



NEWS RELEASE

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SCF GAINING ON REFORM BILL, BUT A WAY TO GO

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) had meetings with MSP's across all parties in Edinburgh last week to discuss progress being made in getting a more workable Crofting Reform Bill.

Norman Leask, SCF Parliamentary Spokesman said "we are very pleased with the progress we have made on getting revisions to the bill and more unacceptable parts of the bill dropped, such as the housing burden. After intense lobbying we have also managed to also get the fee for croft registration down from £250 to a maximum of £130 and we are confident we can get it down further. Every croft is going to have to register eventually so getting the fee reduction is very beneficial for all crofters. This demonstrates how a representative organisation working with our MSP's and government can get change. It is vital that crofters stand together as the next year is critical for the future of crofting."

The Crofting Reform (Scotland) Bill was laid before the Scottish Parliament on 9th December. It has been revised from the draft, mostly through the more contentious parts being cut out. There now follows the period of scrutiny by the Rural Affairs and Environment Committee of the Scottish Parliament and submissions may be made to the committee.

Marina Dennis, Chair of the SCF's working group on crofting reform, added "Many crofters perhaps do not realise the amount of work that goes on behind the scenes, the government has listened to us and changed the bill. The SCF is the only organisation dedicated to representing crofters and my hope is that more crofters will join us in this campaign to make our voice even stronger."

END

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Notes to editors

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