



NEWS RELEASE

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CROFTING FEDERATION REITERATES CALL FOR EXTERNAL REVIEW OF "COMMISSION MISBEHAVIOUR"

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has reiterated its call on Scottish Ministers to intervene in the crofting common grazings debacle and to instigate an external examination of the Crofting Commission, following revelations of a cover-up.

"The Crofting Commission are lying to us' would perhaps be too strong an accusation" the chair of the SCF, Fiona Mandeville, said, "but it is clear that they are spinning distortions. Saying one thing and then trying to hide the evidence that they have indeed said something else in the past is duplicitous to say the least.

"This has gone far enough" Ms Mandeville continued. "It seems we can no longer hope that the Commission will come clean and will behave honourably. We have encouraged the Commission all along to allay the fears of crofters and to try to rebuild confidence. With the recent public statements they at last appeared to be moving around to the right direction, but with this 'cover-up' exposed they have now drastically reduced confidence further. We reiterate our petition that the Scottish Ministers intervene and ensure that an impartial examination of the Commission's recent conduct is carried out by a competent external body.

Ms Mandeville concluded, "This is extremely disappointing. It seems that the only way to deal with this is through an external audit of the Commission's misbehaviour over the common grazings. And we do mean a full audit."

END

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Notes to editors

- Pictures can be found at: <http://www.crofting.org>