

## Committee of Inquiry on Crofting public meeting announcement

The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting is set to continue its tour around Scotland when it visits:

Monday 16 July	Inverness
Tuesday 17 July	Kirkwall
Wednesday 18 July	Mid Yell
Thursday 19 July	Lerwick

To gather views and opinions from the local communities on the future of crofting

The Committee of Inquiry on Crofting was established by Ministers to consider what further reforms are necessary following the passing of the Crofting Reform Act earlier this year. The Committee will engage with crofting communities to develop a vision for the future of crofting, including its legal, institutional, regulatory and financial basis. This will lead to recommendations to government in the New Year.

The tour, which started at the beginning of June, is to enable the Committee to listen directly to people's views on the subject. The visits are an opportunity for people to add their voice to the Inquiry. The debates that took place last year on the Crofting Reform Bill showed that people have strong views and the Inquiry is seeking to hear people's opinions.

The Committee visited the Isle of Skye, Oban, Sutherland and Wester Ross during the month of June and beginning of July. Meetings have been structured around small group discussions to ensure everyone has a chance to speak about what is important to them.

Professor Mark Shucksmith, Chair of the Inquiry, said: "We are very pleased with the way the public meetings have gone so far. There has been a strong turnout and those who attended were keen to give us their views and to get involved in discussions about the future. We have learned a great deal and heard some useful ideas. I hope the meetings we have planned elsewhere will be just as useful."

Mark explains: "The meeting is a chance for people to discuss what matters to them and, wherever possible, we are keen to give attendees the chance to speak directly to a member of the Committee."

The Inquiry has issued a call for evidence and packs containing questions are now available at meeting venues. Or people can contact the Inquiry directly for a pack. Further details and contact information are available on the Inquiry's website at <http://croftinginquiry.org/>

**ENDS**

Monday 16 July - **INVERNESS - 7.15pm Craigmonie Hotel**

Tuesday 17 July - **KIRKWALL - 12.00 noon, Kirkwall Town Hall**

Wednesday 18 July - **MID YELL - 7.15pm, Mid Yell Community Hall**

Thursday 19 July - **LERWICK - 7.15pm, Shetland Museum**

Tuesday 24 July - **TIREE - 7.15pm An Talla, Village Hall**

Wednesday 25 July - **BOWMORE - 6.15pm, Ionad Chaluum Chille Ile**

Thursday 26 July - **BRODICK - 7.15pm, Brodick Community Hall**