



NEWS RELEASE

Use: Immediate

Date: 18/01/2022

Crofting Federation urges crofters to exercise their rights by standing for election

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has urged crofters to stand for election as a commissioner in the March elections, saying that having a democratic commission is a hard-won right.

"The Crofters Commission used to consist only of government appointments," said Donald MacKinnon, chair of the SCF, "but following the most comprehensive survey of crofters since Napier, the Committee of Inquiry on Crofting, crofters got the right to have a majority of elected members of the Crofting Commission from 2011. As far as I know, this is the only government agency that has a majority elected board and it is essential that crofters exercise this right."

In order to stand for election, a completed nomination form should be submitted to the Office of the Returning Officer and must be received no later than 17:00 on Thursday 27 January. Nomination forms and other documents relating to the election can be downloaded from the Crofting Commission website or if you want a paper copy please phone the commission.

The Commission electoral area is divided into 6 constituencies, comprising the areas:

- 1 Shetland
- 2 Caithness and Orkney
- 3 East Highlands (East Sutherland, Easter Ross, East Inverness and Moray)
- 4 Western Isles
- 5 West Highlands (West Sutherland, Wester Ross, Skye & Lochalsh)
- 6 South West Highlands (Lochaber, Argyll & Bute, Arran & Cumbrae, Small Isles)

Elections will take place in each constituency where more than one valid nomination is received, on 17th March 2022.

Mr MacKinnon added, "This is a crucial role to play in this unique, regulated system. It is a system of land tenure only found in the Highland and Islands of Scotland and has bestowed many benefits, not only being the core of communities in these areas, but also leading the way in High Nature Value land use. We need to show-case this system as the way forward for all land-use in Scotland and being a crofting commissioner gives you the opportunity to contribute directly to this."

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