



**CROFTERS COMMISSION**

UGHDARRAS NAN CROITEARAN



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **LOCAL CROFTING NETWORK TO BE STRENGTHENED**

A successful Crofters Commission conference in Inverness concluded today with an agreement to revitalise the network of local Crofting Assessors, who assist the Commission with local crofting matters. The conference had focused on resolving uncertainty on the role and function of assessors and providing a clear vision for the future. Speakers included a number of assessors and new entrants to crofting.

All existing assessors are invited to continue in the role to ensure the flow of information remains constant. In the meantime discussions on practical arrangements for choosing Assessors was announced by Crofters Commission Chairman David Green.

David Green said “We have listened carefully to the message from the floor. It is now time for action. Our Assessors bring a wealth of practical experience and we need to demonstrate to them that we value their role as the eyes and ears of the Crofters Commission throughout the crofting counties. It was clear from the floor that there is an enthusiasm for selecting a wide range of people as Assessors, including getting more young people and women involved.”

The Commission, Assessors and the Scottish Crofting Foundation will jointly agree local processes for choosing Assessors, perhaps using nomination from grazings committees, direct election or other methods favoured in a particular area.

Scottish Crofting Foundation Chairman Norman Leask said “We are delighted with the outcome of this conference and in particular by the way the Commission has committed to act on the recommendations coming forward. This is a really positive step. Stronger links between the Commission and crofters can only be a good thing. We look forward to a revitalised system of Assessors very shortly.”

END

<u>Ends</u>	<u>Contact:</u>	David Green, Chairman Crofters Commission	Tel. 07747 007144
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