

LRRG Workplan and Timetable: Explanatory Notes

Communication throughout the Review

1. Running throughout the LRRG process we will be meeting with and listening to people. We will travel around Scotland to hear, to understand, and to build this learning into the Review.
2. A variety of activities will serve this purpose, such as workshops or public events, as well as visits to individual projects and interviews with particular people.
3. Within the natural constraints of what is possible, we welcome the opportunity to meet people who have stories and ideas about land reform that might not be covered by the formal submission process.
4. We will also communicate and listen via online media, including Twitter and blogging. We will set up an online discussion forum on the LRRG website.
5. We will issue briefings for the media as appropriate, e.g. to announce project visits, the Call for Evidence, the appointment of the LRRG Advisory Panel, submission of LRRG reports, etc. This will ensure that the LRRG maintains a public profile throughout the review.

Consultation Phases of the Review

We plan to divide the Review into three distinct Consultation Phases:

Phase 1 (1st October 2012 – 31st March, 2013):

6. This comprises the LRRG Call for and submission of Written Evidence, Stakeholder Interviews around Scotland, Expert Seminars on specific topics (organised by advisers), as well as gathering international and other evidence through internet and other searches.
 - The Call for Written Evidence (1st October – 11th January) will be structured around the main bullet points articulated in the LRRG Remit (published on 23rd August, 2012).
 - The Stakeholder Interviews (some formal and recorded), whilst based initially around the ‘usual suspects’, will be complemented by deliberate links through to the harder-to-reach, to ensure that they are also engaged in the future of land reform. On occasion, group interviews or workshops will be held.
 - A searchable database will be created (with support from the Secretariat) to help the LRRG manage and efficiently retrieve this body of evidence for analysis for their reports. Written Evidence submitted in this phase will be made public on publication of the LRRG Final Report (April 2014).

Phase 2 (1st May, 2013 – 30th August, 2013):

7. In order to re-shape, refine and gather further very specific evidence and lessons on particular themes coming through from Phase 1, we will conduct interviews with specific stakeholders and visit communities, projects, estates, and other in-field examples around Scotland.

8. We do not expect to issue a second general Call for Evidence but we will publish a focus paper to indicate the areas we will be exploring further. The findings from this Second Consultation will be analysed during the Third Consultation phase.

Phase 3 (30th August, 2013 – 30th December, 2013):

9. We anticipate that there will be particular aspects and components of our Land Reform recommendations that will benefit from specific and focused discussions with Scottish Government, Scottish Parliament, and particular professional groups. While we will be checking the practicality throughout the review process of the various proposals that we consider, this key phase will enable us to test and refine in detail our recommendations for the draft final report (31st December, 2013).
10. Throughout these Phases, we will be making some assessment of the likely economic, social and environmental impact and sustainability of reform proposals, and monitoring and assessment mechanisms for these proposals, guided by our Advisers.

Report-writing:

We will be preparing for our report and drafting parts of it throughout the review, but will set two deadlines for particular written outputs, based on the evidence generated through the three Consultations Phases:

11. In Phase 1, as the written and oral evidence is produced and submitted, we will analyse the evidence and write initial drafts of our report. We aim to have a first analysis written in draft form on or before 1st May, 2013, to be submitted as a Ministerial Briefing (outlining the LRRG's thinking at this point as a basis for dialogue).
12. In addition, at the same time, we will produce a Report of Immediate Measures which the LRRG believes can be undertaken by the Scottish Government in the shorter term to address some of the issues, barriers and opportunities emerging from Consultation Phase 1. The Report of Immediate Measures will also be in the public domain as a PDF on the LRRG website.
13. Our second report (following Phases 2 and 3 of the Consultation) will be the Draft Final Report which we will submit on or before 31st December, 2013. This will concentrate on our proposed reform measures. This report will also be in the public domain as a PDF on the LRRG website.
14. The Final Report (April 2014) will refine these measures (from the Draft Final Report) and incorporate: (i) an indicative analysis of the economic, social and environmental impact and sustainability of the proposals; and (ii) how the impact of the recommendations might be monitored and assessed.
15. In addition to these specific and significant outputs, we will, throughout the LRRG process, submit reports to Ministers. Such reports may also be in the public domain as PDFs on the LRRG website. They will include:
 - Reports of the Expert Seminars which will be on particular topics (such as housing, planning, multiple land uses and pressures, forestry and woodland, private and community estate management priorities and processes). These Seminars will be organised by our Advisors, and will again lead to the Land Reform Review maintaining a public profile amongst a wide range of stakeholders.

- Reflections on themes being raised in stakeholder interviews, where these do not compromise the confidentiality of those being interviewed.
- Reflections on field visits, and how the experiences of those ‘in the field’ may give indications of opportunities and hindrances to the Land Reform Remit we are investigating.

Liaison with Ministers, Special Advisers and LRRG Advisory Group

16. Throughout the process, we have built in specific opportunities to meet with Scottish Government policy leads, Ministers, Special Advisers and the LRRG Advisers. These opportunities are timed to link with what we anticipate being key junctures at which we will require specific advice and perspective on particular elements of our work.
17. Our Advisers will assist us by directing us to expert advice, identifying key groups and individuals to contact and, on occasion, accompanying us on visits.
18. In addition, we anticipate that we will call on such experts and advisors throughout the Review process, as indicated on the timeline. Similarly we have indicated that we anticipate periodic meetings with the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, in order to keep him updated on progress, and emerging messages.