

Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill

The Rural Affairs and Islands Committee is looking at the [Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill](#) and wants to hear your views.

Ceist

What is the Crofting and Scottish Land Court Bill?

The Bill is in two parts—

- Part 1 makes a number of specific changes to address issues identified with the existing crofting legislation. The Bill would not fundamentally reform crofting legislation; the Scottish Government says a separate conversation is required for this.
- Part 2 would merge the Scottish Land Court, which deals with issues between landlords and tenants of agricultural land, and the Lands Tribunal for Scotland, which has a number of functions.

Freagairt Bhòrd na Gàidhlig

1 Part 1 of the Bill would make a number of changes to crofting legislation. Do you have any views on any of these changes? Please indicate which sections of the Bill you are commenting on in your response.

Sections 1-7:

While we understand the need to clarify the legal obligations of crofters, more context is needed. There is a great need to strengthen crofting communities, and to retain and encourage their population, by helping local people to build houses close to crofting land in order to bring the maximum number of crofts back into operation. The lack of suitable housing in crofting communities has been recognised as a problem and a barrier. Steps must be taken to overcome the financial and economic barriers that have locked local people, particularly young local people, out of their own homes.

Traditional Gaelic communities are also crofting communities and steps need to be taken to retain and attract working-age people back into these communities. The Gaelic culture and language and crofting need to be regenerated together if the communities are to be strong. Further legislation that does not support local, working-age people to actively participate in crofting is dangerous and could lead to less crofting activity, rather than more.



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