

News Release
Scottish Tenant Farmers Association
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STFA CALLS FOR TENANTS TO SUBMIT VIEWS TO PARLIAMENT

The Rural Affairs, Climate Change and Environment Committee (RACCE) yesterday issued a call for views from organisations and individuals on the Scottish Government's plans to amend legislation relating to succession and rent review.

The legislation aims to create a better environment for the letting of farmland to the tenant farming sector and encourage new entrants into tenant farming. Specifically, the Bill proposes three changes to the current law on agricultural holdings:

- it extends the categories of relative who may succeed to a secure agricultural tenancy to include grandchildren
- it prevents certain restrictions for rent reviews in limited duration tenancies, outlawing upwards only or landlord only rent reviews
- it clarifies that any variation of rent as a consequence of the exemption, addition or variance of VAT, would not prevent referral to the Scottish Land Court to determine the rent.

The Scottish Tenant Farmers Association has been voicing tenants concerns over various tenancy issues including the rent review process and is now urging its members to feed in their views to the RACCE Committee.

Chairman Angus McCall said: "The Agricultural Holdings Bill is an uncontroversial and very narrowly focused on dealing specifically with outstanding changes to tenancy law on succession and rent reviews. It has unanimous stakeholder agreement and we expect it expect it to have a fair wind through parliament without any radical change.

"However, the evidence gathering process for the bill represents an opportunity for individuals to have their say on tenancy matters, particularly as the Cabinet Secretary has signalled his intention to review the operation of tenancy legislation towards the end of next year. STFA looks forward to playing its part in developing a tenancy system fit for the 21st century and is encouraging all tenant farmers to take part in the process."

For further information:

Contact Angus McCall: Tel: 01408 633275

Notes for editors: Views on the proposals should be submitted to the Committee by **Friday 16 December 2011**. The Committee prefers to receive written submissions electronically

Responses should be sent to racce.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

Hard Copies should be addressed to:

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The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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