

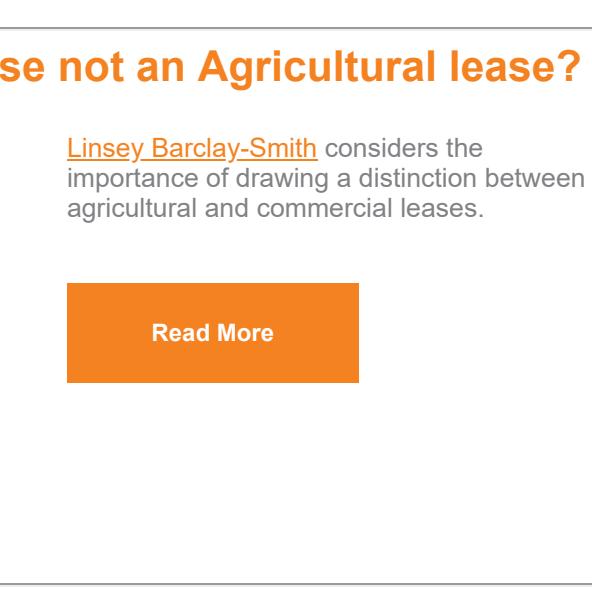


## Welcome to Morton Fraser's Agricultural and Rural Autumn Bulletin (September 2020)

This Autumn Bulletin is the first issued since the recent untimely passing of our dear friend and colleague James Rust WS, who was with Morton Fraser for over 30 years and was the Head of the Agricultural and Rural Property Team. James is much missed by his colleagues and clients.

As James would have wished, the Team is determined to continue to deliver an excellent service to you, our clients and professional colleagues. In doing so we will endeavour to ensure that we honour his memory.

This Bulletin is part of that service and we hope you enjoy the content.



### When is an Agricultural lease not an Agricultural lease?



[Linsey Barclay-Smith](#) considers the importance of drawing a distinction between agricultural and commercial leases.

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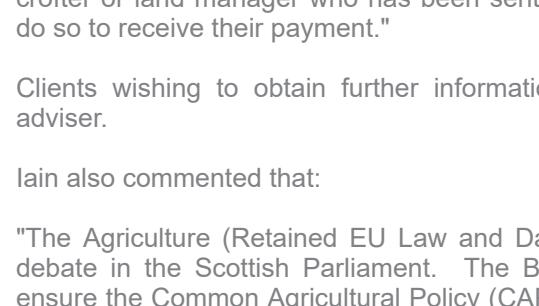
### Forestry - A Growing Investment

[Alistair Anderson](#) and Simon Hart, Business Development Manager at Crieff, discuss the potential goldmine of forestry investment.

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### The importance of the Forestry industry in Scotland to combat climate change



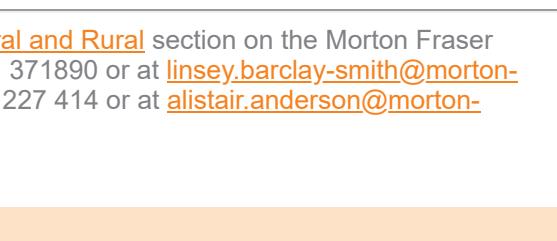
Trainee Solicitor [Elizabeth Holehouse](#) reflects on the importance of Scottish forestry in a wider global context. Elizabeth has recently left the team for her next 6-month seat in a new department, and we wish her all the best!

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### Getting back to Nature

[Alex Iliescu](#) discusses responsible use of outdoor access and enjoying nature.

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### An update from Iain Carmichael (Agriculture Operational Projects & Estates) at the Scottish Government

"This year with the unprecedented and difficult times caused by COVID-19 and with the end of the Brexit transition period looming the Scottish Government established the 2020 National Basic Payment Support Scheme ("NBPSS20"). This offers early access for farmers, crofters and land managers to financial support to maintain vital cash flow within the rural economy that they would not normally receive until December. So far over £320 million has been paid out. Any farmer, crofter or land manager who has been sent an offer should consider returning their loan offer to do so to receive their payment."

Clients wishing to obtain further information should contact the department or their farming adviser.

Iain also commented that:

"The Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Bill has passed Stage 3, following a debate in the Scottish Parliament. The Bill creates powers that enable Scottish Ministers to ensure the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) can continue beyond this year, as well as retaining the ability to make improvements to the scheme following Brexit. It also improves the legal basis for collecting information about the agri-food supply chain and activities relating to agriculture."

For further information please visit our [Agricultural and Rural](#) section on the Morton Fraser website or contact Linsey, our Partner, on 07771 371890 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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