



## Welcome to Morton Fraser's Agricultural and Rural Winter Bulletin (December 2020)

We hope you enjoy our Winter edition of the Bulletin.

This year has been something of a Curate's Egg. It started off so well with the Team buzzing about the prospects for the year ahead and Alistair and I had our very successful trip to Denmark in support of clients there, just before Covid struck. We then had to contend with the untimely and very sad passing of our colleague James Rust which was a great blow to the Team. Since then we have picked ourselves up and continue to deliver the service our clients need and deserve.

Now that there appears to be a vaccination light at the end of the tunnel we hope to be able to see many of you next year and wish you and your families a Merry (and safe) Christmas and Happy New Year.

As ever if you have any friends or colleagues who you think might enjoy the Bulletin please ask them to contact me and I can add them to the list of recipients.

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### Upcoming changes to grouse moor management in Scotland



[Gail Watt](#) summarises the latest measures proposed by the Scottish Government in respect of the management of grouse moors.

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### What do the new immigration rules mean for agricultural jobs?

[Stuart McWilliams](#) sets out how the UK's new Points Based Immigration System shall affect agricultural and rural employment from 1 January 2021.

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### Electronic Signatures in Scotland



[Alexandru Iliescu](#) considers the availability and suitability of electronic signatures in Scotland.

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### Understanding the Woodland Carbon Code

A useful summary by [Alexandru Iliescu](#) of the Woodland Carbon Code and the opportunities that it presents for landowners in Scotland.

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### Environmental Considerations in Agricultural and Rural Property Transaction



[Isabel MacSwan](#) sets out the environmental matters that can crop up in agricultural sale and purchase transactions.

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### Invitation to join Scottish Land and Estates' regional hubs

Scottish Land and Estates (SLE) are keen to establish regional hubs in East Lothian and the Borders for SLE members, building on the success of our Midlothian Estates Group, an existing SLE member hub in Midlothian. The proposed hubs would be made up of members of one region and provide an excellent forum to share thoughts and concerns, as well as discuss matters affecting the area.

The meetings will be organised by SLE and would be held quarterly, lasting approximately one hour. Relevant SLE policy team colleagues would be invited to attend and they will be able to provide relevant updates and advice, with the opportunity to bring in external speakers.

A number of members have already expressed an interest in being part of these groups and we hope to have them set up in the coming months. If you would like more information or to sign up, please contact Clare Sturla, South East Regional Support Officer; [clare.sturla@scottishlandandestates.co.uk](mailto:clare.sturla@scottishlandandestates.co.uk) or 07483 054 290.

For further information please visit our [Agricultural and Rural](#) section on the Morton Fraser website or contact Linsey, our Partner, on 07771 371 890 or at [linsey.barclay-smith@morton-fraser.com](mailto:linsey.barclay-smith@morton-fraser.com), or Alistair, our Consultant, on 07717 227 414 or at [alistair.anderson@morton-fraser.com](mailto:alistair.anderson@morton-fraser.com).

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