



NEWS RELEASE

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CROFTING FOUNDATION WELCOMES RELETTING ACTION IN SKYE

The Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) has welcomed Crofters Commission action to require reletting proposals from the owners of three unused crofts at Harrapool in Skye. SCF has made repeated calls for the Commission to use its powers to make such neglected crofts available to those seeking a croft tenancy.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said, "It is good news that the Crofters Commission is at long last to exercise its powers in this regard. However we must bear in mind that the situation in Harrapool has been created by the Commission itself allowing repeated subdivision of a croft for speculative reasons. In our response to the Crofting Reform Bill last year we asked for a minimum area to be set beyond which subdivision would not be allowed."

The subdivision of the Harrapool croft has been the subject of criticism locally as merely a means of selling off lucrative house sites on what was a good croft.

Mr. Leask continued, "I hope this will remind owner occupiers and absentee owners of crofts that the land they own remains registered croft land and as such is subject to regulation. The Commission's action is the start of a very necessary process to bring back into use neglected and vacant crofts. We look forward to similar action throughout the crofting counties."

Continuing the positive theme, SCF understands that a croft on the fertile west coast of Harris, which had attracted media attention when it was offered for sale by an absentee as five house sites, has now been assigned to a young local family following protests from the Foundation to the selling agents.

END

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Notes to editors

Picture can be found at: http://www.croftingfoundation.co.uk/index.php/contact_headoffice

