



# Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003

## 2003 asp 11

### PART 1

#### AGRICULTURAL TENANCIES

### CHAPTER 1

#### TYPES OF TENANCY

##### *Tenancies under the 1991 Act*

## **1 Application of the 1991 Act to agricultural holdings**

- (1) This subsection applies where—
  - (a) a lease is entered into on or after the coming into force of this subsection; and
  - (b) the tenancy under the lease is a tenancy of an agricultural holding in relation to which the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55) (in this Act referred to as “the 1991 Act”) would have applied had the lease been entered into immediately before the coming into force of this subsection.
- (2) Where subsection (1) applies, the 1991 Act does not apply in relation to the tenancy (except in so far as this Act applies any provision of that Act to short limited duration tenancies or limited duration tenancies) unless the lease—
  - (a) is entered into in writing prior to the commencement of; and
  - (b) expressly states that the 1991 Act is to apply in relation to, the tenancy.
- (3) Section 2 (leases for less than year to year) of the 1991 Act is repealed.
- (4) Where, in respect of a tenancy of an agricultural holding—
  - (a) the lease is entered into before the coming into force of this subsection and the 1991 Act applies in relation to the tenancy; or
  - (b) the lease is entered into on or after the coming into force of this subsection and (by virtue of the conditions mentioned in paragraphs (a) and (b) of subsection (2) being fulfilled) the 1991 Act applies in relation to the tenancy,

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the tenancy under the lease is in this Act referred to as a “1991 Act tenancy”.

**Commencement Information**

**I1** S. 1 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**2 Conversion from 1991 Act tenancy to limited duration tenancy**

- (1) The landlord and tenant under a 1991 Act tenancy may terminate the tenancy by agreement provided that—
- (a) the agreement is—
    - (i) in writing and specifies the date on which the termination is to have effect; and
    - (ii) made not less than 30 days before that date; and
  - (b) subsection (2) is complied with.
- (2) This subsection is complied with if the landlord and tenant enter into a lease constituting a limited duration tenancy for a term of not less than 25 years which—
- (a) comprises or includes the same land as that comprised in the tenancy being terminated under subsection (1); and
  - (b) has effect from the date on which the termination under that subsection has effect.
- (3) The landlord or tenant is entitled, at any time before the date on which the termination under subsection (1) has effect, to revoke (without penalty)—
- (a) the agreement made under that subsection; and
  - (b) the lease mentioned in subsection (2),
- by giving notice in writing to the other of the revocation.
- (4) On termination of a 1991 Act tenancy under subsection (1), the tenant is entitled to—
- (a) such compensation for improvements as the tenant would have been entitled to under Part IV (compensation for improvements) of the 1991 Act (or, as the case may be, under the lease); and
  - (b) such compensation as the tenant would have been entitled to under section 45A (compensation arising as a result of diversification and cropping of trees) of that Act,
- were the tenant quitting the holding at the termination of the tenancy.
- (5) Where a 1991 Act tenancy is terminated under subsection (1), section 21 (notice to quit and notice of intention to quit) of the 1991 Act does not apply in respect of the tenancy.

**Commencement Information**

**I2** S. 2 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

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### *Leases for grazing or mowing*

#### **3 Leases for grazing or mowing**

- (1) This section applies to a tenancy under a lease under which agricultural land is let for the purpose of its being used only for grazing or mowing during some specified period of the year (whether or not the lease expressly so provides).
- (2) The tenancy is not to be constituted for a period of more than 364 days; and where the term of the tenancy has expired, the land may not be let for the same purpose to the same tenant before one clear day from the date of expiry of the tenancy has elapsed.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I3** S. 3 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(a) (with Sch.)

### *New types of tenancy*

#### **4 Short limited duration tenancies**

- (1) Where—
  - (a) agricultural land is let under a lease for a term of not more than five years;
  - (b) the land comprised in the lease is not let to the tenant during the tenant's continuance in any office, appointment or employment held under the landlord; and
  - (c) the lease does not constitute—
    - (i) a 1991 Act tenancy; or
    - (ii) a tenancy to which section 3 applies,
 the tenancy under the lease is, by virtue of this subsection, a short limited duration tenancy.
- (2) Without prejudice to subsection (1), where the tenant remains in occupation of the land after the expiry of the term of a tenancy to which section 3 applies with the consent of the landlord, the tenancy continues to have effect as if it were for a term of—
  - (a) 5 years; or
  - (b) such period of less than 5 years as the landlord and tenant may agree to,
 and the tenancy is, by virtue of this subsection, a short limited duration tenancy.
- (3) Where the tenant remains in occupation of the land after the expiry of the term of a short limited duration tenancy of less than 5 years (including such a term fixed by virtue of subsection (2)) with the consent of the landlord, the tenancy continues to have effect as if it were for a term of—
  - (a) 5 years; or
  - (b) such period of less than 5 years as the landlord and tenant may agree to.
- (4) This subsection applies to a short limited duration tenancy where—
  - (a) the term of the tenancy has expired and the tenant has not remained in occupation of the land; or
  - (b) during the term of the tenancy, the landlord and tenant have terminated the tenancy by agreement.

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- (5) Where the landlord and tenant enter into a lease constituting a further short limited duration tenancy which—
- (a) comprises the same land as that comprised in the tenancy to which subsection (4) applies; and
  - (b) has effect less than one year from the expiry of the term of, or termination of, that tenancy,
- the expired period of the term of that tenancy counts as an expired period of the term of the further tenancy; but this is subject to subsection (3) of section 5.

**Commencement Information**

**I4** S. 4 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**5 Limited duration tenancies**

- (1) Where—
- (a) agricultural land is let under a lease for a term of not less than fifteen years;
  - (b) the land comprised in the lease is not let to the tenant during the tenant's continuance in any office, appointment or employment held under the landlord; and
  - (c) the lease does not constitute a 1991 Act tenancy,
- the tenancy under the lease is, by virtue of this subsection, a limited duration tenancy.
- (2) Where the tenant remains in occupation of the land after the expiry of the term of a short limited duration tenancy of 5 years (including such a term fixed by virtue of section 4(2) or (3)) with the consent of the landlord, the tenancy has effect as if it were for a term of 15 years commencing on the expiry of the term of the short limited duration tenancy; and the tenancy is, by virtue of this subsection, a limited duration tenancy.
- (3) Where subsection (5) of section 4 results in a short limited duration tenancy purporting to be for a term of more than 5 years, the tenancy has effect as if it were for a term of 15 years; and the tenancy is, by virtue of this subsection, a limited duration tenancy.
- (4) Without prejudice to subsections (2) and (3), where a lease constituting a tenancy of agricultural land, as described in paragraphs (b) and (c) of subsection (1), purports to be for a term of more than 5 years and less than 15 years, the tenancy has effect as if it were for a term of 15 years; and the tenancy is, by virtue of this subsection, a limited duration tenancy.

**Commencement Information**

**I5** S. 5 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

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## CHAPTER 2

### GENERAL PROVISION AS TO NEW TYPES OF TENANCY

*Short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies: general provision*

#### 6 Assignment, subletting and termination of short limited duration tenancies

- (1) The tenant may not assign a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy nor sublet the land comprised in the lease.
- (2) A short limited duration tenancy may be terminated by the landlord and tenant by agreement.

#### Commencement Information

**I6** S. 6 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

#### 7 Assignment and subletting of limited duration tenancies

- (1) A lease constituting a limited duration tenancy may be assigned by the tenant if, following notice under subsection (2), the landlord consents to a proposed assignment.
- (2) The tenant must give the landlord a notice in writing of any intention of the tenant to assign the lease; and the notice must include the particulars of the proposed assignee, the terms upon which the assignment is to be made and the date on which it is to take effect.
- (3) The landlord may withhold consent to the proposed assignment if there are reasonable grounds for doing so; and, in particular, the landlord may withhold consent if not satisfied that the proposed assignee—
  - (a) would have the ability to pay—
    - (i) the rent due under the lease; or
    - (ii) for adequate maintenance of the land; or
  - (b) has the skills or experience that would be required properly to manage and maintain the land in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.
- (4) Any such withholding of consent (and the grounds for withholding it) is to be intimated in writing to the tenant within 30 days of the giving of the notice under subsection (2); and, if no such intimation is made, the landlord is (except where the landlord exercises the right under subsection (5) to acquire the tenant's interest in the lease) deemed to have consented to the proposed assignment.
- (5) Where the landlord has been given notice under subsection (2), the landlord is entitled to acquire the tenant's interest in the lease provided that—
  - (a) the landlord gives the tenant notice—
    - (i) in writing; and
    - (ii) within 30 days of the giving of the notice under subsection (2), of the landlord's intention to acquire that interest; and

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- (b) the terms upon which the landlord acquires that interest are no less favourable to the tenant than any reasonable terms upon which the proposed assignation was to have been made.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (3)(b), what is good husbandry is to be construed by reference to the Sixth Schedule to the Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948 (c. 45).
- (7) A tenant may sublet the land comprised in a lease constituting a limited duration tenancy only on such basis as the lease expressly permits.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I7** S. 7 in force at 27.11.2003 by **S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(a)** (with **Sch.**)

## **8 Continuation and termination of limited duration tenancies**

- (1) A limited duration tenancy may be terminated by agreement between the landlord and tenant if the agreement is in writing and—
  - (a) is entered into after the commencement of the tenancy; and
  - (b) makes provision as to compensation payable by the landlord or the tenant to the other.
- (2) At and after the expiry of the term of a limited duration tenancy, the tenancy continues to have effect in accordance with subsection (6) unless it is terminated in accordance with this section.
- (3) At the expiry of the term of a limited duration tenancy, the landlord may terminate the tenancy by giving a notice under this subsection to the tenant.
- (4) A notice under subsection (3) must—
  - (a) be in writing and state that the tenant shall quit the land on the expiry of the term of the tenancy; and
  - (b) be given not less than one year nor more than two years before the expiry of the term of the tenancy, provided that not less than 90 days have elapsed from the date on which the intimation mentioned in subsection (5) is given.
- (5) A notice under subsection (3) is of no effect unless the landlord has given written intimation of the landlord’s intention to terminate the tenancy to the tenant not less than two years nor more than three years before the expiry of the term of the tenancy.
- (6) If the tenancy is not terminated in accordance with this section, it continues in effect on a cycle of continuations; that is to say, a continuation of three years (a “first short continuation”) followed by a further continuation of three years (a “second short continuation”) followed by a further continuation of fifteen years (a “long continuation”) (the cycle being repeated without limit to the number of times).
- (7) During a first short continuation, the landlord may terminate the tenancy by giving a notice under this subsection to the tenant; and subsections (4) and (5) apply to a notice under this subsection as they do to a notice under subsection (3).
- (8) During a second short continuation, the landlord may terminate the tenancy by giving a notice under this subsection to the tenant.
- (9) A notice under subsection (8)—

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- (a) must be in writing and state that the tenant shall quit the land on the relevant day; and
  - (b) may be given at any time during the continuation.
- (10) For the purposes of subsection (9)(a)—
- (a) where the notice has been given during the first year of the continuation, the relevant day is the day on which the continuation expires; and
  - (b) in any other case, the relevant day is the day on which the period of two years from the giving of the notice expires (and the continuation is deemed to expire on the relevant day).
- (11) During a long continuation, the landlord may terminate the tenancy by giving a notice under this subsection to the tenant; and subsections (4) and (5) apply to a notice under this subsection as they do to a notice under subsection (3).
- (12) For the purposes of subsections (7) and (11), the references in subsections (4) and (5) to the expiry of the term of the tenancy are to be read as references to the expiry of the continuation.
- (13) At or after the expiry of the term of a limited duration tenancy, the tenant may terminate the tenancy by giving a notice under this subsection to the landlord.
- (14) A notice under subsection (13) must—
- (a) be in writing and state that the tenant intends to quit the land on the expiry of the term of the tenancy or, as the case may be, a continuation of the tenancy; and
  - (b) be given not less than one year nor more than two years before the expiry of the term of the tenancy or, as the case may be, continuation.
- (15) During the term of a limited duration tenancy, the term of the tenancy may be extended by the landlord and tenant by agreement in writing.

#### **Commencement Information**

**18** S. 8 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## **9 Review of rent under limited duration tenancies**

- (1) Where a lease constituting a limited duration tenancy makes no provision for review of rent, the rent due as payable under the lease is to be reviewed and determined in accordance with this section.
- (2) A rent review is to take place on such date as the landlord or tenant may specify in a notice in writing to the other provided that—
- (a) the notice is given not less than one year nor more than two years before the date so specified; and
  - (b) the date so specified is not less than three years—
    - (i) in the case of the first rent review, from the commencement of the tenancy; or
    - (ii) in the case of any subsequent rent review, from the date of the review under this subsection which precedes it.

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- (3) On review, subject to subsections (4) to (7), the rent payable is the rent which the tenancy would reasonably be expected to fetch in the open market where there is a willing landlord and a willing tenant—
- (a) disregarding—
    - (i) any effect on rent due to the fact that the tenant is in occupation of the land; and
    - (ii) any distortion in rent due to a scarcity of lets; and
  - (b) having regard to—
    - (i) the terms of the tenancy (other than those relating to rent);
    - (ii) information about rents for other agricultural tenancies (including when fixed) and any factors affecting those rents (or any of them) except any distortion due to a scarcity of lets; and
    - (iii) the current economic conditions in the relevant sector of agriculture.
- (4) Account is to be taken of any increase in the rental value of the land resulting from the use of the land for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose.
- (5) No account is to be taken of any increase in the rental value of the land resulting from improvements—
- (a) so far as—
    - (i) they have been carried out wholly or partly at the expense of the tenant (whether or not that expense has been or will be reimbursed by any grant) without equivalent allowance or benefit having been made or given by the landlord in consideration of their execution; and
    - (ii) they have not been carried out under an obligation imposed on the tenant by the terms of the lease; and
  - (b) which have been carried out by the landlord, in so far as the landlord has received or will receive any grant in respect of them,
- nor may the rent be determined to be a higher amount than would have been payable if those improvements had not been so carried out.
- (6) For the purposes of subsection (5)—
- (a) subject to paragraph (b), “improvements” is to be construed by reference to Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act; and
  - (b) the continuous adoption by the tenant of a standard of farming or a system of farming more beneficial to the land than the standard or system required by the terms of the lease or, in so far as no system of farming is so required, than the system of farming normally practised on comparable agricultural land in the district, is to be treated as an improvement executed at the tenant’s expense.
- (7) No account is to be taken of—
- (a) any reduction in the rental value of the land as a result of any dilapidation or deterioration of, or damage to, fixed equipment or land caused or permitted by the tenant; or
  - (b) any such reduction resulting from—
    - (i) the use of any of the land, or changes to the land, for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose; or
    - (ii) the carrying out of conservation activities on the land.
- (8) The rent determined in accordance with this section is to take effect from the date of the rent review.



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#### Commencement Information

**I9** S. 9 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

### 10 Increase in rent: landlord's improvements

- (1) Where the landlord has carried out an improvement on the land comprised in a lease constituting a limited duration tenancy (whether or not one specified in Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act)—
  - (a) at the request of, or in agreement with, the tenant;
  - (b) in pursuance of an undertaking given by the landlord by virtue of section 49(2) (as read with section 39(3) of the 1991 Act); or
  - (c) in compliance with a direction given by the Scottish Ministers under powers conferred on them by or under any enactment,subject to subsections (2) and (3), the rent payable is to be increased as from the completion of the improvement by an amount equal to the increase in the rental value of the land resulting from the carrying out of the improvement.
- (2) The landlord must give the tenant notice in writing of any such increase in the rent payable within 6 months of the completion of the improvement.
- (3) Where any grant has been made to the landlord in respect of an improvement mentioned in subsection (1), the increase in rent under that subsection must be reduced proportionately.

#### Commencement Information

**I10** S. 10 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

### 11 Variation of rent by Land Court

Where it appears to the Land Court, in determining any matter in relation to a limited duration tenancy by virtue of section 13 or 16, that it is equitable that the rent payable under the lease should be varied, it may vary the rent accordingly.

#### Commencement Information

**I11** S. 11 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

### 12 Right of tenant to withhold rent

- (1) Subsection (2) applies to an order—
  - (a) made under subsection (1)(b) of section 84; and
  - (b) which is in relation to a failure of the landlord in a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy to fulfil any obligation the landlord has towards the tenant in respect of fixed equipment.
- (2) Where the landlord has failed—
  - (a) in a material regard; and

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- (b) as at the date specified under subsection (2) of that section, to comply with an order to which this subsection applies, the tenant may apply to the Land Court for an order under subsection (3).
- (3) An order under this subsection may (either or both)—
- (a) authorise the tenant to carry out such work as the landlord would have to have carried out for the landlord to comply with the order to which subsection (2) applies; and
  - (b) authorise the tenant to withhold payment of the rent payable to the landlord under the tenancy on the condition that the tenant consigns to the Land Court the amount otherwise so payable.
- (4) The Land Court may, on the application of the tenant, from time to time release to the tenant any of the amount so consigned towards or in satisfaction of any reasonable costs incurred or to be incurred by the tenant for the purposes of or in connection with the carrying out of such work as is mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3).
- (5) The Land Court, on the application of the landlord and having regard to—
- (a) whether any work mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) remains to be carried out; and
  - (b) any costs mentioned in subsection (4),
- may terminate the order made under subsection (3) if it considers that it would be not be appropriate for the order to remain in force.
- (6) Where the Land Court terminates the order made under subsection (3), it is to order such division between the landlord and tenant of the amount (or, where any of the amount has been released to the tenant, any remaining amount) consigned under subsection (3)(b) as it considers to be equitable.
- (7) Any work carried out and authorised under subsection (3)(a) is to be treated as having been carried out at the landlord's expense in so far as the costs of the work have been or are to be satisfied by the release to the tenant of any amount consigned under subsection (3)(b).
- (8) Any right of the landlord to irritate the lease or remove the tenant on the grounds of non-payment of rent is unenforceable if the non-payment of rent is in consequence of an authorisation under subsection (3)(b) to withhold rent.
- (9) Any term of the lease or of any agreement between the landlord and tenant that purports to deprive the tenant of any right conferred by virtue of this section is, in so far as it so purports, of no effect.

**Commencement Information**

**I12** S. 12 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**13 Written leases and the revision of certain leases**

- (1) Where, in respect of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy—
- (a) there is not in force a lease in writing; or
  - (b) there is in force a lease in writing but—

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- (i) the lease does not contain provision for the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a) or contains provision inconsistent with those matters; or
  - (ii) the lease contains provision inconsistent with section 16 (as read with section 5(2) to (4) of the 1991 Act),

the landlord or tenant may give notice in writing to the other requesting that a lease in writing be entered into containing the matters mentioned in subsection (2).
- (2) Those matters are, as the case may be—
  - (a) provision for all the matters specified in Schedule 1 to the 1991 Act (that Schedule applying for the purposes of this section as it does for the purposes of that Act) or provision consistent with those matters; or
  - (b) provision consistent with section 16.
- (3) If, within the period of 6 months after notice has been given under subsection (1), no such lease has been concluded, the terms of the lease may be determined by the Land Court.
- (4) In such a determination, the Land Court—
  - (a) is to specify the terms of the existing tenancy and, in so far as those terms do not make provision for the matters mentioned in subsection (2)(a) or make provision inconsistent with those matters or with section 16 (as read with section 5(2) to (4) of the 1991 Act), make such provision for those matters as appears to it to be reasonable; and
  - (b) may specify any further term of the tenancy which is—
    - (i) agreed between the landlord and the tenant; and
    - (ii) not inconsistent with any provision applying to the tenancy by virtue of this Act.
- (5) Any determination of the Land Court by virtue of this section or section 16 has effect as if—
  - (a) the terms and provisions specified or made therein were contained in an agreement in writing between the landlord and the tenant; and
  - (b) such agreement had effect as from the date of the determination or from such later date as the determination may appoint.
- (6) If it appears to the Land Court that on the date of the determination the landlord or tenant would be in breach of any term of the tenancy so specified or made, the Court is to appoint such later date as would allow the landlord or, as the case may be, tenant to remedy the breach.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I13** S. 13 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## **14 Freedom of cropping and disposal of produce**

Section 7 (freedom of cropping and disposal of produce) of the 1991 Act applies to short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies as it does to 1991 Act tenancies, but as if—

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- (a) the references to the holding were references to the land;
- (b) in subsection (4)—
  - (i) the reference to section 61(1) of that Act were a reference to section 78(1) of this Act; and
  - (ii) the reference to arbitration included any other method mentioned in that section of this Act (the reference to the arbiter being construed accordingly);
- (c) in subsection (5)—
  - (i) paragraph (a); and
  - (ii) in paragraph (b), the words “in any other case,”, were omitted; and
- (d) in subsection (6), in paragraph (b), the reference to a direction under section 9 of the 1949 Act were omitted.

#### Commencement Information

**I14** S. 14 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## 15 Permanent pasture

Section 9 (arbitration as to permanent pasture) of the 1991 Act applies in relation to short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies as it does in relation to 1991 Act tenancies, but as if the references to the holding were references to the land.

#### Commencement Information

**I15** S. 15 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## 16 Fixed equipment etc.

- (1) When a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy is entered into, any fixed equipment on the land comprised in the lease is to be specified in the lease.
- (2) At any time after the commencement of the tenancy, the landlord and tenant may by agreement in writing—
  - (a) specify any fixed equipment not specified under subsection (1); or
  - (b) vary the terms of any specification of fixed equipment.
- (3) There is incorporated in every lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy an undertaking by the landlord that the landlord will—
  - (a) at the commencement of the tenancy or as soon as is reasonably practicable thereafter, put the fixed equipment on the land into a thorough state of repair and will provide such buildings and other fixed equipment as will enable an occupier reasonably skilled in husbandry to maintain efficient production as respects both—
    - (i) the kind of produce specified in the lease, or (failing such specification) in use to be produced on the land; and
    - (ii) the quality and quantity of such produce; and

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- (b) during the tenancy effect such replacement or renewal of the buildings or other fixed equipment as may be rendered necessary by natural decay or by fair wear and tear.
- (4) In subsection (3)(a), “produce” includes anything (whether live or dead) produced in the course of agriculture.
- (5) There is also incorporated in every such lease a provision that the liability of the tenant in relation to the maintenance of fixed equipment extends only to a liability to maintain the fixed equipment on the land in as good a state of repair (natural decay and fair wear and tear excepted) as it was in—
  - (a) immediately after it was put in repair as mentioned in subsection (3)(a); or
  - (b) in the case of equipment provided, improved, replaced or renewed during the tenancy, immediately after it was so provided, improved, replaced or renewed.
- (6) Any agreement between the landlord and tenant which purports to provide for the tenant to bear any expense of any work which the landlord is required to execute in order to fulfil the landlord’s obligations under the lease is of no effect.
- (7) Any term of a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy that requires the tenant to pay the whole or any part of the premium due under a fire insurance policy over any fixed equipment on the land is of no effect.

#### **Commencement Information**

**116** S. 16 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## **17 Resumption of land by landlord**

- (1) The landlord may resume the land or any part of the land comprised in a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy if (and only if)—
  - (a) the resumption is for a non-agricultural purpose in respect of which permission requires to be obtained, and has been obtained, under the enactments relating to town and country planning by—
    - (i) in the case of a short limited duration tenancy, any person (including the tenant);
    - (ii) in the case of a limited duration tenancy, any person apart from the tenant;
  - (b) the lease does not expressly prohibit resumption for that purpose; and
  - (c) notice as mentioned in subsection (2) has been given.
- (2) The landlord must give the tenant notice of any intention of the landlord so to resume any land; and the notice must—
  - (a) be in writing;
  - (b) be given not less than 1 year before the date on which the resumption is to take place; and
  - (c) specify that date.
- (3) Where notice is given under subsection (2) for resumption of part of the land, the tenant may, within 28 days after—
  - (a) the giving of the notice; or

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- (b) the determination of any matter arising from the notice,  
 whichever is the later, terminate the tenancy by giving notice in writing to the landlord;  
 and the termination takes effect on the date specified under subsection (2)(c).
- (4) Where the landlord resumes part of the land under this section, the tenant is entitled to a reduction in rent—
- (a) of an amount proportionate to that part; and
  - (b) of an amount in respect of any depreciation of the value to the tenant of the remainder of the land caused by the resumption of the part or any use made of the part,
- but where paragraph (a) applies, in determining the amount of the reduction, account is to be taken of any benefit or relief allowed to the tenant under the lease in respect of the part resumed.
- (5) Where—
- (a) part of the land has been resumed under this section for a purpose mentioned in paragraph (f) (which specifies certain forms of mineral exploitation) of subsection (2) of section 29 of the 1991 Act (that paragraph applying for the purposes of this subsection as it does for the purposes of that section); and
  - (b) the land which formed that part has subsequently been made suitable for, and is available for, agricultural use,
- that land is, if the conditions in subsection (6) are fulfilled, to be restored to the tenancy.
- (6) The conditions are that—
- (a) the tenancy continues in effect with the same landlord and tenant under the lease; and
  - (b) any compensation paid to the tenant in consequence of the resumption was calculated on the basis that the land would be restored under subsection (5).

#### **Commencement Information**

**I17** S. 17 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## **18 Irritancy of lease and good husbandry**

- (1) Without prejudice to any rule of law, it is for the landlord and tenant to provide in the lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy what grounds there are for irritancy of the lease.
- (2) Any term of such a lease or of an agreement in connection with the lease that provides for the lease to be irritated solely on the grounds that the tenant is not or has not been resident on the land is of no effect.
- (3) Where such a lease may be irritated on the grounds that the tenant is not using the land in accordance with the rules of good husbandry, what is good husbandry is to be construed, subject to subsections (4) and (5), by reference to the Sixth Schedule to the Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948 (c. 45).
- (4) Conservation activities are to be treated as being in accordance with the rules of good husbandry if they are carried out in accordance with—
  - (a) an agreement entered into under any enactment by the tenant; or
  - (b) the conditions of—

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- (i) any grant for the purpose of such activities paid out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund; or
  - (ii) such other grant of a public nature as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.
- (5) In the case of limited duration tenancies, such use of any of the land, or such change to the land, for a non-agricultural purpose as has been permitted under section 40 or 41 is to be treated as being in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.
- (6) The landlord may not enforce any right to remove the tenant on grounds of irritancy unless notice as mentioned in subsection (7) is given.
- (7) The landlord must give the tenant notice in writing of any intention of the landlord so to remove the tenant not less than 2 months before the date on which the tenant is to be removed.

**Commencement Information**

**I18** S. 18 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**19 Resumption and irritancy: supplementary**

Any provision of this Act as to the termination of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy does not affect any right of the landlord to—

- (a) resume land under section 17; or
- (b) remove a tenant—
  - (i) whose estate has been sequestrated; or
  - (ii) who for any reason has incurred irritancy of the lease or other liability to be removed.

**Commencement Information**

**I19** S. 19 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(a\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

*Succession to short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies*

**20 Section 16 of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964**

In section 16 (provisions relating to leases) of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41) (in sections 21 to 23 referred to as “the 1964 Act”), after subsection (4) there is inserted—

- “(4A) Where an interest, being an interest under a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy—
- (a) is not the subject of a valid bequest by the deceased; or
  - (b) is the subject of such a bequest, but the bequest is not accepted by the legatee; or
  - (c) is the subject of such a bequest, but the bequest is declared null and void by virtue of section 21 of the 2003 Act,



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and there is among the conditions of the lease (whether expressly or by implication) a condition prohibiting assignment of the interest, the executor shall be entitled, notwithstanding that condition, to transfer the interest to a person to whom subsection (4B) below applies; and the executor shall be entitled so to transfer the interest without the consent of the landlord.

(4B) This subsection applies to—

- (a) any one of the persons entitled to succeed to the deceased's intestate estate, or to claim legal rights or the prior rights of a surviving spouse out of the estate, in or towards satisfaction of that person's entitlement or claim; or
- (b) any other person.

(4C) In the case of any interest under a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy—

- (a) if at any time the executor is satisfied that the interest cannot be disposed of according to law and so informs the landlord, the executor may terminate the tenancy (in so far as it relates to the interest); and
- (b) if the interest is not so disposed of within the period referred to in subsection (4D) below, the lease shall (in so far as it relates to the interest) terminate at the expiry of the period,

notwithstanding any provision in the lease, or any enactment or rule of law, to the contrary effect.

(4D) The period is one year or such longer period as may be fixed by agreement or, failing agreement, by the Land Court on the application of the executor—

- (a) in the case of an interest which is the subject of an application to that court by virtue of section 21 of the 2003 Act, from the date of the determination or withdrawal of the application; and
- (b) in any other case, from the date of death of the deceased.

(4E) The—

- (a) interest may be transferred under subsections (4A) and (4B) above; or
- (b) tenancy may be terminated under subsection (4C)(a) above,

only if the transfer, or as the case may be, termination is in the best interests of the deceased's estate.”.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I20** S. 20 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(a) (with Sch.)

## **21 Bequest of lease**

- (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), the tenant of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy may, by will or other testamentary writing, bequeath the lease constituting the tenancy to the tenant's son-in-law or daughter-in-law or to any one of the persons who would be, or would in any circumstances have been, entitled to succeed to the estate on intestacy by virtue of the 1964 Act.



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- (2) Subsections (2) to (7) of section 11 (bequest of lease) of the 1991 Act apply in relation to subsection (1) as they do in relation to subsection (1) of that section, but as if, in subsection (2), the words “of a holding” were omitted.
- (3) If the person to whom the lease is so bequeathed does not accept the bequest, or if the bequest is declared null and void by virtue of subsection (2), the right to the lease is, subject to section 16(4A) to (4E) of the 1964 Act, to be treated as intestate estate of the deceased in accordance with Part I of that Act.

#### Commencement Information

**I21** S. 21 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(a) (with Sch.)

## 22 Right of landlord to object to acquirer of tenancy

- (1) A person to whom a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy is transferred under section 16 (provisions relating to leases) of the 1964 Act must give notice of the transfer to the landlord within 21 days of the transfer or (where that is not possible) as soon as practicable thereafter; and the lease is, subject to subsections (2) and (3), binding on the landlord and that person as landlord and tenant respectively as from the date of the transfer if such notice is given.
- (2) Subsections (2) to (4) of section 12 (right of landlord to object to acquirer of lease) of the 1991 Act apply in relation to subsection (1) as they do in relation to subsection (1) of that section, but as if—
  - (a) in subsection (2), the reference to notice given under subsection (1) of that section were a reference to notice given under subsection (1) above;
  - (b) in subsection (4), the reference to proceeding under that section were a reference to proceedings by virtue of this section; and
  - (c) the references in those subsections to the acquirer were references to the person to whom the lease constituting the tenancy is transferred as mentioned in subsection (1) above.
- (3) Where a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy is transferred to a person under subsections (4A) and (4B)(b) of section 16 of the 1964 Act, the landlord is entitled to acquire the person’s interest in the lease provided that—
  - (a) the landlord gives the person notice—
    - (i) in writing; and
    - (ii) within 30 days of the giving of the notice under subsection (1), of the landlord’s intention to acquire that interest; and
  - (b) the terms upon which the landlord acquires that interest are no less favourable to the person than any reasonable terms upon which the lease was transferred to the person.

#### Commencement Information

**I22** S. 22 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(a) (with Sch.)

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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## 23 Effect of termination of tenancy where tenant deceased

Termination of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy by virtue of—

- (a) section 16 of the 1964 Act; or
- (b) section 22,

is to be treated, for the purposes of any compensation payable under this Act, as termination at the expiry of the term of the tenancy.

### Commencement Information

**I23** S. 23 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(a) (with Sch.)

## PART 2

### TENANT’S RIGHT TO BUY LAND

#### *Registration of interest and the right to buy*

## 24 The Keeper and the Register

- (1) For the purposes of this Part, “the Keeper” is the person who keeps the Register of Community Interests in Land (in this Part referred to as “the Register”) under section 36 (Register of Community Interests in Land) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 2).
- (2) The Keeper is to keep the Register so that there is contained in it a part for registering tenants' interests in acquiring land in accordance with section 25.
- (3) There is to be included in that part of the Register—
  - (a) a record of any notice or notification sent to the Keeper under any provision of this Part; and
  - (b) where a registration of a tenant’s interest in acquiring land is removed under section 25(15), an entry specifying the date on which that is effected.

### Commencement Information

**I24** S. 24 in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, art. 2

## 25 Registration of tenant’s interest

- (1) A tenant of a 1991 Act tenancy may apply to have registered an interest in acquiring the land comprised in the lease by sending a notice (in this section referred to as a “notice of interest”) to the Keeper.
- (2) For the purposes of this Part, “tenant”—
  - (a) where there are two or more tenants under the lease, means those tenants; and
  - (b) does not include a sub-tenant.

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- (3) The notice of interest must be in such form as the Scottish Ministers may prescribe by regulations and must specify—
  - (a) the particulars of the tenant and the owner of the land;
  - (b) where there are two or more tenants under the lease, the fact that each of them consents to the making of the application to register their interest in acquiring the land;
  - (c) the location and boundaries of the land (by reference, where appropriate, to the lease or any map or drawing);
  - (d) any interest or rights comprised in the land (including any sporting or mineral rights); and
  - (e) such other information as the Scottish Ministers may so prescribe.
- (4) The tenant must send a copy of the notice of interest to the owner of the land and notify the Keeper that the copy has been so sent.
- (5) On receipt of the notice of interest, the Keeper must—
  - (a) register—
    - (i) the tenant’s interest in acquiring the land;
    - (ii) the details specified in the notice of interest; and
    - (iii) the date of registration; and
  - (b) send an extract of the registration to the tenant and the owner of the land.
- (6) Where the registration relates to land over which there is a standard security, the owner, on receipt of the extract, must—
  - (a) intimate that fact to the tenant; and
  - (b) send a copy of the extract to the creditor in the standard security.
- (7) The Keeper may charge such reasonable fee for—
  - (a) registering tenants’ interests in acquiring land; and
  - (b) providing extracts, and copy extracts, of registration,as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify.
- (8) If the owner of the land disputes any matter contained in the extract of registration, the owner may, by notice in writing to the Keeper, challenge the registration of the tenant’s interest in acquiring the land on the grounds that any matter contained in the extract is inaccurate.
- (9) On receipt of notice under subsection (8), the Keeper is to make such enquiry in connection with the tenant’s interest in acquiring the land as the Keeper considers appropriate; and following such an enquiry, if the Keeper considers that the notice of interest is inaccurate, the Keeper—
  - (a) must, if the inaccuracy is material, rescind the registration of the tenant’s interest; and
  - (b) may, if the inaccuracy is not material, amend that registration.
- (10) Where, under subsection (9)—
  - (a) the registration of the tenant’s interest in acquiring the land is rescinded, the Keeper must intimate that fact to the tenant and the owner of the land; and
  - (b) that registration is amended, the Keeper must send an extract of the registration to the tenant and the owner of the land.

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- (11) The tenant or the owner of the land may appeal to the Land Court against any decision made, following notice under subsection (8), by the Keeper in respect of the registration of the tenant's interest in acquiring the land; and in an appeal under this subsection the Court may make such order as it considers appropriate.
- (12) A registration of a tenant's interest in acquiring land—
- (a) continues to have effect only in relation to such land as remains comprised in the tenancy; and
  - (b) ceases to have effect—
    - (i) if the registration is rescinded;
    - (ii) if the tenancy is terminated; or
    - (iii) where neither of those things has occurred, at the expiry of the period of five years from the date of registration.
- (13) Where—
- (a) the tenancy is terminated during that period; or,
  - (b) there is a reduction in the land comprised in the tenancy,
- the landlord must give notice in writing of that fact to the Keeper.
- (14) Where a tenant's interest in acquiring land is, or has been, registered, the tenant may at any time apply to have the interest registered again (with or without modification to the matters specified in the notice of interest).
- (15) The Keeper must remove from the Register any registration of a tenant's interest in acquiring land which no longer has effect.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I25** S. 25(1)(2)(4)-(6)(8)-(15) in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, art. 2

**I26** S. 25(3)(7) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(b)(i) (with Sch.)

## **26 Notice of proposal to transfer land**

- (1) Where the owner of land in respect of which a tenant's interest in acquiring land is registered under section 25 or a creditor in a standard security with a right to sell the land proposes to transfer the land or any part of it to another person, the owner or, as the case may be, the creditor must, subject to section 27—
- (a) give notice in writing of that fact to the tenant; and
  - (b) send a copy of the notice to the Keeper.
- (2) Notice under subsection (1) must be given in accordance with such provisions (including provisions as to the form of the notice) as the Scottish Ministers may prescribe by regulations.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I27** S. 26(1) in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, art. 2

**I28** S. 26(2) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(b)(ii) (with Sch.)

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## 27 Transfers not requiring notice

- (1) Notice is not required under section 26 where the transfer is or, as the case may be, would be—
- (a) otherwise than for value;
  - (b) in implement or pursuance of an order of a court (other than an order under section 24 of the Conveyancing and Feudal Reform (Scotland) Act 1970 (c. 35) or a decree in an action for the division and sale of land);
  - (c) between spouses in pursuance of an arrangement between them entered into at any time after they have ceased living together;
  - (d) of croft land to the crofter tenancing it;
  - (e) between companies in the same group;
  - (f) to a statutory undertaker for the purpose of carrying on the undertaking;
  - (g) a transfer—
    - (i) implementing the compulsory acquisition of land under any enactment;
    - (ii) by agreement, of land which could have been acquired compulsorily under any enactment;
    - (iii) implementing any right conferred by Part 2 (which provides for the community right to buy) of the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 2) to buy land;
    - (iv) implementing any right conferred by Part 3 (which provides for the crofting community right to buy) of that Act to buy eligible land within the meaning of that Part of that Act;
    - (v) implementing missives for the sale and purchase of land concluded, or an option to acquire land which existed on a date on which no notice of interest in acquiring the land was registered under section 25;
    - (vi) conveying a house to a person who has purchased it in pursuance of the tenant's right to buy it under Part III of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (c. 26);
    - (vii) which requires, or which but for the provisions of section 14 of that Act would require, the consent of the Scottish Ministers under subsection (5) or (7) of section 12 of that Act;
    - (viii) under section 65 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10); or
    - (ix) vesting the land in a person for the purposes of any enactment relating to sequestration, bankruptcy, winding up or incapacity or to the purposes for which judicial factors may be appointed; or
  - (h) a transfer of land in consequence of—
    - (i) the assumption or resignation or death of one or more of the partners in a partnership; or
    - (ii) the assumption or resignation or death of one or more of the trustees of a trust.
- (2) In the case of a transfer mentioned in any of paragraphs (a), (e) and (h) of subsection (1), if the transfer—
- (a) is or forms part of a scheme or arrangement or is one of a series of transfers; and
  - (b) the main purpose or effect, or one of the main purposes or effects, of the scheme, arrangement or, as the case may be, series is the avoidance of the requirements or consequences of this Part,

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the transfer is, for the purposes of section 28, deemed to be a transfer in respect of which notice is required under section 26.

- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(e), companies are in the same group if they are, or are included in a number of, companies which, by virtue of section 170 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 (c. 12), together form a group for the purposes of sections 171 to 181 of that Act.
- (4) In subsection (1)(f), “statutory undertaker” is to be construed in accordance with section 214 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (c. 8).
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify (any or all) subsections (1) to (4).

#### **Commencement Information**

**I29** S. 27(1)-(4) in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, **art. 2**

**I30** S. 27(5) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, **art. 2(b)(iii)** (with Sch.)

## **28 Right to buy**

- (1) Where a tenant’s interest in acquiring land is for the time being registered under section 25 and—
  - (a) the owner of the land or a creditor in a standard security with a right to sell the land, gives notice to the tenant under section 26 of a proposal to transfer the land or any part of it; or
  - (b) the owner or the creditor takes any action with a view to the transfer of the land or any part of it and—
    - (i) the transfer is a transfer in respect of which notice to the tenant is required under section 26; and
    - (ii) such notice has not been given,

the tenant has the right to buy the land to which the transfer relates (including any interest or rights comprised in the land) from the owner or, as the case may be, the creditor.
- (2) Where—
  - (a) a tenant has a right to buy land under subsection (1); and
  - (b) despite the existence of that right, the owner, or as the case may be, the creditor transfers the land to a person other than the tenant,

the tenant has the right to buy the land (including any interests or rights comprised in the land) from the person to whom the land is transferred or is subsequently transferred.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1)(b), action is taken with a view to a transfer of land when—
  - (a) the land is, by or with the authority of the owner of the land or a creditor in a standard security with a right to sell the land, advertised or otherwise exposed for sale;
  - (b) the owner or the creditor, or a person acting on behalf of the owner or the creditor, enters into negotiations with another person with a view to the transfer of the land; or

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- (c) the owner or the creditor, or a person acting on behalf of the owner or the creditor, proceeds further with any proposed transfer of the land which was initiated prior to the date on which the notice of interest was registered.
- (4) References in subsection (3) to the owner of land include references to the person in whom it has vested for the purposes of any such enactment as is mentioned in section 27(1)(g)(ix).
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify (either or both) subsections (3) and (4).

#### Commencement Information

- I31** S. 28(1)-(4) in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, **art. 2**
- I32** S. 28(5) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, **art. 2(b)(iv)** (with Sch.)

## 29 Exercise of right to buy

- (1) Where a tenant has a right to buy land under section 28(1), the tenant may proceed in accordance with section 32 to buy the land from the owner or, as the case may be, the creditor provided that notice is given under subsection (2).
- (2) Notice is given under this subsection if the tenant, within 28 days of receipt of the notice under section 26, gives notice to the owner or, as the case may be, the creditor that the tenant intends to buy the land.
- (3) Where a tenant has a right to buy under section 28(2), the tenant may proceed in accordance with section 32 to buy the land from the person to whom the land has been transferred or subsequently transferred provided that notice is given under subsection (4).
- (4) Notice is given under this subsection if—
  - (a) the tenant gives notice to that person that the tenant intends to buy the land; and
  - (b) the notice is given within three years from the transfer to that person, and the tenancy is in force on the date on which the notice is given.
- (5) If, at any time, the tenant does not intend to proceed, in accordance with section 32, to buy the land, the tenant is to give notice of that fact to the person from whom the land would otherwise have been bought.
- (6) Where the tenant—
  - (a) does not give notice in accordance with subsection (2) or, as the case may be, (4); or
  - (b) gives notice under subsection (5),the right to buy is extinguished.
- (7) A tenant giving any notice under this section must send a copy of the notice to the Keeper.

#### Commencement Information

- I33** S. 29 in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, **art. 2**

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

*Changes to legislation: Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

### 30      **Meaning of “creditor in a standard security with a right to sell land”**

Any reference in this Part to a creditor in a standard security with a right to sell land is a reference to a creditor who has such a right under—

- (a) section 20(2) or 23(2) of the Conveyancing and Feudal Reform (Scotland) Act 1970 (c. 35); or
- (b) a warrant granted under section 24(1) of that Act.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I34**    [S. 30](#) in force at 15.12.2004 by [S.S.I. 2004/511](#), [art. 2](#)

### 31      **Effect of extinguishing of right to buy**

Where a right to buy land is extinguished under section 29(6) or 32(8), the tenant may acquire a subsequent right to buy the same land or any part of it under section 28(1), but only if—

- (a) the period of 12 months from the extinguishing of the right to buy has expired; or
- (b) before that period has expired—
  - (i) the land is transferred to another person; and
  - (ii) that person requires to give notice under section 26 in relation to a subsequent transfer.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I35**    [S. 31](#) in force at 15.12.2004 by [S.S.I. 2004/511](#), [art. 2](#)

#### *Procedure for buying and valuation*

### 32      **Procedure for buying**

- (1) It is for the tenant to make the offer to buy in exercise of the tenant's right to buy under section 28.
- (2) The offer is to be at a price—
  - (a) agreed between the tenant and the person from whom the land is to be bought (“the seller”); or
  - (b) where there is no such agreement—
    - (i) payable by the tenant in accordance with section 34(8); or
    - (ii) if the price is determined in an appeal under section 37, as is so determined,
 and must specify the date of entry and of payment of the price in accordance with subsection (3).
- (3) The date of entry and of payment of the price are to be—
  - (a) a date not later than 6 months from the date when the tenant gave notice under section 29(2) or (4) of the tenant's intention to buy;



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- (b) where the price payable by the tenant is the subject of an appeal under section 37 which has not, within the period of 4 months after the date when the tenant gave such notice, been—
    - (i) determined; or
    - (ii) abandoned following agreement between the tenant and the seller, a date not later than 2 months after the appeal is so determined or, as the case may be, abandoned; or
  - (c) such later date as may be agreed between the tenant and the seller.
- (4) The offer may include such other reasonable conditions as are necessary or expedient to secure the efficient progress and completion of the transfer.
- (5) If the tenant has not, within the period fixed by or agreed under subsection (3), done any of the things mentioned in subsection (6), the seller may apply to the Land Court for an order under subsection (7).
- (6) The things are—
- (a) concluding missives with the seller for the sale of the land to the tenant; or
  - (b) if the tenant has not so concluded missives, taking all steps which the tenant could reasonably have taken in the time available towards so concluding missives.
- (7) An order under this subsection may—
- (a) direct the tenant—
    - (i) to conclude missives with the seller within such period; and
    - (ii) to take such remedial action for the purpose of so concluding missives; and
  - (b) direct the tenant and seller to incorporate into the missives any term or condition in respect of the sale of the land,
- as the order may specify.
- (8) If—
- (a) the tenant fails to comply with an order under subsection (7); or
  - (b) where the seller has not applied for an order under that subsection, the tenant has not (having regard to the period fixed by or agreed under subsection (3)) within a reasonable period from the acquiring by the tenant of the right to buy otherwise concluded missives with the seller for the sale of the land to the tenant,
- the right to buy is extinguished.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I36** S. 32 in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, art. 2

### **33 Appointment of valuer**

- (1) Where the price is not agreed between the seller and the tenant, the land is, except where subsection (2) applies, to be valued by a valuer appointed by agreement between the seller and the tenant or by a person nominated by them.

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- (2) This subsection applies where the land in respect of which the tenant is exercising a right to buy forms part of an estate comprising other land in respect of which any other tenant has given notice under section 29(2) or (4) of the tenant's intention to buy.
- (3) Where subsection (2) applies, the land mentioned in that subsection is to be valued by a valuer appointed by agreement between—
  - (a) the seller; and
  - (b) at least half of the tenants mentioned in that subsection,
 or by a person nominated by them.
- (4) Where there is no agreement as to the appointment of a valuer under subsection (1) or (3), the valuer is to be appointed by the Land Court or by a person nominated by the Court.
- (5) In this Part, “valuer” includes two valuers with an oversman.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I37** S. 33 in force at 15.12.2004 by [S.S.I. 2004/511](#), [art. 2](#)

### **34 Valuation of the land**

- (1) The valuer appointed under section 33 is to assess the value of the land in respect of which the right to buy is being exercised as at the date of notice under section 26 of the seller's proposal to transfer the land.
- (2) The valuer is to assess the value of the land—
  - (a) having regard to the value that would be likely to be agreed between a reasonable seller and buyer of such land—
    - (i) assuming that the seller and buyer are, as respects the transaction, willing; and
    - (ii) where the buyer is a sitting tenant;
  - (b) taking account, in so far as a seller and a buyer of the land (assuming that they are, as respects the transaction, willing) would do so, of any factor attributable to the known existence of a person who (not being the tenant who is exercising a right to buy the land) would be willing to buy the land at a price higher than other persons because of a characteristic of the land which relates peculiarly to that person's interest in buying it;
  - (c) taking account of when the seller would in the normal course of events have been likely to recover vacant possession of the land from the tenant;
  - (d) taking account of the terms and conditions of any lease of sporting interests affecting the land;
  - (e) taking account of any moveable property belonging to the owner of the land which is, by agreement between the tenant and the owner, to be—
    - (i) sold with; and
    - (ii) valued along with,
 the land;
  - (f) taking no account of—
    - (i) the absence of the period of time during which the land would, on the open market, be likely to be advertised and exposed for sale; or

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- (ii) any factor attributable to any use of the land which is or would be unlawful;
  - (g) taking no account of any increase in the value of the land resulting from improvements carried out at the expense of the tenant;
  - (h) taking no account of any increase in the value of the land resulting from the use of any of the land, or changes to the land, for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose or the carrying out of conservation activities on the land;
  - (i) taking no account of—
    - (i) any reduction in the value of the land as a result of any dilapidation or deterioration of, or damage to, fixed equipment or land caused or permitted by the tenant; or
    - (ii) any such reduction resulting from the use of any of the land, or changes to the land, for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose or the carrying out of conservation activities on the land; and
  - (j) taking no account of any fixed equipment owned by the tenant.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(g)—
  - (a) subject to paragraph (b), “improvements” is to be construed by reference to Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act; and
  - (b) the continuous adoption by the tenant of a standard of farming or a system of farming more beneficial to the land than the standard or system required by the lease or, in so far as no system of farming is so required, than the system of farming normally practised on comparable agricultural land in the district, is to be treated as an improvement executed at the tenant’s expense.
- (4) Where land in respect of which the right to buy is being exercised forms part of an estate, the valuer is, in addition to assessing the value of the land under subsection (2), to assess the value representing the difference between—
  - (a) the value of the estate were the estate being sold by the seller to a person other than the tenant; and
  - (b) the value of the remainder of the estate (that is to say, the estate less the land in respect of which the right to buy is being exercised) were the remainder being sold by the seller to such a person.
- (5) For the purpose of valuation under subsection (4), where two or more parts of an estate are being bought in exercise of a right to buy under this Part, the valuer may apportion to each such part of the estate (or re-apportion if for any reason the sale of any such part does not proceed) such amount representing the reduction in the value of the estate as the valuer considers equitable.
- (6) The Scottish Ministers may issue guidance (either generally or in respect of a particular class of case) for the purposes of valuation under this section.
- (7) An estate is to be treated, for the purposes of subsections (4) and (5), as comprising—
  - (a) any land forming part of the estate and which is being bought in exercise of a right to buy under this Part; and
  - (b) any other land forming part of the estate offered for sale by the seller at the same time as the land mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (8) For the purposes of section 32(2)(b)(i), the price payable by a tenant is—
  - (a) the value assessed under subsection (2); or

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- (b) where the land forms part of an estate, the greater of the values assessed under—
  - (i) that subsection; and
  - (ii) subsection (4).

#### Commencement Information

- I38** S. 34(1)-(5)(7)(8) in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, **art. 2**  
**I39** S. 34(6) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, **art. 2(b)(v)** (with Sch.)

### 35 Special provision where buyer is general partner in limited partnership

Where the person exercising a right to buy under section 28 is doing so by virtue of section 72(2)—

- (a) the valuer, in assessing the value of the land under subsection (2) of section 34, is to have regard to—
  - (i) the fact that the buyer is a general partner of a limited partnership; and
  - (ii) any provision of the partnership agreement entitling a limited partner to dissolve the partnership; and
- (b) paragraph (a)(ii) of that subsection is of no effect.

#### Commencement Information

- I40** S. 35 in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, **art. 2**

### 36 Valuation etc.: further provision

- (1) The valuer is—
  - (a) to invite—
    - (i) the seller and the tenant; and
    - (ii) where the land forms part of an estate, any other person the valuer considers to have an interest in the estate,
 to make written representations about the matters mentioned in subsection (2); and
  - (b) to have regard to any such representations.
- (2) The matters are—
  - (a) the valuation of the land; and
  - (b) where the land forms part of an estate, any valuation of the estate (and any apportionment of a reduction in the value of the estate),
 under section 34.
- (3) The valuer may—
  - (a) enter onto land; and
  - (b) make any reasonable request of the seller and tenant,
 for the purposes of any assessment under section 34.

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- (4) The valuer must, within 6 weeks of being appointed, send to the seller and the tenant a notice in writing specifying the price payable by the tenant under section 34(8) and setting out how the price was calculated.
- (5) The expenses of the valuer accrued in carrying out the valuer's functions under section 34 and this section are to be—
  - (a) met by the tenant; or
  - (b) where subsection (2) of section 33 applies, shared equally between the tenants mentioned in that subsection.
- (6) Where—
  - (a) the Land Court has made an order under section 32(7);
  - (b) the tenant to whom the order applies has complied with the order; and
  - (c) the seller does not proceed with the sale of the land to the tenant,the seller is liable to the tenant for any expenses met by the tenant by virtue of subsection (5).
- (7) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations make further provision for or in connection with the matters provided for in this section and sections 33 and 34.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I41** S. 36(1)-(6) in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, **art. 2**

**I42** S. 36(7) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, **art. 2(b)(vi)** (with Sch.)

### **37 Appeal to Lands Tribunal against valuation**

- (1) The seller or the tenant may appeal to the Lands Tribunal against the valuation carried out under section 34.
- (2) An appeal under this section must state the grounds on which it is being made and must be lodged within 21 days of the date of the notice under section 36(4).
- (3) In an appeal under this section, the Lands Tribunal may—
  - (a) reassess any value of the land (and any factor affecting the value) or of an estate (and how any reduction in the value of an estate is to be apportioned); and
  - (b) for the purposes of section 32(2)(b)(ii), determine the price.
- (4) The valuer whose valuation is appealed against may be a witness in the appeal proceedings.
- (5) In the appeal proceedings, in addition to the seller and the tenant, the following persons are entitled to be heard—
  - (a) where the seller is—
    - (i) a creditor in a standard security, the owner of the land; and
    - (ii) the owner of the land, any creditor in a standard security over the land or any part of it; and
  - (b) where the land forms part of an estate—
    - (i) any creditor in a standard security over; and
    - (ii) any tenant of,

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any other land forming part of the estate.

- (6) The Lands Tribunal is to give reasons for its decision on an appeal under this section and is to issue a written statement of these reasons.
- (7) The decision of the Lands Tribunal in an appeal under this section is final.
- (8) In this section and section 38, “the Lands Tribunal” means the Lands Tribunal for Scotland.

**Commencement Information**

**I43** S. 37 in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, art. 2

**38 Referral of certain matters by Lands Tribunal to Land Court**

Where, in an appeal before the Lands Tribunal under section 37, an issue of law arises which may competently be determined by the Land Court by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act, the Tribunal is to refer the issue to the Land Court for determination unless the Tribunal considers that it is not appropriate to do so.

**Commencement Information**

**I44** S. 38 in force at 15.12.2004 by S.S.I. 2004/511, art. 2

**PART 3**

USE OF AGRICULTURAL LAND: DIVERSIFICATION

**39 Use of land for non-agricultural purposes**

- (1) A—
  - (a) 1991 Act tenancy; or
  - (b) tenancy under a lease constituting a limited duration tenancy,
 does not cease to be such a tenancy by reason only that the land is used for a non-agricultural purpose.
- (2) Any term of the lease which prohibits the use of the land for a non-agricultural purpose is of no effect.
- (3) Where—
  - (a) subletting the land is prohibited (by the lease or otherwise); and
  - (b) that prohibition impedes the use of the land for a non-agricultural purpose,
 the tenant may, despite the prohibition, sublet the land provided that the purpose for which it is sublet is ancillary to the tenant’s use of the land for the non-agricultural purpose.
- (4) Subsections (1) to (3) do not apply if the use of the land for a non-agricultural purpose is otherwise than has been permitted under section 40 or 41.

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- (5) In this section and sections 40 and 41, any reference to the land is a reference to the whole of the land comprised in the lease constituting the tenancy or any part of it.

#### Commencement Information

**I45** S. 39 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(c) (with Sch.)

## 40 Notice of and objection to diversification

- (1) A tenant under a tenancy mentioned in section 39(1) who intends to use the land for a non-agricultural purpose must send a notice (in this section and section 41 referred to as a “notice of diversification”) to the landlord.
- (2) The notice of diversification must be given in writing not less than 70 days before the date on which the tenant proposes to commence using the land for that purpose and must specify—
- (a) what the non-agricultural purpose is;
  - (b) the land that would be used for that purpose;
  - (c) any changes to the land the tenant proposes to effect for that purpose; and
  - (d) the date on which the tenant proposes to commence using the land for that purpose,
- and must address such matters as may constitute any ground of objection mentioned in subsection (9)(a)(i) to (iii).
- (3) Where—
- (a) the tenant proposes to effect changes to the land for the non-agricultural purpose; or
  - (b) the tenant’s intended use of the land for that purpose is in furtherance of a business,
- the notice must also specify how the changes are, or, as the case may be, the business is (so far as relating to the land), to be financed and managed.
- (4) Where a notice of diversification is given in accordance with subsections (2) and (3), and the landlord does not object to the notice, the land may be used—
- (a) for the purpose specified under paragraph (a), and as specified under paragraphs (b) and (c), of subsection (2); and
  - (b) from the appointed date,
- subject to any conditions imposed under subsection (10).
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4)(b), the appointed date is—
- (a) the date specified under subsection (2)(d);
  - (b) where the landlord has made—
    - (i) a request for information under subsection (6), the date falling 70 days from the making of the request; or
    - (ii) more than one such request, the date falling 70 days from making of the later or, as the case may be, latest request,if later than the date so specified; or
  - (c) such earlier date as the landlord and tenant may agree to.
- (6) The landlord may—

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- (a) within 30 days of the giving of the notice of diversification, request the tenant to provide the landlord with relevant information; and
  - (b) within 30 days of the providing by the tenant of any relevant information, request the tenant to provide the landlord with further relevant information.
- (7) For the purposes of subsection (6), information is relevant if it—
- (a) relates to—
    - (i) the intended use of the land for the non-agricultural purpose (including any proposed changes to the land); and
    - (ii) where the intended use of the land is in furtherance of a business, the finance or management of the business; and
  - (b) is necessary for the landlord’s consideration of whether or not there are grounds under subsection (9)(a)(i) to (iii) or (b) for objection to the notice of diversification.
- (8) The tenant is to provide any information reasonably requested under subsection (6) within 30 days of the date on which it was requested.
- (9) The landlord may object to the notice of diversification if (and only if)—
- (a) the landlord reasonably considers that the intended use of the land for the non-agricultural purpose (including any proposed changes to the land) would—
    - (i) lessen significantly the amenity of the land or the surrounding area;
    - (ii) substantially prejudice the use of the land for agricultural purposes in the future;
    - (iii) be detrimental to the sound management of the estate of which the land consists or forms part; or
    - (iv) cause the landlord to suffer undue hardship;
  - (b) where the notice specifies a matter mentioned in subsection (3), the landlord reasonably considers that it fails to demonstrate that the proposed changes are, or, as the case may be, the business (so far as relating to the land) is, viable; or
  - (c) the tenant has failed to comply with subsection (8).
- (10) Where the landlord does not object to the notice of diversification, the landlord may impose on the tenant any reasonable conditions in relation to the use of the land for the non-agricultural purpose (including in relation to any proposed changes to the land).
- (11) The landlord is, within the period mentioned in subsection (12), to notify the tenant in writing—
- (a) of any objection to the notice of diversification (and the grounds for the objection) or, as the case may be, of the fact that the landlord does not object to the notice; and
  - (b) where the landlord does not object to the notice, of any conditions imposed under subsection (10) (and the reasons for imposing them).
- (12) The period is—
- (a) where the landlord has made—
    - (i) a request for information under subsection (6), 60 days from the making of the request; or
    - (ii) more than one such request, 60 days from the making of the later or, as the case may be, latest request; or
  - (b) where the landlord has made no such request, 60 days from the giving of the notice of diversification.



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- (13) If no notification is given in accordance with subsections (11) and (12), the landlord is, except where the non-agricultural purpose is the planting and cropping of trees, deemed not to have objected to the notice of diversification nor to have imposed any conditions in relation to use of, or changes to, the land.

#### Commencement Information

I46 S. 40 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(c) (with Sch.)

### 41 Imposition of conditions by Land Court

- (1) Where the Land Court determines that an objection by the landlord to a notice of diversification is unreasonable—
- (a) the objection is of no effect; and
  - (b) the land may be used—
    - (i) as mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 40; and
    - (ii) from such date as the Court may fix,subject to any conditions imposed under subsection (2).
- (2) Where, by virtue of subsection (1), the land may be used as mentioned in section 40(4)
- (a), the Land Court may impose on the tenant such reasonable conditions in relation to the use of the land as so mentioned as it considers appropriate.
- (3) Where the Land Court determines that a condition imposed by the landlord under section 40(10) is unreasonable, the Court may—
- (a) remove the condition; and
  - (b) in its place, impose on the tenant such reasonable conditions as it considers appropriate.

#### Commencement Information

I47 S. 41 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(c) (with Sch.)

### 42 Tenant's right to timber

- (1) The tenant under—
- (a) a 1991 Act tenancy; or
  - (b) a limited duration tenancy,
- has, for so long as the tenancy continues to have effect, the right to cut timber from any trees planted on the land by the tenant on or after the coming into force of this section; and any such timber belongs to the tenant.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in so far as the lease or any agreement in writing between the landlord and tenant makes provision to the contrary, provided that the lease or agreement also includes provision for a reduction in rent or payment of compensation to the tenant in respect of any loss incurred by the tenant as a result of that contrary provision.

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#### Commencement Information

**I48** S. 42 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(c) (with Sch.)

## PART 4

### COMPENSATION UNDER AGRICULTURAL TENANCIES

#### CHAPTER 1

#### COMPENSATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS

##### *1991 Act tenancies*

### 43 Agreements as to compensation for improvements

(1) After section 33 (improvements) of the 1991 Act there is inserted—

**“33A Agreements as to compensation for improvements**

Where the tenant has carried out an improvement—

- (a) specified in Part II or III of Schedule 5 to this Act; and
- (b) by executing work which the landlord was required, at the time the lease was entered into and by virtue of section 5(2)(a) of this Act, to execute in order to fulfil his obligations under the lease,

any term of the lease or of an agreement between the landlord and tenant made before the coming into force of this section which purports to provide that the amount of compensation payable to the tenant for the improvement is less than the amount of compensation to which the tenant is entitled under this Part of this Act for the improvement (or that no compensation is payable) shall not apply in relation to such part or proportion of the improvement as the landlord would have been so required to carry out in order to fulfil those obligations.”.

(2) The following provisions of that Act (which relate to agreements as to compensation for improvements) are repealed—

- (a) in section 34, paragraph (b) of subsection (4);
- (b) in section 37, subsection (2); and
- (c) in section 38, subsection (5).

(3) In section 38 (notice required of certain improvements) of that Act, after subsection (2) there is inserted—

“(2A) Subsection (1) above shall not apply in the case of an improvement mentioned in subsection (1)(c) above if the improvement was carried out by executing work which the landlord was required, at the time the lease was entered into and by virtue of section 5(2)(a) of this Act, to execute in order to fulfil his obligations under the lease.”.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

*Changes to legislation: Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

#### Commencement Information

**I49** S. 43 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

### 44 Amount of compensation where grant made to tenant

In section 36 (amount of compensation) of the 1991 Act, in subsection (3), for the words from “improvement” in the first place where it appears to the end there is substituted “improvement—

- (a) there shall be taken into account any benefit which the landlord has agreed in writing to give the tenant in consideration of the tenant carrying out the improvement; and
- (b) where a grant has been or will be made to the tenant in respect of the improvement, subject to the conditions of the grant—
  - (i) if either the landlord or tenant has not made or will not make a contribution towards the cost of the improvement, or neither of them has made or will make such a contribution, the grant shall not be taken into account;
  - (ii) in any other case, there shall be taken into account such proportion of the grant as equals the proportion of the contribution by the tenant towards the cost of the improvement as a proportion of the total of his contribution added to that of the landlord.”.

#### Commencement Information

**I50** S. 44 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

#### *Short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies*

### 45 Right to compensation for improvements

- (1) Subject to sections 48 and 49, a tenant of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy is entitled, on quitting the land on termination of the tenancy, to compensation from the landlord in respect of any improvement to which this subsection applies carried out by the tenant.
- (2) Subsection (1) applies to the improvements specified in Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act (that Schedule applying for the purposes of that subsection as it does for the purposes of that Act).
- (3) Where an improvement is the improvement specified in paragraph 32 (laying down of temporary pasture) of that Schedule, the tenant is entitled to compensation under subsection (1) even if—
  - (a) that improvement; or
  - (b) the leaving of temporary pasture at the termination of the tenancy, was in contravention of a term of the lease or any agreement made by the tenant as to the method of cropping the arable lands.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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- (4) Where a tenant has remained in occupation of the land during two or more tenancies, the tenant is not deprived of any right to compensation under subsection (1) by reason only that the improvements were not carried out during the tenancy on the termination of which the tenant quits the land.

**Commencement Information**

**I51** S. 45 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [sch.](#))

**46 Payment of compensation by incoming tenant**

Subsections (2) to (5) of section 35 (payment of compensation by incoming tenant) of the 1991 Act (as read with Schedule 5 to that Act) apply to compensation which is payable or has been paid to an outgoing tenant of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy by the landlord under section 45(1) of this Act as they do to compensation to which that section of that Act applies, but as if—

- (a) in subsection (4), paragraph (a) were omitted;
- (b) in subsections (4) and (5), the references to an agricultural holding and the holding were references to the land; and
- (c) in subsection (5), the words “a new” were read as “an”.

**Commencement Information**

**I52** S. 46 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**47 Amount of compensation**

- (1) The amount of compensation payable to a tenant under section 45(1) is such sum as fairly represents the value of the improvement to an incoming tenant.
- (2) In ascertaining the amount of compensation so payable—
- (a) account is to be taken of any benefit which the landlord has agreed in writing to give the tenant in consideration of the tenant carrying out the improvement; and
  - (b) where a grant has been or will be made to the tenant in respect of the improvement, subject to the conditions of the grant—
    - (i) if either the landlord or tenant has not made or will not make a contribution towards the cost of the improvement, or neither of them has made or will make such a contribution, the grant is not to be taken into account;
    - (ii) in any other case, there is to be taken into account such proportion of the grant as equals the proportion of any contribution made by the tenant towards the cost of the improvement as a proportion of the total of the tenant’s contribution added to that of the landlord.
- (3) In ascertaining the amount of any compensation payable by virtue of subsection (3) of section 45, account is to be taken of any injury to or deterioration of the land due to the contravention of the lease or agreement mentioned in that subsection (except insofar as the landlord has recovered damages in respect of the injury or deterioration).

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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#### Commencement Information

**I53** S. 47 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [sch.](#))

### 48 Consent required for compensation in certain cases

Compensation under section 45(1) is not payable for an improvement specified in Part I of Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act unless, before the improvement was carried out, the landlord consented to it in writing (whether unconditionally or upon terms agreed on between the parties).

#### Commencement Information

**I54** S. 48 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

### 49 Notice required for certain improvements

- (1) Compensation under section 45(1) is not payable for an improvement specified in Part II of Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act unless the tenant gave notice in writing to the landlord specifying the tenant's intention to carry out the improvement and the manner in which it was proposed to carry it out.
- (2) In section 39 (approval of Land Court in certain cases) of the 1991 Act (as read with Schedule 5 to that Act), subsections (1) to (4) apply in relation to compensation under section 45(1) as they do in relation to compensation under Part IV of that Act but as if, in subsection (1) of that section—
  - (a) the words “a new” were omitted;
  - (b) the words “one month” read “60 days”; and
  - (c) the reference to notice under section 38(3) of that Act were a reference to the notice mentioned in subsection (1) of this section.

#### Commencement Information

**I55** S. 49 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## CHAPTER 2

### COMPENSATION FOR DISTURBANCE AND DIVERSIFICATION ETC.

#### *1991 Act tenancies*

### 50 Compensation for disturbance and for damage by game

- (1) In section 43 (compensation for disturbance) of the 1991 Act, paragraph (c) of subsection (4) is repealed.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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- (2) In section 52 (compensation for damage by game) of that Act, in paragraph (b) of subsection (2) for the words from “one” to the end there is substituted “ 6 months of the giving of notice under paragraph (a) above ”.

**Commencement Information**

**I56** S. 50 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

**51 Compensation arising as a result of diversification etc.**

- (1) After section 45 (compensation to landlord for deterioration etc.) of the 1991 Act there is inserted—

**“45A Compensation arising as a result of diversification and cropping of trees**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, the landlord of an agricultural holding shall be entitled to recover from the tenant, on his quitting the holding on termination of the tenancy, compensation where the landlord shows that the value of the holding has been reduced during the tenancy by the use, on or after the coming into force of this section, of the holding for a purpose which is not an agricultural purpose; and the amount of compensation payable shall be an amount equal to the reduction in the value of the holding.
- (2) Where there are trees on the holding which were planted—
- (a) by the tenant on or after the coming into force of this section; and
  - (b) for future cropping,
- the landlord or tenant shall be entitled to recover from the other, on the tenant quitting the holding on the termination of the tenancy, compensation calculated in accordance with subsections (3) and (4) below.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2) above, at the termination of the tenancy—
- (a) the trees shall be valued on the basis of their worth to a willing purchaser for future cropping; and
  - (b) there shall be evaluated any loss of rent to the landlord which would be incurred by his retaining the trees until the likely date of cropping added to the cost to him of returning the land to agricultural use after cropping.
- (4) If the value reached under paragraph (a) of subsection (3) above is—
- (a) greater than that reached under paragraph (b) of that subsection, the tenant shall be entitled to the difference between the values as compensation;
  - (b) less than that reached under paragraph (b) of that subsection, the landlord shall be entitled to the difference between the values as compensation.
- (5) Where the value of an agricultural holding has been increased during the tenancy by such use of the land or part of the land, or such change to the land, for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose—
- (a) as occurred on or after the coming into force of this section; and

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- (b) as had been permitted under section 40 or 41 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11),  
the tenant shall, subject to subsections (6) and (7) below, be entitled, on quitting the holding on termination of the tenancy, to recover from the landlord such compensation as fairly represents the value of the use, change or carrying out of the activities to an incoming tenant.
- (6) In ascertaining the amount of compensation payable under subsection (5) above—
- (a) there shall be taken into account any benefit which the landlord has agreed in writing to give the tenant in consideration of the matters referred to in that subsection; and
- (b) where a grant has been or will be made to the tenant in respect of those matters, subject to the conditions of the grant—
- (i) if either the landlord or tenant has not made or will not make a contribution towards the cost of the improvement, or neither of them has made or will make such a contribution, the grant shall not be taken into account;
- (ii) in any other case, there shall be taken into account such proportion of the grant as equals the proportion of the contribution by the tenant towards the cost of the improvement as a proportion of the total of his contribution added to that of the landlord.
- (7) No compensation is payable under subsection (5) above if, owing to—
- (a) any of the matters referred to in that subsection, the land is unsuitable for use for agriculture by an incoming tenant; or
- (b) any use of fixed equipment in connection with any of those matters, the landlord would, at the commencement of an incoming tenant's tenancy, be unable to fulfil his obligations under the lease as to fixed equipment,  
in so far as those matters or, as the case may be, that use is attributable to those facts.
- (8) Where the tenant has remained in occupation of the holding during two or more tenancies, he shall not be deprived of his right to compensation under this section by reason only that the use of the land or change to the land did not occur during the tenancy on the termination of which he quits the holding.”.
- (2) In section 47 (provisions supplementary to sections 45 and 46) of that Act, in subsection (1), for the words “under section 45” there is substituted “ by the landlord under section 45 or 45A ”.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I57** S. 51 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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### *Short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies*

## **52 Compensation for disturbance**

- (1) Where—
- (a) any land is resumed under section 17; or
  - (b) a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy terminates by notice under subsection (3) of that section,
- compensation for disturbance is payable by the landlord to the tenant.
- (2) Subsections (3) to (6) of section 43 (compensation for disturbance) of the 1991 Act apply in relation to compensation payable under subsection (1) above as they do in relation to compensation payable under that section, but as if—
- (a) in those subsections, the references to the holding were references to the land;
  - (b) in subsection (6)—
    - (i) the reference to the tenant of an agricultural holding were a reference to the tenant of the short limited duration tenancy or limited duration tenancy; and
    - (ii) the reference to a notice to quit given by the landlord were a reference to the termination of the tenancy; and
  - (c) where the resumption under section 17 is of part of the land—
    - (i) the references to the land in those subsections of section 43 of that Act by virtue of paragraph (a) of this subsection were references to that part; and
    - (ii) the references to the rent in subsection (4)(a) and (b) of that section were references to the rent proportionate to the part.
- (3) Where the tenancy terminates as mentioned in subsection (1)(b) and—
- (a) the part of the land affected by the notice under subsection (2) of section 17, together with any part of the land resumed following a previous such notice is—
    - (i) less than a quarter of the original area of the land comprised in the lease constituting the tenancy; or
    - (ii) of a rental value less than a quarter of the rental value of that area of land; and
  - (b) the remainder of the land is reasonably capable of being farmed separately, compensation is payable under subsection (1) only in respect of the part of the land to which the notice relates.
- (4) In a case mentioned in subsection (2)(c), in determining the amount of compensation payable, account is to be taken of any benefit or relief allowed to the tenant under the lease in respect of the part resumed.
- (5) Where compensation is payable under subsection (1)(a), in addition to that compensation, compensation is payable by the landlord to the tenant of an amount equal to the additional benefit (if any) which would have accrued to the tenant if the land (instead of being resumed on the date of resumption) had been resumed on the expiry of the period of 12 months from the end of the year of tenancy current at the date 2 months before the date of resumption.



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#### Commencement Information

**I58** S. 52 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

### 53 Compensation for other particular things

- (1) Section 44 (compensation for continuous adoption of special standard of farming) of the 1991 Act applies to short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies as it does to 1991 Act tenancies, but as if—
  - (a) the references to the holding were references to the land;
  - (b) in subsection (2) of that section, the reference to a record of fixed equipment were a reference to fixed equipment specified under section 16 of this Act; the reference to the date of the record were a reference to the date on which the equipment was so specified; and the words from “or” to the end were omitted; and
  - (c) in subsection (3) of that section, the reference to Part IV of that Act were a reference to section 45(1) of this Act.
- (2) Section 45A (compensation arising as a result of diversification etc.) of that Act, as read with subsection (1) of section 47 of that Act, applies to limited duration tenancies as it does to 1991 Act tenancies, but as if the references to the holding were references to the land.
- (3) Section 52 (compensation for damage by game) of that Act applies to short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies as it does to 1991 Act tenancies.

#### Commencement Information

**I59** S. 53 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## CHAPTER 3

### COMPENSATION WHERE COMPULSORY ACQUISITION OF LAND

### 54 Compensation where compulsory acquisition of land

- (1) Subject to subsection (4), this subsection applies where, in pursuance of any enactment providing for the acquisition or taking of possession of land compulsorily, any person (the “acquiring authority”) acquires the interest of the tenant under, or takes possession of the land or any part of the land comprised in a lease constituting, a short limited duration tenancy or limited duration tenancy.
- (2) Where subsection (1) applies, compensation for disturbance is payable by the acquiring authority to the tenant of an amount equal to four times the annual rent of the land or, in the case of part of the land, four times the annual rent proportionate to that part.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2), the tenant is deemed not to be the tenant in so far as, immediately before the acquiring of the interest or the taking of possession mentioned

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in subsection (1), the tenant was not in possession, nor entitled to take possession, of any of the land.

- (4) Subsection (1) does not apply—
- (a) where the acquiring authority requires the land or part of the land for the purposes of agricultural research or experiment or of demonstrating agricultural methods; or
  - (b) where the Scottish Ministers acquire the land or part of the land under section 57(1)(c) or 64 of the Agriculture (Scotland) Act 1948 (c. 45).
- (5) For the purposes of subsection (4)(a), where an acquiring authority exercises, in relation to any land, power to acquire or take possession of land compulsorily which is conferred on the authority by virtue of section 189 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 (c. 8) or section 7 of the New Towns (Scotland) Act 1968 (c. 16), the authority is deemed not to require the land for any purpose mentioned in that subsection.
- (6) Schedule 8 to the 1991 Act has effect in relation to payments under subsection (2) as it does in relation to payments under section 56 (additional payments in consequence of compulsory acquisition etc.) of that Act, but as if—
- (a) the references to sections 54 and 56 of that Act were references to that subsection;
  - (b) the references to sections 13 and 15 of that Act were references to sections 9 and 10 of this Act respectively; and
  - (c) any reference to, or in relation to, statutory small tenants were omitted.
- (7) Any reference in this section to the acquisition of property is a reference to the vesting of the property in the person acquiring it.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I60** S. 54 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

## **CHAPTER 4**

### MISCELLANEOUS PROVISION AS TO COMPENSATION

#### **55 Right to compensation for yielding vacant possession**

- (1) This section applies to—
- (a) a 1991 Act tenancy; and
  - (b) a limited duration tenancy created under section 2.
- (2) Where the landlord wishes to sell the land with vacant possession, the landlord may enter into an agreement in writing with the tenant that—
- (a) the tenant will give notice of intention to quit and then vacate the land by such date as may be specified in the agreement; and
  - (b) the landlord, having sold the land, will pay to the tenant an amount of compensation for so doing calculated by reference to subsection (3) below.
- (3) That amount is, subject to subsection (8), half of the difference between—

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- (a) the price for which the land is sold; and
  - (b) the estimated value of the land if it had been sold with the tenant still in occupation,  
minus half of the cost of the valuation carried out for the purposes of paragraph (b).
- (4) Where the tenant wishes to quit the land, the tenant may enter into an agreement in writing with the landlord that—
- (a) the tenant will give notice of intention to quit and then vacate the land by such date as may be specified in the agreement; and
  - (b) the landlord will pay to the tenant an amount of compensation for so doing calculated by reference to subsection (5) below.
- (5) That amount is, subject to subsection (8), half of the difference between—
- (a) the estimated value of the land if sold with vacant possession; and
  - (b) the estimated value of the land if sold with the tenant still in occupation,  
minus half of the cost of the valuations carried out for the purposes of paragraphs (a) and (b).
- (6) Any valuation for the purposes of this section is to be carried out by a valuer appointed by agreement between the landlord and the tenant or by a person nominated by them; and in this section “valuer” includes two valuers with an oversman.
- (7) A valuer appointed or nominated under subsection (6) is to act, so far as practicable, as if the valuation was subject to subsections (2) to (7) of section 34.
- (8) The amount of compensation under subsection (3) or (5) shall take account of—
- (a) where the tenancy is a limited duration tenancy, the proportion of the term of the tenancy which is unexpired; and
  - (b) in any case, any—
    - (i) investments;
    - (ii) improvements; and
    - (iii) repairs and maintenance,in the holding made by both tenant and landlord over the period of the lease.

**Commencement Information**

**I61** S. 55 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

**56 No right to penal rent etc.**

The landlord under a short limited duration tenancy or limited duration tenancy is not entitled to recover any sum, by way of higher rent, liquidated damages or otherwise, in consequence of any breach or non-fulfilment of a term or condition of the lease, which is in excess of the damage actually suffered by the landlord in consequence of the breach or non-fulfilment; and any provision of the lease to the contrary is of no effect.

**Commencement Information**

**I62** S. 56 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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## 57 Provision as to parts of land and divided land

- (1) Where any land comprised in a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy is not agricultural land only because of the reason mentioned in subsection (2), the provisions of this Part as to compensation apply as if the remainder of the land were the land comprised in the lease.
- (2) The reason is that, due to the nature of the building on the land or the use to which the land is put, the land would not, if separately let when the tenancy commenced, have been capable of being the subject of the tenancy.
- (3) Where the interest of the landlord in a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy has become vested in several parts in more than one person and the rent payable by the tenant under the lease has not been apportioned with the tenant's consent or under any enactment, the tenant is entitled to require that any compensation payable to the tenant under this Part be determined as if the land had not been divided.
- (4) For the purposes of subsection (3), the Land Court, where necessary, is to apportion the amount payable between the persons who together constitute the landlord, and any additional expenses of the determination caused by the apportionment are to be directed by the Land Court to be paid by those persons in such proportions as it determines.

### Commencement Information

**I63** S. 57 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

## 58 Compensation not payable where direction as to permanent pasture

- (1) Notwithstanding any provision of this Part or any custom or agreement—
  - (a) no compensation is payable under this Part (except under paragraph (b)) to the tenant in respect of anything done in pursuance of any direction as to permanent pasture given by virtue of section 15; and
  - (b) in assessing compensation to an outgoing tenant where land has been ploughed up in pursuance of any such direction, the value per hectare of any tenant's pasture (being pasture laid down at the expense of the tenant or paid for by the tenant on entering the tenancy) comprised in the land is to be taken not to exceed the average value per hectare of the whole of the tenant's pasture comprised in the land on the termination of the tenancy.
- (2) Where an improvement specified in Part III of Schedule 5 to the 1991 Act (that Part of that Schedule having effect for the purposes of this subsection and section 15 as it does for the purposes of section 9 of that Act) is carried out for the purposes of any requirement in relation to permanent pasture provided for by virtue of section 15, the tenant is not entitled to compensation for the improvement.

### Commencement Information

**I64** S. 58 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(d) (with Sch.)

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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## 59 Extent to which compensation recoverable under agreements

- (1) Where by virtue of any provision of this Part compensation is payable to a landlord or tenant of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy, that person—
  - (a) is entitled to such compensation notwithstanding the terms of any agreement between them; and
  - (b) is not entitled to such compensation except by virtue of that provision, but this subsection is subject to any express provision by virtue of this Part to the contrary.
- (2) Where the landlord and tenant agree in writing for such a variation of the terms of the lease as may be made by a direction by virtue of section 15, the agreement may also provide for the exclusion of compensation on the same basis as under section 58(1).
- (3) In a case for which there is no provision for compensation by virtue of this Part, a claim for compensation by a landlord or tenant of a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy is not enforceable except under an agreement in writing.

### Commencement Information

**I65** S. 59 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(d\)](#) (with [sch.](#))

## PART 5

### MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS TO THE 1991 ACT

## 60 Agreements as to fixed equipment

In section 5 (fixed equipment and insurance premiums) of the 1991 Act—

- (a) subsection (3) is repealed; and
- (b) after subsection (4) there is inserted—

“(4A) Any agreement between the landlord and tenant made before the coming into force of this subsection which purports to provide for the tenant to execute on behalf of the landlord (whether wholly at his expense or wholly or partly at the expense of the landlord) any work effecting such replacement or renewal of the building or other fixed equipment on the holding as is rendered necessary by natural decay or by fair wear and tear shall be nullified provided that subsection (4B) below is complied with.

(4B) This subsection is complied with if—

- (a) following a determination (in accordance with section 13 of this Act) of the rent payable in respect of the holding, the tenant gives notice to the landlord that the agreement be nullified as from a date specified in the notice; and
- (b) on that date—
  - (i) the buildings and other fixed equipment are in a reasonable state of repair; or
  - (ii) if the buildings and other fixed equipment were in an unreasonable state of repair when the agreement was

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made, they are not in a worse state of repair than they were then.

(4C) Any agreement between the landlord and tenant made before the coming into force of this subsection which purports to provide for the tenant to bear any expense of any work effecting such replacement or renewal of the building or other fixed equipment on the holding as is rendered necessary by natural decay or by fair wear and tear shall be subject to subsections (4A) and (4B) above.

(4D) Any agreement between the landlord and tenant made on or after this subsection comes into force which purports to provide for the tenant to bear any expense of any work which the landlord is required to execute in order to fulfil his obligations under the lease shall be null and void.”.

**Commencement Information**

**I66** S. 60 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

**61 Making of records**

(1) In section 8 (record of condition, etc. of holding) of the 1991 Act—

(a) for subsection (3) there is substituted—

“(3) A record under this section shall be made by a person to be appointed by agreement between the parties; but, in the absence of such agreement, the Scottish Ministers shall on the application of either party appoint a person to make the record.

(3A) The Scottish Ministers may charge such reasonable fee as they may determine for making an appointment under subsection (3) above.

(3B) The record shall be in such form as the parties agree or, in the absence of such agreement, as the recorder considers appropriate.”;

(b) in subsection (6), the words “, on the application of the landlord or tenant,” are repealed; and

(c) in each of subsections (8) and (9), for the word “the” in the second place where it appears there is substituted “ any ”.

(2) In section 80 (determination of matters where the Scottish Ministers are landlord or tenant) of that Act—

(a) in subsection (2), after “Act” insert “ (except section 8) ”; and

(b) after that subsection there is inserted—

“(3) Where this section applies, section 8 of this Act shall have effect—

(a) with the substitution for “Scottish Ministers” in subsection (3) of “sheriff”;

(b) as if subsection (3A) were omitted.”.

**Commencement Information**

**I67** S. 61 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

*Changes to legislation: Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

## 62 Interdict in certain cases

In section 7 (freedom of cropping and disposal of produce) of the 1991 Act—

- (a) in subsection (3), the words “, but no other” are repealed;
- (b) after that subsection there is inserted—
  - “(3A) Such interdict as is, or damages as are, mentioned in subsection (3) above shall be obtainable only in the Land Court; and, notwithstanding the terms of section 84 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11), no other remedy shall be available in respect of the circumstances mentioned in that subsection.”;
- (c) for subsection (4) there is substituted—
  - “(4) For the purposes of any proceedings for an interdict brought under paragraph (a) of subsection (3) above, where the question whether the tenant is exercising or has exercised his rights under subsection (1) above in such a manner as is referred to in subsection (3) above has, by virtue of section 61(1) of this Act, been determined by arbitration, a certificate of the arbiter as to his determination of the question shall, for the purposes of any proceedings brought under this section, be conclusive proof of the facts stated in the certificate.”; and
- (d) in subsection (6)(b), after the word “or” in the second place where it appears there is inserted “ it has been determined ”.

### Commencement Information

**I68** S. 62 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(e\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

## 63 Variation of rent

In section 13 (variation of rent) of the 1991 Act—

- (a) in subsection (2), for the word “(7)” there is substituted “ (7A) ”;
- (b) in subsection (3), for the words from “there” to the end there is substituted “disregarding—
  - (a) any effect on rent of the fact that the tenant is in occupation of the holding; and
  - (b) any distortion in rent due to a scarcity of lets,but having regard to the matters referred to in subsection (4) below. ”;
- (c) for subsection (4) there is substituted—
  - “(4) For the purposes of determining the rent payable under subsection (3) above, the Land Court shall have regard to the following—
    - (a) information about rents of other agricultural holdings (including when fixed) and any factors affecting those rents (or any of them) except any distortion due to a scarcity of lets; and
    - (b) the current economic conditions in the relevant sector of agriculture.”;
- (d) in subsection (7)—
  - (i) the words from “any” to the end become paragraph (a); and
  - (ii) after that paragraph there is inserted “; or



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- (b) any reduction in the rental value of the holding resulting from—
  - (i) the use of the land or part of the land, or changes to the land, for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose; or
  - (ii) the carrying out of conservation activities on the land.”; and
- (e) after that subsection there is inserted—
  - “(7A) The Land Court shall take into account any increase in the rental value of the holding resulting from the use of the land for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose.”.

#### Commencement Information

**I69** S. 63 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

## 64 Tenant’s right to withhold rent

After section 15 (increase of rent for certain improvements by landlord) of the 1991 Act there is inserted—

*“Tenant’s right to withhold rent*

### 15A Tenant’s right to withhold rent

- (1) Subsection (2) below shall apply to an order—
  - (a) made under subsection (1)(b) of section 84 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11); and
  - (b) which is in relation to a failure of the landlord of an agricultural holding to fulfil any obligation he has towards the tenant in respect of fixed equipment.
- (2) Where the landlord has failed—
  - (a) in a material regard; and
  - (b) as at the date specified under subsection (2) of that section,
 to comply with an order to which this subsection applies, the tenant may apply to the Land Court for an order under subsection (3) below.
- (3) An order under this subsection may (either or both)—
  - (a) authorise the tenant to carry out such work as the landlord would have to have carried out for the landlord to comply with the order to which subsection (2) above applies; and
  - (b) authorise the tenant to withhold payment of the rent payable to the landlord in respect of the holding on the condition that the tenant shall consign to the Land Court the amount otherwise so payable.
- (4) The Land Court may, on the application of the tenant, from time to time release to the tenant any of the amount so consigned towards or in satisfaction of any reasonable costs incurred or to be incurred by the tenant for the purposes of or in



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connection with the carrying out of such work as is mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) above.

- (5) The Land Court, on the application of the landlord and having regard to—
- (a) whether any work mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) above remains to be carried out; and
  - (b) any costs mentioned in subsection (4) above,
- may terminate the order made under subsection (3) above if the Court consider that it would be not be appropriate for the order to remain in force.
- (6) Where the Land Court terminate the order made under subsection (3) above, the Court shall order such division between the landlord and tenant of the amount (or, where any of the amount has been released to the tenant, any remaining amount) consigned under subsection (3)(b) above as the Court consider to be equitable.
- (7) Any work carried out and authorised under subsection (3)(a) above shall be treated as having been carried out at the landlord’s expense in so far as the costs of the work have been or are to be satisfied by the release to the tenant of any amount consigned under subsection (3)(b) above.
- (8) Any right of the landlord—
- (a) to irritate the lease on the grounds of non-payment of rent; or
  - (b) under section 20 or 22 of this Act in relation to non-payment of rent,
- shall be unenforceable if the non-payment is in consequence of an authorisation under subsection (3)(b) above to withhold rent.
- (9) Any term of the lease or of any agreement between the landlord and tenant that purports to deprive the tenant of any right conferred by virtue of this section shall, in so far as it so purports, be null and void.”.

#### Commencement Information

**I70** S. 64 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

## 65 Termination of tenancy

After section 16 (leases not terminated by variation of terms, etc.) of the 1991 Act there is inserted—

### “16A Leases not terminated on grounds of non-residence

- (1) The lease of an agricultural holding shall not be brought to an end, and accordingly the landlord shall not be entitled to bring proceedings to terminate the lease or to treat it as at an end, by reason only that the tenant is not or has not been resident on the agricultural holding.
- (2) Where there is a term in a lease of an agricultural holding which purports to require the tenant to reside on the holding, there shall, in place of that term, be deemed to be incorporated in the lease an undertaking by the tenant that he will, if he does not reside on the holding, ensure that a person who has the skills and

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experience necessary to farm the holding in accordance with the rules of good husbandry resides on the holding.”.

**Commencement Information**

**I71** S. 65 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

**66      Assignment and subletting of tenancy**

After section 10 (power of landlord to enter on holding) of the 1991 Act there is inserted—

**“10A Assignment and subletting of tenancy**

- (1) A lease of an agricultural holding may be assigned by the tenant to any of the persons who would be entitled to succeed to his estate on intestacy by virtue of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41) if, following notice under subsection (2), the landlord consents to a proposed assignment.
- (2) The tenant must give the landlord a notice in writing of any intention of the tenant to assign the lease; and the notice must include the particulars of the proposed assignee, the terms upon which the assignment is to be made and the date on which it is to take effect.
- (3) The landlord may withhold consent to the proposed assignment if there are reasonable grounds for doing so; and, in particular the landlord may withhold consent if not satisfied that the proposed assignee—
  - (a) would have the ability to pay—
    - (i) the rent due under the lease; or
    - (ii) for adequate maintenance of the land; or
  - (b) has the skills or experience that would be required properly to manage and maintain the land in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.
- (4) Any such withholding of consent (and the grounds for withholding it) is to be intimated in writing to the tenant within 30 days of the giving of the notice under subsection (2); and, if no such intimation is made, the landlord is deemed to have consented to the proposed assignment.
- (5) Any term of a lease or of an agreement between the landlord and tenant which purports to provide that the lease of an agricultural holding may not be assigned under this section shall, in so far as it so purports, be null and void.”.

**Commencement Information**

**I72** S. 66 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

**67      Notices to quit**

- (1) In section 22 (restriction on operation of notices to quit) of the 1991 Act, in paragraph (b) of subsection (2), for the words from “has” to the end there is substituted

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“requires to be obtained, and has been obtained, under the enactments relating to town and country planning”.

(2) In section 24 (consents for the purposes of section 22) of that Act—

(a) in subsection (2)—

(i) the words from “that” in the second place where it appears to the end become paragraph (a); and

(ii) after that paragraph there is added “; or

(b) where the notice is to quit the whole of the holding, that use of the land for the purpose for which the landlord proposes to terminate the tenancy would not create greater economic and social benefits to the community than would exist were the tenancy not terminated.”; and

(b) after subsection (4) there is added—

“(5) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b) above—

(a) “the community”—

(i) shall be defined by reference to the postcode unit (or postcode units) pertaining to the holding and the vicinity of the holding; and

(ii) comprises the persons from time to time resident in that postcode unit (or any of those postcode units);

(b) “economic benefits” shall be defined by reference to an increase, or the potential for increase, in employment or income;

(c) “social benefits” shall be defined by reference to the likely—

(i) sustaining of, or increase in, the population; and

(ii) improvement of amenities and services.

(6) In subsection (5)(a) above, “postcode unit” means an area, determined by the Registrar General for Scotland, in relation to which a single postcode is used to facilitate the identification of postal service delivery points in the area.

(7) The Land Court shall, for the purposes of its determining the matters referred to in subsection (2)(b) above, have regard to such representations as it considers may assist in its consideration of those matters.”.

#### Commencement Information

I73 S. 67 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

## 68 Restoration of agricultural holding following mineral exploitation

After section 29 (notice to quit part of holding to be valid in certain cases) of the 1991 Act there is inserted—

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### **“29A Holding to be restored in certain circumstances**

- (1) Subsection (2) below applies where the tenancy of part of an agricultural holding has been terminated by reason of a notice to quit which is rendered valid by virtue of subsections (1)(b) and (2)(f) of section 29 of this Act.
- (2) Where—
  - (a) this subsection applies; and
  - (b) the land which formed that part has subsequently been made suitable for, and is available for, agricultural use,
 that land shall, if the conditions in subsection (3) below are fulfilled, be restored to the holding.
- (3) The conditions are that—
  - (a) the tenancy of the holding continues in force with the same landlord and tenant under the lease; and
  - (b) any compensation paid to the tenant in consequence of the termination was calculated on the basis that the holding would be restored under this section.”.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I74** S. 68 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

### **69 Good husbandry and conservation activities**

- (1) In subsection (2) of section 85 (interpretation) of the 1991 Act, after “shall” there is inserted “, subject to subsections (2A) and (2B) below, ”.
- (2) After that subsection there is inserted—
 

“(2A) For the purposes of this Act, conservation activities are to be treated as being in accordance with the rules of good husbandry if they are carried out in accordance with—

  - (a) an agreement entered into under any enactment by the tenant; or
  - (b) the conditions of—
    - (i) any grant for the purpose of such activities paid out of the Scottish Consolidated Fund; or
    - (ii) such other grant of a public nature as may be prescribed.

(2B) For the purposes of this Act, such use of the land or part of the land, or such change to the land, for a purpose that is not an agricultural purpose as has been permitted under section 40 or 41 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11) is to be treated as being in accordance with the rules of good husbandry.”.

#### **Commencement Information**

**I75** S. 69 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(e) (with Sch.)

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## PART 6

### RIGHTS OF CERTAIN PERSONS WHERE TENANT IS A PARTNERSHIP

#### 70 Rights of certain persons where tenant is a partnership

- (1) Subsection (2) applies to—
  - (a) a 1991 Act tenancy if the lease constituting the tenancy is entered into on or after the coming into force of this section; and
  - (b) a tenancy under a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy or a limited duration tenancy,  
where the tenant is a partnership.
- (2) Where this subsection applies and—
  - (a) any partner is—
    - (i) the landlord or an associate of the landlord; or
    - (ii) a partnership or a company in which the landlord has a relevant interest; and
  - (b) there is any other partner,  
subsections (3) and (4) apply.
- (3) Where this subsection applies, any partner not mentioned in subsection (2)(a) may exercise or enforce any right of a tenant conferred by virtue of this Act or the 1991 Act as if the partner were the tenant in the partner's own right.
- (4) Where this subsection applies, if the tenancy purports to be terminated as a consequence of—
  - (a) the dissolution of the partnership—
    - (i) in accordance with the partnership agreement; or
    - (ii) due to the actings of any partner mentioned in subsection (2)(a);
  - (b) the renunciation of the tenancy by such a partner; or
  - (c) a breach of the tenancy by such a partner,  
subsection (5) applies.
- (5) Where this subsection applies, notwithstanding the purported termination of the tenancy—
  - (a) the tenancy continues to have effect; and
  - (b) any partner not mentioned in subsection (2)(a) becomes the tenant (or a joint tenant) under the tenancy in the partner's own right,  
if the partner gives notice to the landlord in accordance with subsection (6).
- (6) Notice is given in accordance with this subsection if—
  - (a) it is in writing;
  - (b) it is given within 28 days of the purported termination of the tenancy; and
  - (c) it states that the partner intends to become the tenant (or a joint tenant) under the tenancy in the partner's own right.
- (7) For the purposes of this section and section 72, a landlord has a relevant interest in a partnership or company if the landlord or an associate of the landlord is—
  - (a) a partner in the partnership;
  - (b) a partner in a partnership which forms part of the partnership;

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- (c) a shareholder in the company; or
  - (d) the holder of a standard security or floating charge over an interest in a tenancy where the partnership or the company is a partner in the tenant.
- (8) For the purposes of this section and section 72, a person is an associate of a landlord if the person is—
- (a) where the landlord is a partnership or a company, a partner in the landlord or, as the case may be, a shareholder of the landlord;
  - (b) where an associate of the landlord is a partnership or a company, a partner in or, as the case may be, a shareholder of that associate;
  - (c) an agent of the landlord or of an associate of the landlord; or
  - (d) a member of the landlord’s family.
- (9) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify (either or both) subsections (7) and (8).

#### **Commencement Information**

- I76** S. 70(1)-(6)(9) in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, **art. 2(f)** (with Sch.)
- I77** S. 70(7)(8) in force at 22.5.2003 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2003/248, **art. 2**
- I78** S. 70(7)(8) in force at 1.7.2003 for specified purposes by S.S.I. 2003/305, **art. 2**
- I79** S. 70(7)(8) in force at 27.11.2003 in so far as not already in force by S.S.I. 2003/548, **art. 2(f)** (with Sch.)

## **71 Meaning of “family”**

- (1) For the purposes of section 70(8)(d), who the members of a person’s family are is to be construed in accordance with subsections (2) and (3).
- (2) A person (“AG”) is a member of another person’s family if—
- (a) AG is the person’s spouse or AG and the person live together as husband and wife or in a relationship which has the characteristics of the relationship between husband and wife except that AG and the person are of the same sex; or
  - (b) AG is the person’s parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, sibling, uncle, aunt, nephew, niece or cousin.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (2)(b)—
- (a) a relationship by marriage is to be treated as a relationship by blood;
  - (b) a relationship of the half-blood is to be treated as a relationship of the whole blood;
  - (c) if AG is—
    - (i) the stepchild of the person, AG is to be treated as the person’s child;
    - (ii) the step-parent of the person, AG is to be treated as the person’s parent;
  - (d) if AG is brought up or treated by the person as if the person’s child, AG is to be treated as the person’s child.
- (4) The Scottish Ministers may by order modify (any or all) subsections (1) to (3).

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#### Commencement Information

**180** S. 71 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(f) (with Sch.)

## 72 Rights of certain persons where tenant is a limited partnership

- (1) Subsections (2) and (3) apply to a 1991 Act tenancy where the lease constituting the tenancy is entered into before the coming into force of this section and—
  - (a) the tenant is a limited partnership; and
  - (b) any limited partner is—
    - (i) the landlord or an associate of the landlord; or
    - (ii) a partnership or a company in which the landlord has a relevant interest.
- (2) Where this subsection applies, any general partner may exercise or enforce any right of a tenant conferred by virtue of Part 2 of this Act as if the partner were the tenant in the partner's own right unless the conditions mentioned in subsection (5) are met.
- (3) Where this subsection applies and the tenancy purports to be terminated as a consequence of—
  - (a) the dissolution of the partnership by notice served on or after 16th September 2002 by a limited partner mentioned in subsection (1)(b);
  - (b) the renunciation of the tenancy on or after that date by such a partner; or
  - (c) a breach of the tenancy on or after that date by such a partner,subsection (6) applies subject to subsection (4).
- (4) Subsection (6) does not apply if—
  - (a) the conditions mentioned in subsection (5) are met; or
  - (b) the Land Court makes an order under subsection (8).
- (5) For the purposes of subsections (2) and (4)(a), the conditions are—
  - (a) that—
    - (i) a (or the) notice of dissolution of the partnership has been (or was) served before 4th February 2003 by a limited partner mentioned in subsection (1)(b); and
    - (ii) the partnership has been dissolved in accordance with the notice; and
  - (b) that the land comprised in the lease—
    - (i) has been transferred or let;
    - (ii) under missives concluded before 7th March 2003, is to be transferred; or
    - (iii) under a lease entered into before that date, is to be let,to any person.
- (6) Where this subsection applies, notwithstanding the purported termination of the tenancy—
  - (a) the tenancy continues to have effect; and
  - (b) any general partner becomes the tenant (or a joint tenant) under the tenancy in the partner's own right,

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if the general partner gives notice to the landlord within 28 days of the purported termination of the tenancy or within 28 days of the coming into force of this section (whichever is the later) stating that the partner intends to become the tenant (or a joint tenant) under the tenancy in the partner's own right.

(7) Where—

- (a) a tenancy continues to have effect by virtue of subsection (6); and
- (b) the—
  - (i) notice mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) was served before the relevant date; or
  - (ii) thing mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c) of that subsection occurred before that date,

the landlord may, within the relevant period, apply to the Land Court for an order under subsection (8).

(8) An order under this subsection—

- (a) is an order that subsection (6) does not apply; and
- (b) has effect as if that subsection never applied.

(9) The Land Court is to make such an order if (but only if) it is satisfied that—

- (a) the—
  - (i) notice mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) was served otherwise than for the purposes of depriving any general partner of any right deriving from this section; or
  - (ii) thing mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c) of that subsection occurred otherwise than for that purpose; and
- (b) it is reasonable to make the order.

(10) Where—

- (a) a tenancy continues to have effect by virtue of subsection (6); and
- (b) the—
  - (i) notice mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) was served on or after the relevant date; or
  - (ii) thing mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c) of that subsection occurred on or after that date,

section 73 applies.

(11) For the purposes of—

- (a) subsections (7) and (10), the relevant date is such date as the Scottish Ministers may by order specify; and
- (b) subsection (7), the relevant period is the period from the relevant date to such date as they may so specify.

(12) In this section, the expressions, “limited partnership”, “limited partner” and “general partner” are to be construed in accordance with the Limited Partnerships Act 1907 (c. 24).

#### **Commencement Information**

**I81** S. 72(1)(3)-(9)(11)(12) in force at 22.5.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/248](#), [art. 2](#)

**I82** [S. 72\(2\)](#) in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(f\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))



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**183** S. 72(10) in force at 1.7.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/305, art. 2

### **73 Termination of tenancy continued under section 72**

- (1) Where this section applies, subsections (1) to (3) and (5) of section 21 (notice to quit and notice of intention to quit) of the 1991 Act do not apply in relation to the bringing of the tenancy to an end by the landlord.
- (2) Subsections (4), (6) and (7) of that section apply in relation to subsections (3) to (5) as they apply in relation to subsections (1) to (3) and (5) of that section.
- (3) The tenancy may be brought to an end by the landlord if the landlord gives a notice under this subsection to the tenant.
- (4) Subject to subsection (7), a notice under subsection (3) must—
  - (a) be in writing and state that the tenant shall quit the land on the expiry of the stipulated endurance of the lease constituting the tenancy (or, where the lease has continued in force by tacit relocation, on the expiry of a period of continuation); and
  - (b) be given not less than one year nor more than two years before the expiry of the stipulated endurance of the lease (or expiry of the period of continuation), provided that not less than 90 days have elapsed from the date on which the intimation mentioned in subsection (5) is given.
- (5) Subject to subsection (7), a notice under subsection (3) is of no effect unless the landlord has given written intimation of the landlord's intention to terminate the tenancy to the tenant not less than two years nor more than three years before the expiry of the stipulated endurance of the lease (or expiry of the period of continuation).
- (6) The landlord may apply to the Land Court for an order under subsection (7).
- (7) An order under this subsection is an order that, instead of the periods of time mentioned in subsections (4) and (5), such shorter periods as the Land Court may specify are to apply.
- (8) The Land Court is to make such an order if (but only if) it is satisfied that—
  - (a) service of the notice mentioned in paragraph (a) of subsection (3) of section 72, or the thing mentioned in paragraph (b) or (c) of that subsection, occurred otherwise than for the purposes of depriving the tenant (being then a general partner) of any right deriving from section 72; and
  - (b) it is reasonable to make the order.

#### **Commencement Information**

**184** S. 73 in force at 1.7.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/305, art. 2

### **74 Application of right to buy provisions**

The Scottish Ministers may by regulations—

- (a) provide that Part 2, in its application in relation to—
  - (i) partnerships who are tenants; and

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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- (ii) such partners of partnerships as may exercise or enforce any right of tenants conferred by that Part,  
has effect with or subject to such modifications as the regulations may specify;  
and
- (b) make such further provision in relation to such partnerships and partners as they consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of that Part.

#### **Commencement Information**

**185** S. 74 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(f) (with Sch.)

## **PART 7**

### JURISDICTION OF THE LAND COURT AND THE RESOLUTION OF DISPUTES

#### *1991 Act tenancies*

#### **75 Jurisdiction of the Land Court**

For section 60 (questions between landlord and tenant) of the 1991 Act there is substituted—

#### **“60 Resolution of disputes by Land Court**

- (1) The Land Court shall have jurisdiction to hear and determine any of the matters referred to in subsection (2) below.
- (2) Those matters are—
  - (a) whether a tenancy of an agricultural holding in relation to which this Act applies exists or has been terminated;
  - (b) any question or difference between the landlord and tenant of such a holding arising out of the tenancy or in connection with the holding, whether such question or difference arises during the currency of or on or after the termination of the tenancy;
  - (c) any claim by the landlord or tenant of such a holding against the other which arises, under this Act or under any rule of law, custom or agreement, on or out of the termination of the tenancy (or part thereof);
  - (d) any other issue of fact or law relating to—
    - (i) a tenancy of such a holding or any other type of agricultural tenancy; or
    - (ii) agriculture,
 which the landlord or tenant reasonably require to have resolved.
- (3) Such matters include, in particular (and without prejudice to the generality of subsection (2) above), any question or difference between the landlord and tenant arising in relation to Part 2 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11) except any question or difference of fact relating to the determination of the price payable by the tenant for the purposes of that Part of that Act.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

*Changes to legislation: Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (4) Such matters do not include any question as to—
- (a) who is entitled to succeed to the estate of a deceased person on intestacy by virtue of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41);
  - (b) the validity of—
    - (i) any bequest; or
    - (ii) any transfer, of an interest under the lease; or
  - (c) whether any such transfer is in the best interests of the estate of a deceased person.
- (5) The Land Court shall also have jurisdiction to hear and determine any question or difference, between the tenant and any person with whom he has in pursuance of section 10A(1) of this Act entered into a contract assigning his interest under the lease, which arises out of or in connection with the assignment.
- (6) Any application to the Land Court for a matter to be determined by the Court under this Act may be made by either party or by them jointly.
- (7) In the application of this section to any question or difference arising in relation to Part 2 of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11), “landlord” shall be construed as including a creditor in a standard security with a right to sell land (that expression being construed by reference to that Part of that Act) which comprises or forms part of an agricultural holding.
- (8) Any reference in this section to a landlord or tenant of an agricultural holding shall be construed as including a person who was formerly the landlord or tenant thereof.
- (9) Any other provision of an enactment which provides for the determination of a matter by the Land Court is without prejudice to this section.”.

#### Commencement Information

**186** S. 75 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

## 76 Arbitrations etc.

For section 61 (arbitrations) of the 1991 Act there is substituted—

### “61 Agreement to refer matters to arbitration

- (1) Subject to subsection (2) below, where this Act makes provision for any matter to be determined by the Land Court, the matter may, if the landlord and tenant so agree at or after the time when the matter arises, instead of being so determined, be determined by arbitration.
- (2) Subsection (1) above does not apply in relation to any matter which may be determined by the Land Court—
- (a) in pursuance of section 8(6), 11, 12, 22, 26, 32, 39, 41(1), 55(7) or 66(2) or (2A) of this Act; or
  - (b) on appeal.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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- (3) In this Act, other than in section 61A, “arbitration” includes any other method of resolving the matter; and “arbiter” shall be construed accordingly.

#### **61A Arbitration: procedure etc.**

- (1) This section applies to any arbitration to which a matter is referred by the landlord and tenant under section 61(1) of this Act.
- (2) The agreement of the parties to refer the matter to arbitration shall have the effect of depriving each party of his right to—
- (a) have the matter heard (or any issue in relation to the matter determined) by the Land Court (other than on appeal); and
  - (b) agree under section 61(1) of this Act to another method of resolving the matter.
- (3) It shall be for the landlord and tenant to agree whether the arbitration is conducted by—
- (a) a single arbiter; or
  - (b) two arbiters (with or without an oversman),
- and the arbiter or, as the case may be, each arbiter, may be appointed by the parties or by a person nominated by them.
- (4) The procedure to be followed at arbitration (including any matters to be taken into account by the arbiter and the matters to be contained in his award) shall, subject to subsection (5) below, be as the parties agree or, in the absence of such agreement, as the arbiter considers appropriate.
- (5) Any provision of this Act that would apply to the Land Court as respects its consideration or determination of any matter had the matter not been referred to arbitration shall apply as respects the consideration or determination of the matter by arbitration.
- (6) Any party to the arbitration may appeal to the Land Court against the arbiter’s award on a question of law within 28 days of the award; and in an appeal under this subsection the Court may—
- (a) quash, confirm or vary the award or any part of it; and
  - (b) where the Court quashes the award or any part of it—
    - (i) remit the case to the arbiter for further procedure; and
    - (ii) direct the arbiter on any question of law relevant to the case.

#### **61B Clauses in leases as to resolution of disputes**

Any term of—

- (a) a lease of an agricultural holding in relation to which this Act applies; or
- (b) any agreement in connection with such a lease (other than an agreement under section 61(1) of this Act),

that makes provision restricting any right of a landlord or tenant to apply to the Land Court under this Act to have a matter determined by the Court shall, in so far as it makes that provision, be null and void.”

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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#### Commencement Information

187 S. 76 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

*Short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies etc.*

## 77 Resolution of disputes by Land Court

- (1) The Land Court has jurisdiction to hear and determine any of the matters referred to in subsection (2).
- (2) Those matters are—
  - (a) whether—
    - (i) a short limited duration tenancy;
    - (ii) a limited duration tenancy; or
    - (iii) a tenancy to which section 3 applies,exists or has been terminated;
  - (b) any question or difference between the landlord and tenant arising out of or in connection with any such tenancy, whether the question or difference arises during the currency of or on or after the termination of the tenancy;
  - (c) any claim by the landlord or tenant of any such tenancy against the other which arises, by virtue of this Act or under any rule of law, custom or agreement, on or out of the termination of the tenancy or of any part of it;
  - (d) any other issue of fact or law relating to—
    - (i) any such tenancy or a 1991 Act tenancy; or
    - (ii) agriculture,which the landlord or tenant reasonably require to have resolved.
- (3) Such matters do not include any question as to—
  - (a) who is entitled to succeed to the estate of a deceased person on intestacy by virtue of the Succession (Scotland) Act 1964 (c. 41);
  - (b) the validity of
    - (i) any bequest; or
    - (ii) any transfer,of any interest under the lease constituting the tenancy; or
  - (c) whether any such transfer is in the best interests of the estate of a deceased person.
- (4) The Land Court also has jurisdiction to hear and determine any question or difference, between the tenant under a limited duration tenancy and any person with whom the tenant has in pursuance of section 7(1) entered into a contract assigning the tenant's interest under the lease constituting the tenancy, which arises out of or in connection with the assignment.
- (5) Any application to the Land Court for a matter to be determined by the Court by virtue of this Act may be made by either party or by them jointly.
- (6) Any reference in this section to a landlord or tenant of a tenancy is to be construed as including a person who was formerly the landlord or tenant of the tenancy.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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- (7) Any other provision of an enactment which provides for the determination of any matter by the Land Court is without prejudice to this section.

**Commencement Information**

**188** S. 77 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(g\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**78 Agreement to refer matters to arbitration**

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), where by virtue of this Act any matter may be determined by the Land Court, the matter may, if the landlord and tenant so agree at or after the time when the matter arises, instead of being so determined, be determined by—
- (a) arbitration; or
  - (b) any other method of resolving the matter.
- (2) Subsection (1) does not apply in relation to any matter which may be determined by the Land Court—
- (a) in pursuance of section 21, 22 or 49(2); or
  - (b) on appeal.

**Commencement Information**

**189** S. 78 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(g\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**79 Arbitration: procedure etc.**

- (1) This section applies to any arbitration to which a matter is referred by the landlord and tenant under section 78(1)(a).
- (2) The agreement of the parties to refer the matter to arbitration has the effect of depriving each party of the right to—
- (a) have the matter heard (or any issue in relation to the matter determined) by the Land Court (other than on appeal); and
  - (b) agree under section 78(1)(b) to another method of resolving the matter.
- (3) It is for the landlord and tenant to agree whether the arbitration is conducted by—
- (a) a single arbiter; or
  - (b) two arbiters (with or without an oversman),
- and the arbiter or, as the case may be, each arbiter may be appointed by the parties or by a person nominated by them.
- (4) The procedure to be followed at arbitration (including any matters to be taken into account by the arbiter and the matters to be contained in the arbiter's award) is, subject to subsection (5), to be as the parties agree or, in the absence of such agreement, as the arbiter considers appropriate.
- (5) Any provision by virtue of this Act that would apply to the Land Court as respects its consideration or determination of any matter had the matter not been referred to arbitration applies as respects the consideration or determination of the matter by arbitration.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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- (6) Any party to the arbitration may appeal to the Land Court against the arbiter's award on a question of law within 28 days of the award; and in an appeal under this subsection the Court may—
- (a) quash, confirm or vary the award or any part of it; and
  - (b) where the Court quashes the award or any part of it—
    - (i) remit the case to the arbiter for further procedure; and
    - (ii) direct the arbiter on any question of law relevant to the case.

**Commencement Information**

**I90** S. 79 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(g\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**80 Other provisions as to the resolution of disputes**

- (1) Section 62 (claims on termination of tenancy) of the 1991 Act applies to any claim referred to in section 77(2)(c) as it does to any claim referred to in section 60(2)(c) of that Act.
- (2) Section 65 (recovery of compensation and other sums due) of that Act applies to any award or agreement by virtue of this Act as it does to any award or agreement under that Act.
- (3) In section 66 (power to enable demand to remedy breach to be modified) of that Act, subsection (1) applies in relation to a matter which may be determined by the Land Court by virtue of this Act as it does in relation to a matter which may be determined by the Land Court under that Act.

**Commencement Information**

**I91** S. 80 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(g\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

**81 Clauses in leases as to resolution of disputes**

Any term of—

- (a) a lease constituting a short limited duration tenancy, a limited duration tenancy or a tenancy to which section 3 applies; or
- (b) any agreement in connection with such a lease (other than an agreement under section 78(1)),

that makes provision restricting any right of the landlord or tenant to apply to the Land Court by virtue of this Act to have a matter determined by the Court is, so far as it makes that provision, of no effect.

**Commencement Information**

**I92** S. 81 in force at 27.11.2003 by [S.S.I. 2003/548](#), [art. 2\(g\)](#) (with [Sch.](#))

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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*Jurisdiction of the Land Court: further provision*

**82 Amendment of the Scottish Land Court Act 1993**

In the Scottish Land Court Act 1993 (c. 45)—

- (a) in subsection (6) of section 1 (the Land Court)—
  - (i) after the word “enactment” there is inserted “, or under the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11) ”;
  - (ii) for the words “1993,” there is substituted “ 1993 or ”;
  - (iii) the words “or the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991” are repealed; and
  - (iv) after “any” in the third place where it appears there is inserted “ such ”;
- (b) after subsection (7) of that section there is inserted—

“(7A) Subsection (7) above does not apply in respect of proceedings in connection with any matter which may be determined by the Land Court by virtue of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55) or the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003.”; and

- (c) in Schedule 1 (the Land Court)—
  - (i) in sub-paragraph (2) of paragraph 6, after the word “shall” in the first place where it appears there is inserted “, subject to sub-paragraph (3) below ”; and
  - (ii) after that sub-paragraph there is inserted—

“(3) There shall be no such review if the Court, when making a delegation in pursuance of this paragraph in relation to a matter before it in pursuance of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55) or the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11), so orders.”.

**Commencement Information**

**I93** S. 82 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

**83 Power to amend Land Court’s jurisdiction**

The Scottish Ministers may by order modify (any or all)—

- (a) sections 77(2) and 78(2); and
- (b) sections 60(2) and 61(2) (which make provision as to the resolution of disputes) of the 1991 Act.

**Commencement Information**

**I94** S. 83 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)



*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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## 84 Power of Land Court to grant remedies etc.

- (1) Where the Land Court has by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act determined any matter, it may, in relation to the rights of any party, make such order or grant such remedy as it considers appropriate and, in particular, it may make or grant (any or all)—
  - (a) a decree of interdict (including an interim decree);
  - (b) an order *ad factum praestandum* or an order of specific implement (including in either case an interim order);
  - (c) an order of specific restitution;
  - (d) an order of reduction or rectification;
  - (e) an order of removal or ejection (but not an interim order);
  - (f) an order for damages or other substitutionary redress;
  - (g) a declarator.
- (2) Where the Land Court makes an order under subsection (1)(b) in relation to a failure of the landlord to fulfil any obligation the landlord has towards the tenant in respect of fixed equipment, the Court—
  - (a) must specify the date by which the landlord is to comply with the order; and
  - (b) may, following an application by the landlord, specify a later date (in place of the date specified under paragraph (a)) by which the landlord is to comply with the order if it is satisfied that the landlord intends to comply with the order but reasonably requires more time to do so.
- (3) Where a matter before the Land Court by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act concerns the removal or ejection of the tenant from the land to which the tenancy relates, the Court may order the finding of caution, or the giving of such undertaking as the Court considers appropriate, in relation to any liability of the landlord or tenant to the other which may arise from the landlord or, as the case may be, tenant remaining on the land pending the Court's determination of the matter.

### Commencement Information

**I95** S. 84 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

## 85 Remit from Land Court to sheriff or Court of Session

- (1) Where—
  - (a) a matter is before the Land Court for determination by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act; and
  - (b) an action in respect of the matter could competently have been brought before a sheriff or in the Court of Session,the Land Court may (at its own instance or following a request under subsection (2) (a) below) remit the case to the sheriff within whose jurisdiction the action could have been brought, or to the Court of Session, if it considers that to be appropriate.
- (2) Any person with an interest in a matter that is before the Land Court for determination under this Act may make an application—
  - (a) to the Land Court requesting that it remit the matter to the Court of Session under subsection (1) above; or
  - (b) to the Court of Session craving it to require the Land Court so to remit the matter.

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

*Changes to legislation: Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details)*

- (3) Where an application is made under subsection (2)(b) above, the Court of Session may require the Land Court to remit the matter to it if it considers that it would be appropriate for it to determine the matter.

**Commencement Information**

**I96** S. 85 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

**86 Remit to Land Court by sheriff or Court of Session**

- (1) In the Sheriff Courts (Scotland) Act 1971 (c. 58), after subsection (2C) of section 37 (remits) there is inserted—

“(2D) In the case of any action in the sheriff court where the matter to which the action relates could competently be determined by the Land Court by virtue of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55) or the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11), the sheriff may (of his own accord or on the motion of any of the parties) at any stage remit the case to the Land Court if he is of the opinion that it is appropriate to do so.”

- (2) Where an action is before the Court of Session and the matter to which the action relates could competently be determined by the Land Court by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act, it may (at its own instance or on the application of any party to the action) remit the case to the Land Court if it considers that to be appropriate.

**Commencement Information**

**I97** S. 86 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

**87 Transmission of case where contingency**

- (1) The Land Court may, on an application by any of the parties, if it considers that there is contingency between a cause depending before the sheriff and a matter before the Court for determination by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act, grant warrant to the clerk of the sheriff court for transmission of the case to the Land Court.

- (2) In the Court of Session Act 1988 (c. 36), after subsection (2) of section 33 (transmissions to Court on ground of contingency) there is inserted—

“(3) The Court may, on an application by any of the parties, if it is of the opinion that there is contingency between a matter before the Land Court for determination by virtue of the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55) or the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 11) and a cause depending before the Court, grant warrant to the clerk of the Land Court for transmission of the case to the Court from the Land Court.”

**Commencement Information**

**I98** S. 87 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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## 88 Appeal from Land Court to Court of Session

- (1) Subject to subsection (2), any party to a matter determined by the Land Court by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act may appeal to the Court of Session against the determination on a question of law within 28 days of the determination; and in an appeal under this section the Court of Session may—
  - (a) quash, confirm or vary the determination or any part of it; and
  - (b) where the Court quashes the determination or any part of it—
    - (i) remit the case to the Land Court for further procedure; and
    - (ii) direct the Land Court on any question of law relevant to the case.
- (2) A determination by the Land Court in an appeal may not be appealed against under subsection (1).
- (3) The decision of the Court of Session in any appeal made under subsection (1) is final.

### Commencement Information

**I99** S. 88 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

## 89 Expenses in sheriff court and Court of Session

Where the matter to which an action in the sheriff court or before the Court of Session relates could competently be or have been determined by the Land Court by virtue of the 1991 Act or this Act, the sheriff or, as the case may be, the Court must, without prejudice to any rule of law, take account of that fact in deciding what (if any) expenses to award.

### Commencement Information

**I100** S. 89 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

## 90 Conduct of arbiter and setting aside of arbiter's award

- (1) Any person with an interest in a matter determined by an arbitration to which section 61A of the 1991 Act applies or conducted by virtue of section 78(1)(a) of this Act who has reasonable grounds for believing that—
  - (a) the arbiter has misconducted himself during the course of the arbitration; or
  - (b) the arbitration has been improperly procured,may make an application to the Land Court for an order under subsection (2).
- (2) Where, on such an application, the Land Court is satisfied that—
  - (a) the arbiter has so misconducted himself, or the arbitration has been improperly procured, it may make an order setting aside the arbiter's award;
  - (b) the arbiter has so misconducted himself, it may make an order removing the arbiter.

### Commencement Information

**I101** S. 90 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(g) (with Sch.)

*Status: Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.*

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## PART 8

### GENERAL PROVISIONS

#### 91 Orders and regulations

- (1) Any power of the Scottish Ministers to make orders or regulations under this Act is exercisable by statutory instrument.
- (2) Any such power includes power—
  - (a) to make such incidental, supplemental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as the Scottish Ministers consider necessary or expedient; and
  - (b) to make different provision for different purposes.
- (3) A statutory instrument containing—
  - (a) an order under section 18(4)(b)(ii), 25(7), 72(11) or, except where subsection (5) applies, section 92; or
  - (b) regulations under section 25(3) or 26(2),
 is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Parliament.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing—
  - (a) an order under section 27(5), 28(5), 70(9), 71(4) or 83; or
  - (b) regulations under section 36(7) or 74,
 is not made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Parliament.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing an order under section 92 which amends an Act is not made unless a draft of the instrument has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Parliament.

#### 92 Ancillary provision

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order make such incidental, supplemental, consequential, transitional, transitory or saving provision as they consider necessary or expedient for the purposes of or in consequence of this Act.
- (2) An order under subsection (1) may, in particular, amend provisions of any enactment which apply to 1991 Act tenancies or land held under 1991 Act tenancies so as to apply them to short limited duration tenancies and limited duration tenancies or land held under such tenancies.

#### 93 Interpretation

In this Act (unless the context requires otherwise)—

“the 1991 Act” means the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 1991 (c. 55);

“1991 Act tenancy” is to be construed in accordance section 1;

“agriculture” is to be construed in accordance with section 85 (interpretation) of the 1991 Act; and “agricultural” and “non-agricultural” are to be construed accordingly;

“agricultural land” means land used for agriculture for the purposes of a trade or business;

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“fixed equipment” is to be construed by reference to section 85 of the 1991 Act;  
“the Land Court” means the Scottish Land Court;  
“landlord” means any person for the time being entitled to receive the rents under a lease constituting a tenancy and includes the executor, assignee, legatee, donee, guardian, legal representative (within the meaning of Part I of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995 (c. 36)) or permanent or interim trustee (within the meaning of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985 (c. 66)), of a landlord;  
“limited duration tenancy” is to be construed in accordance with section 5;  
“the Parliament” means the Scottish Parliament;  
“short limited duration tenancy” is to be construed in accordance with section 4;  
“tenant” means the holder of land under a tenancy constituted by a lease and includes the executor, assignee, legatee, donee, guardian, legal representative (within the meaning of Part I of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995) or permanent or interim trustee (within the meaning of the Bankruptcy (Scotland) Act 1985), of a tenant;  
“termination”, in relation to a tenancy, means the termination of the lease constituting the tenancy.

#### 94 Amendments to enactments

The schedule, which makes amendments to enactments in consequence of this Act, has effect.

##### Commencement Information

**I102** S. 94 in force at 27.11.2003 by S.S.I. 2003/548, art. 2(h) (with Sch.)

#### 95 Short title, Crown application and commencement

- (1) This Act may be cited as the Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003.
- (2) This Act binds the Crown.
- (3) The provisions of this Act, except this section and sections 91, 92 and 93, come into force on such day as the Scottish Ministers may by order appoint.
- (4) Different days may be so appointed for different provisions and for different purposes.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 15/12/2004.

**Changes to legislation:**

Agricultural Holdings (Scotland) Act 2003 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 13 August 2023. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.