



NEWS RELEASE

Date 20/9/07

CHINK OF LIGHT FOR MAINLAND PRODUCERS AS LIMITED MOVEMENTS ALLOWED

Limited movement of animals within the same business are permitted since noon today, in a relaxation of restrictions which will be of some benefit to crofters and farmers on the Scottish mainland. Movements no greater than 8Km will be allowed, subject to conditions in the licence.

SCF Chairman Norman Leask said “this small step will be helpful to move animals stranded on the wrong side of public roads and onto other grazing. The situation on the mainland is still dire though, with lambs and cast ewes unable to go to sale, and increasingly people needing to get hogs off for wintering. We are grateful for the huge efforts being made by the government and officials in relaxing restrictions wherever veterinary risk assessment allows it and we will be continuing to press for urgent freeing up on movements wherever possible. We are in constant contact with Ministers and government officials, in a situation which changes almost hourly.”

The situation in the islands has been slightly improved by the ability to move animals to a single site on the mainland and the speed with which auction marts have acted to hold and advertise sales. However, it is clear that the restrictions in place on transport are slowing movements of animals down considerably. We have written today to Highlands and Islands MPs backing government calls for derogation on drivers hours to help deal with the backlog”.

END

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