



NEWS RELEASE

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Crofting Federation cheered by number of candidates for commission elections

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) welcomed the high number of nominations for the Crofting Commission elections citing it as a very positive sign for crofting.

“The number of people willing to stand as candidates for the forthcoming Crofting Commission elections is very heartening,” said Russell Smith, Chair of the Scottish Crofting Federation. It shows that crofters care about the survival of crofting and the Crofting Commission. There is a resilience within the crofting community and the will to move on.

On the closing of the nominations last Friday, a total of 16 candidates have stood for election. There are 3 contesting East Highlands, 5 contesting South West Highlands, 4 contesting West Highlands and 2 contesting the Western Isles. Caithness & Orkney and Shetland put up one candidate each so there will be no need to hold elections in those constituencies.”

Mr Smith continued, “It is very positive that so many have stood to be counted in the Highland constituencies, especially in the South West. The Western Isles have 2 candidates but it was disappointing that Scottish Government did not take the opportunity to create further constituencies in such a large area. Orkney has relatively few crofts now so it is perhaps no surprise to have only one nomination but it is disappointing that Shetland only put forward one candidate when it has so many well-worked crofts.

“But we have enough candidates to run an election and to form a new Commission with crofter representation. That is what this is all about. We now need a good turnout to vote on 16th March, and await the Scottish Government to make the remaining appointment.”

END

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