



NEWS RELEASE

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CONCERN ABOUT COSTS OF NEW CROFTING REGISTER

Delegates at the annual Crofting Law Group conference held in Portree last Friday (21 September) were shown progress towards the new Crofting Register.

The creation of a map-based record of crofts as one of the national Registers of Scotland is amongst several recent crofting law reforms. Others include the winding-up of the Crofters Commission after 56 years and the establishment of a partly-elected Crofting Commission, which came into being last April.

More than 70 lawyers, land agents and crofters were shown how registration of crofts would take place. The new Register will probably open later this year but the fees to be charged have yet to be fixed.

In a presentation on behalf of the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF), chairman Derek Flynn expressed concern that the cost of not only providing maps of their crofts but also information about neighbouring land might fall unfairly on those crofters who had no easy access to such information. Mr Flynn told the delegates, "The SCF welcomes the Crofting Register but it should not fall on the tenants and owner-occupiers of crofts to do the Commission's work."

Meanwhile, the SCF continues to promote community mapping as a more accurate, cheaper and quicker method of registering croft boundaries, and resulting in less disputes. Townships wanting to know more should contact the SCF office at Kyle (or visit their web-site at www.crofting.org).

END

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