



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

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16th November 2023

Dear Consultee,

Call for Evidence: encouraging good practice in the tenant farming sector and examining the potential role of a Tenant Farming Commissioner in England.

I am writing to invite you to respond to this Call for Evidence to gather in evidence and views to help us explore in more detail:

- The issues identified in [the Rock Review on Tenant Farming](#) about tenant, landlord, land agent/rural surveyors and other advisors' practices and the extent and nature of poor practice in the sector.
- Whether existing complaint routes and dispute mechanisms are effective in addressing any issues of poor practice and if not, how they could be improved in future.
- The role of new mechanisms in addressing poor conduct including: a new Code of Practice on expected standards of responsible conduct for all parties in the sector; and the potential role of a Tenant Farming Commissioner (TFC) for England to provide oversight and scrutiny of practices in the sector.

Alongside evidence already gathered in the Rock Review the views and evidence provided through this targeted industry Call for Evidence will help to inform future policy development in this important area. Agriculture is a devolved matter in the UK and this Call for Evidence and any subsequent policy development relates to England only.

The Call for Evidence will run for 12 weeks, starting on 16th November 2023 and ending on 23:59 on 8th February 2024. All citizen space and email responses to this Call for Evidence should be submitted to Defra by 23:59 on 8th February 2024.

To submit your consultation response please complete the consultation questionnaire provided through Citizen Space (Citizen Space is an online consultation tool). Responses

or additional information or documents can also be sent to:

agriculturaltenancies@defra.gov.uk

The Call for Evidence Citizen Space questionnaire, Call for Evidence document and privacy notice can be found on Citizen Space: <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/farm-tenancy-policy-team/da7bd616>

Confidentiality and data protection

Please find the Consultations Privacy Notice uploaded alongside this Call for Evidence.

This Call for Evidence document and process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office. Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond. Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes. These are primarily the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIRs), the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA). We have obligations, mainly under the EIRs, FOIA and DPA, to disclose information to particular recipients or to the public in certain circumstances.

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the Department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department. This consultation is being conducted in line with the Cabinet Office "Consultation Principles" and be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/consultationprinciplesguidance.

If you have any comments or complaints about the consultation process, please address them to:

Defra Consultation Co-ordinator,
Ground Floor of Seacole,
Desk G125,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1 4DF.

Or email: consultation.coordinator@defra.gov.uk.

Thank you. If you have any queries, please contact us as above.

Yours sincerely, Farm Tenancy Policy Team, Defra