

**Subject:** FMD RESTRICTIONS AND THE ISLANDS

**Dear all,**

**The letter below was sent to us from the Scottish Government:**

**FMD RESTRICTIONS AND THE ISLANDS**

Over the course of the last couple of days, we have had a number of requests for clarification from crofters and others with regard to the restrictions on the movement of susceptible animals as they apply to the Scottish Islands. I thought it would be helpful to explain what restrictions are in place and the rationale behind them.

When the FMD restricted zone was declared on 13th September, we recognised the special position of the islands, and ensured that they were excluded from the area over which FMD movement restrictions were put in place. As such, the islands (including Skye) are still operating under their pre-August movement regime, i.e. 30-day standstill, etc. Movements of livestock can take place as normal within and directly between islands, and gatherings can be held. From 14th September, movements of store animals from the islands to single destinations on the mainland were also permitted. As such, it would be helpful if you could help spread the word to your members that there are no FMD related restrictions on the islands and the normal activities including sales continue to go ahead.

In allowing animals off the islands, we have put in place a requirement for single drop offs only. We recognise the additional economic costs of this move, which is a very temporary measure. However, whilst there is still uncertainty with regard to disease spread on the mainland, there are risks associated with multiple movements between farm premises. In 2001, the movement of vehicles between farms was identified as a cause of a number of cases of FMD, and may be a cause of the recent spread in Surrey.

I am happy to provide further information if your members need it.

Yours sincerely

**NEIL RITCHIE**

**Tel. 0131 2444459**