

News Release  
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## STABILITY AND SECURITY NEEDED IN TENANTED SECTOR

Following yesterday's (Tuesday) meeting of the Tenant Farming Forum the Scottish Tenant Farmers Association today reaffirmed its commitment to the protected tenancies embodied in the 2003 Act. The legislation provides Short Limited Duration Tenancies with a maximum term of 5 years and Limited Duration Tenancies with a minimum term of 15 years. These models of tenancy were designed to safeguard the interests of both landlord and tenant and were the result of a protracted period of hard work and negotiation between NFUS and the Scottish Landowners Federation. STFA believes stability and security of tenure are essential ingredients to give tenants and, in particular new entrants, the confidence to invest in their businesses, plan for the future and make their contribution to the local economy and the food security of the nation.

Chairman Angus McCall said "STFA carried out an extensive survey of its members which showed conclusively that tenants, with all their experience of renting land, believe that land must be let on realistic minimum terms. The 2003 Act has attracted some criticism as there has been continuing reluctance to release land on to the letting market with landowners preferring to use informal or contract farming agreements. However, this is as much to do with economics, fiscal restraints and uncertainty over the future of the Single Farm Payment as to the suitability of letting arrangements. It certainly is no basis on which to rewrite the legislation.

"With the realisation that there will be no quick fix solution landowners should look to the long term prosperity and well-being of the rural economy and use the existing legislation to afford opportunities to new tenants by making more land available to let on proper tenancy arrangements."

Notes to editors:

Please read this in conjunction with the TFF News Release issued today.

The results of the STFA member survey can be found on the STFA website:  
[www.tfascotland.org.uk](http://www.tfascotland.org.uk)

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