



Press Release

New Start Scotland is up to us

The virus tragedy gives Scotland the chance of a new start – SLRG is calling on civil society to take the initiative.

To realise the natural aspirations of the community, we want everyone to engage in wide-ranging reforms that would constitute a New Enlightenment. The SLRG reveals how this can be funded. Proposals by SLRG economists for fuelling Scotland's successful social and economic emergence from the Coronavirus epidemic are put forward in a [new booklet](#) published today.

Why is it 'up to us'? Given that we shall each be obliged to help foot the bill for our governments' antiviral measures, we are individually entitled to be involved in creatively planning the strategy to restart Scotland after the pandemic. We are not criticising medical precautions based on expert advice. Rather, we focus on the Scotland's future fiscal arrangements.

A return to 'business as usual' will not be sufficient. That would leave Scots forced to endure the widespread discomforts flowing from tax breaks designed to favour site owners. Taxes which leave public service impoverished.

We invite a [national conversation](#) to build an effective strategy to reconnect Scots with the surplus they each help to produce. The national focus on surviving Coronavirus offers Scots a suitable moment to demand the roll-out of an alternative fiscal plan: freeing the wealth producers (Scotland's workers and innovators) to perform to their full potential; then *sharing* Scotland's growing surplus fairly.

New Start Scotland is up to us booklet at

https://slrg.scot/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/New-Start-Scotland.web_-1.pdf

National Conversation at

<https://slrg.scot/new-start-scotland-the-conversation/>

The Scottish Land Revenue Group

The group was formed in 2014 to promote Annual Ground Rent (aka Land Value Tax) as a highly desirable replacement source of state revenue.

We aim to show how Scotland would prosper by moving away from destructively taxing legitimate economic activity (jobs and trade), and look to socially-created land values as an alternative source of public revenue that would allow prosperity to both grow *and be shared*.

Scotland has fought hard to achieve a degree of independence over tax policy. Recently devolved powers over income tax rates and bands, coupled with existing powers over local taxation, allow Holyrood to re-structure its tax system to make it much fairer and more efficient. It has not done so.

We have a core steering group and a more general mailing list. Our economists, tax specialists and land users seek wider discussion on the merits of collecting Economic Rent as state revenue. We hold public events periodically.

AGR

Annual Ground Rent, as prescribed by Adam Smith, is our preferred term for the collection of the socially produced surplus or net income as state revenue. Whilst better known as Land Value Tax, the levy is immune to the heavy *deadweight losses* (UK £500bn+/yr) inherent to taxes on wages and trade and is better defined as an accurate charge for the combined services/amenities provided by society and nature that people choose to access.

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