



## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Use: Immediate**

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### **Scottish Crofting Federation welcomes increase in provision for Crofting Commission**

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has welcomed the Scottish Government draft budget in which the Crofting Commission is due to see an increase in its available resource for 2018/19.

“Crofting very clearly provides for rural Scotland,” said Russell Smith, chair of the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF), “and it is heartening to see that Scottish Government recognise this and the importance of resourcing the Crofting Commission to do its job in administering crofting.

In the recently announced Scottish Government Draft Budget, allocation to the Crofting Commission for the coming financial year 2018/19 has increased by £0.3 million. Furthermore it has also been announced that the Less Favoured Areas will be supported to 100% for 2018 after all, following a change in policy in Brussels.

“In these times marked with uncertainty, austerity and frugality,” continued Mr Smith, “it is even the more gratifying that, following the SCF response to the recent consultation in which we emphasised the necessity to fund the Commission appropriately, Scottish Government have chosen to maintain and, indeed, increase spending on the regulation and development of this essential sector. We are also very pleased that Scottish Government have delayed the reduction of LFASS to 80% for the coming year.”

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