



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **CROFTING FEDERATION PLACES CREATION OF CROFTS AT HEART OF LAND REFORM**

In its response to the Scottish Government consultation on land reform, Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) asserts that the creation of new crofts is a process that needs to be re-started and crofting legislation be rolled out across Scotland as originally intended.

"We think that the creation of new crofts is a means of addressing a fundamental principle of land reform – that more land should be used by more people", said Donald MacKinnon, chair of the SCF. "Crofting legislation was originally intended for all of Scotland and we see it as a model of land tenure that would help to deliver a sustainable Scotland. You only have to compare crofting areas to non-crofting areas to see the benefits – most of Scotland's High Nature Value areas are in croft tenure and we have thriving communities where there is crofting.

"We support the proposal that there should be a Public Interest Test (PIT) where large areas of land are owned by an individual, family, business, trust or agency – and by large we are talking about anything over 500 hectares. If a transfer failed the PIT, it would be an opportunity to compel the land owner to create a number of crofts. The size of crofts would be appropriate to the land management in the area and the number of crofts would depend on size."

Mr MacKinnon continued, "We think that crofting has worked very well as a tenancy system and would welcome the suggestion of a new Land Use Tenancy modelled on crofting legislation. We reiterate that the crofting model of land use and tenure is appropriate to be rolled out across the whole of Scotland, for all small tenanted holdings.

Mr MacKinnon concluded, "If we want radical land reform in Scotland, crofting legislation did exactly that in 1886 but was stopped in its roll-out. Get the existing regulation of croft land in order and restart the process."

**END**