



NEWS RELEASE

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CROFTERS WELCOME VOLUNTARY BLUE-TONGUE VACCINATION

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) welcomed the news that next year blue-tongue vaccination will be voluntary.

Ena MacDonald, Chair of SCF Uist and Barra, who has been leading a campaign against compulsory vaccination, said "at last they are seeing sense. The SCF has lobbied very hard to get a change in this regime that was causing so many problems for no discernable benefit on the islands."

Last year saw the spread of the Blue Tongue Virus across Europe and vaccination was made compulsory in Scotland – though not in England.

Ms MacDonald again "of course no one wants blue-tongue to get a hold but compulsory vaccination was over the top for islands which have much more controllable livestock movements. We are very pleased that the Chief Vet has listened to us and has taken the decision to make it voluntary."

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Notes to editors

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