just time and stress

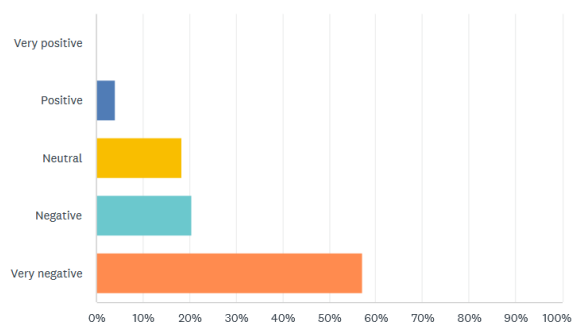
How do you feel about the principle of completing an LRRS self-assessment form for your farm?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



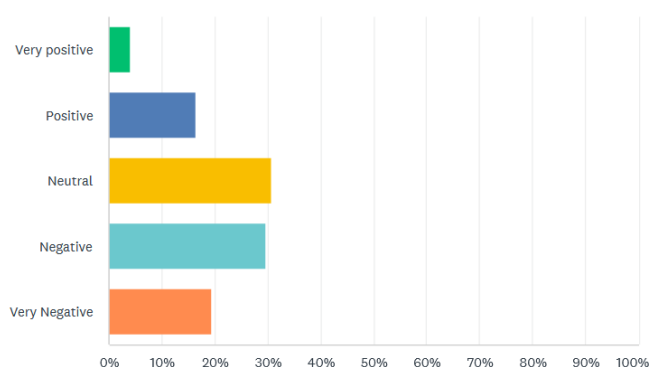
How would you feel about completing a compulsory self-assessment process for your farm?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



How would you feel about completing a voluntary self-assessment process for your farm?

Answered: 98 Skipped: 0



**Question: What information do you feel it is reasonable for you to be asked to share?**

- My name. My neighbours all know me and if they need to get in touch phone or visit. Anyone outwith that has no real reason to have access to my contact details. I live alone and see no reason to have my security put at risk by providing easy access to my contact details
- Who owns the land and who is the tenant?
- Land ownership, new projects/changes
- Farm name and post code
- Name and address
- Plans to operate sustainably, to support economy of community and to offer what is produced for the community
- Anything except financial information Only general information, I would draw the line at sharing financial matters

- Which broad business model is presently being used? The main impacts of that model on the local community. The main environmental impacts, particularly positive, of that model, and intended environmental improvements. The level of present engagement with the local community.
- Farm name, Responsible contact, and number
- I wouldn't do it because it is time consuming and of no real benefit to our situation
- Use of land and potential developments.
- Major land use changes, any relevant management objectives (for example, a pathway in a certain place) and any known development objectives such as new housing, wind farms etc.
- Surely, they have enough info already.
- All answers are already out there, it is ,How gets to see them that matters
- None - could be construed as commercially sensitive - is every other business required/expected to share??? If not, why not?!
- Topographical information only
- size future plans
- Depends on the questions
- A STANDARD DECLARATION OF OWNERSHIP, CONTACT DETAILS AND LAND USE PROFILE AS WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR A CLIMATE CHANGE AUDIT - IE SHARE HEADLINES OF EXISTING AUDIT, HAS TO BE MEANINGFUL BUT UTILISE EXISTING DATA,
- Farmer's ability to think about things rather than having a forest of paperwork
- activities carried out on farm
- Access points, rights of way, animal use as well as cropping programs
- I don't mind sharing any information that I can think of
- Probably
- Unfortunately, there wasn't a maybe box. Owner's name. Managers name if different. Area. Postal Address. Optional, contact number.
- Not worried about sharing information more and more information is publicly available anyway
- Limited basic information including name and address
- Only information that affects the running of the farm in respect to public access to the surrounding area

- Nothing
- There is reference to human rights in the presentation, it seems a one way street
- Ownership (although this is already in the public domain), contact details for key people in case of emergency. agreement to notify people of any change that might impact the community.
- Current plans in return for more input into community plans
- As a tenant not a problem
- NO
- Absolutely none, any other industries premises are not open to the public. This self-assessment is akin to telling builders to list all the dangers on a building site so that people who want to walk through it, don't get hurt.
- Cropping plan Feet plan Environmental support plans Future plans
- Name of business, and the main contact, which is available anyway.
- If we felt it was relevant and necessary, we would fill it out. Some of the good practices - sharing knowledge rather than plans but only to relevant people.
- Conservation management on the ground that relies on farm activity
- Happy to share most things with exceptions of financial matters
- None!