

NEWS RELEASE

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SCOTTISH CROFTING FOUNDATION LAUNCHES HOUSING STUDY

Scottish Crofting Foundation (SCF) launched its 'Housing on Crofting Land' study at its Skye and Lochalsh Area AGM at Sligachan Hotel on Thursday night. The purpose of the study is to identify ways in which crofting communities can make land available for affordable housing without damaging crofting interests or encouraging speculation. The study will be carried out by Derek Logie of the Rural Housing Service, who has enabled many low-cost housing projects in rural Scotland. Derek will be assisted by Tiree-based housing worker Clare Jones. The study is the first of its kind to look specifically at the unique circumstances of crofting tenure.

SCF Area Director John Laing said, Affordable housing is a crucial issue in Skye and Lochalsh, and increasingly so throughout the crofting counties. The loss of good crofting land and whole crofts to speculative housing is unsustainable. The SCF housing study will focus on ways of releasing poorer land to provide sites for local, economically-active people to build on. We are fortunate to have secured the services of Derek as one of Scotland's leading experts on rural housing to carry out the research.

The housing study is funded by Highlands and Islands Enterprise, the Crofters Commission, Highland Council, Argyll and Bute Council and Comhairle nan Eilean Siar.

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