



NEWS RELEASE

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Scottish Crofting Federation welcomes assurances from Mundell for post-Brexit agriculture

Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has welcomed the assurances given by Secretary of State for Scotland, David Mundell, on the outlook for Scottish agriculture post-Brexit.

"The meeting with Mr Mundell last week to discuss the shape of Scottish agriculture was certainly upbeat," said Russell Smith, chair of the SCF. It is good to hear optimism in the context of Brexit, though whether founded on fact or aspiration is not clear. Mr Mundell assured us that trade deals will be done and that agriculture will not be sold out as part of these deals.

"Food standards will not be compromised, which is essential for Scotland and for crofting particularly, as we have a unique place in the high welfare, high provenance niche," Smith continued. "And remote rural communities will be supported, though there was no detail as to how exactly.

"The shape of the deal will be known by the autumn and the UK-wide framework will be agreed, not imposed, Mr Mundell guaranteed.

"So the future is bright, according to the Secretary of State for Scotland," Mr Smith concluded, "and if he doesn't know, who does?"

END

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Notes to editors

- A picture of Mr Smith can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>