



NEWS RELEASE

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CROFTERS WELCOME BULL SCHEME REPRIEVE

The Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) welcomed the decision by (former) Minister for Environment Michael Russell to delay changes to the crofting Cattle Improvement Scheme until a review team has investigated and reported back with possible alternatives.

SCF parliamentary spokesman Norman Leask said "this has been an issue the SCF has put a great deal of effort into as we appreciate how much the bull scheme means to crofters and to retaining cattle on the hill. We are very happy to see that the minister listened to what we have been saying, and to his colleagues in other parties who have also taken up the issue, and has decided to give the opportunity for a specialised group to look at this more closely and to come up with recommendations".

The minister for environment Michael Russell announced that a review group would be set up to look at the cattle improvement scheme and would be expected to report back this autumn. In effect this means that the current scheme will continue for another year.

Mr Leask again "unfortunately consultation was noticeably lacking in the original decision to close the scheme without any viable alternatives being suggested. We appreciate that there are always other ways of doing things but these need to be assessed before a decision can be made on how to proceed. We are gratified to see that Michael Russell has been big enough to recognise this."

"May I also take the opportunity to wish Mr Russell well in his new post as Minister for Culture and to welcome Roseanna Cunningham in to the post of Minister for Environment and crofting".

END

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Notes to editors

Pictures can be found at: <http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/home>