



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Scottish Crofting Federation welcomes HIE and Crofting Commission collaboration promise**

Following HIE and the Crofting Commission's announcement at the Black Isle Show that they aim to work collaboratively to further support crofting, SCF chair Russell Smith commented: "The Scottish Crofting Federation welcomes all support for crofting as it can only benefit our members. Since the crofting development role was transferred to HIE from the Crofting Commission, support has been concentrated on community development rather than purely on crofting matters.

"This move may herald more focus on crofting, which provides the bedrock for many communities in the north and west. Without crofting there might not be a community at all in some places, as population drifts away to the towns. As Mr Ewing says, 'a successful crofting sector helps our rural communities to thrive'.

"This is a small step, but we expect far more and maintain our view that the Commission is still the most suitable vehicle to deliver real progress on crofting development, considering its accumulated expertise and experience in this area. Of course all announcements and initiatives will remain effectively meaningless unless they are backed up by the commitment of adequate resources.

"There is no mention of extra funding in the announcement, so we will have to see what comes out of the collaborative working proposals. We have in the past discussed common initiatives round the table with HIE and the Commission and are happy to contribute where we can."

END

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#### **Notes to editors**

- A picture can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>