

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Scottish Government's Revised National Outcomes for Scotland

Written Submission from Community Land Scotland

Community Land Scotland notes the process of reviewing the National Outcomes and welcomes the opportunity to comment on the elements of that process including the refreshed set of draft Outcomes and associated National Indicators.

Community Land Scotland notes that the new suite of draft National Outcomes has been reduced in number to 11. They nevertheless cover an appropriate range of issues and we favour the inclusion of new Outcomes on human rights, fair work, poverty and culture as well as a refocused Outcome for children with more emphasis on the children's own voice and perspective. We particularly welcome the integration of human rights within the Outcomes Framework as this an area in which Community Land Scotland has an interest within the context of public policy in relation to community land ownership and land reform policy more generally. The more concise wording of all of the draft Outcomes is also a useful iteration in making them more accessible to a wide range of stakeholders. We also note and welcome the inclusion of "increased wellbeing" as part of the purpose underpinning the National Performance Framework.

It is difficult to ascertain the extent to which the listed set of National Indicators are fit for purpose based on the information provided, although we note the criteria upon which the construction of indicators was based. Much will depend on how these headline indicators relate to and are incorporated within public policy interventions across the range of topic areas covered in the draft National Outcomes. The absence of an indicator in relation to land ownership by type is a somewhat surprising missed opportunity in light of the renewed policy emphasis on land reform as a driver for sustainable development in Scotland. We advocate that consideration be given to including such an indicator in the final version of the Framework.

It is difficult to be precise as to the extent to which the Sustainable Development Goals will be fully implemented in practice due to the issues of fit and co-ordination mentioned above. There is also a wider and more fundamental question regarding what constitutes "full implementation" to consider in this this context. The alignment of the new iteration of the National Performance Framework with the Sustainable Development Goals is nevertheless a progressive and commendable development.

The wider consultation process relating to developing the Outcomes and Indicators seems to have been relatively comprehensive. However, Community Land Scotland would have welcomed an invitation to participate in the Indicator Workshops.

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