

A Consultation on Procedure of the First-tier Tribunal Housing and Property Chamber

Scottish Land & Estates is a membership organisation that uniquely represents the interests of landowners and land-based businesses in rural Scotland. Our members make a substantial social, economic and environmental contribution to Scotland, and are significant providers of housing across rural Scotland. Scottish Land & Estates therefore welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the consultation document.

We are broadly supportive of the operational procedures of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland Housing and Property Chamber (“the Chamber”) and so in terms of the specific questions have little to highlight. However, we particularly welcome that no fee will be charged for anyone taking a case to the Chamber, neither landlord nor tenant. This equality of access is an important principle and assists in making the Chamber accessible.

The policy intent to produce rules which can be easily understood by all parties and create an efficient and just system for determination of disputes is extremely welcome and we believe recognised in the rules as drafted. Our members wish to know in advance of entering the proceedings, how the process will operate and one set of rules as drafted will aid clarification.

We believe the transfer date of 1st December 2017 gives sufficient transitional time.

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