

SCF Background

The Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) was registered in 2001 as a charitable limited company to take over and further develop the Scottish Crofters Union's role, established in 1985, in representing crofters and crofting in shaping rural development and environmental policies, initiatives and opportunities. As the only member-led organisation that is dedicated to the representation of crofting, SCF is in a unique position to lead the development of Scotland's crofting system and be the forerunner in the broader debate on the way forward for Scotland's most peripheral rural communities, small-scale food production and high nature value agriculture.

The SCF is governed by a board of directors who are elected by the membership or co-opted by the board. The directors and staff are informed and advised by a council of area representatives. Policy positions are formed jointly by the board and council, all of whom are volunteers selected for their local knowledge and expertise. The organisation is governed by the SCF Memorandum and Articles of Association, registered with Companies House and the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator.

The majority of SCF members are active crofters, but there is also a substantial proportion who are not crofters themselves, but who value crofting and wish to see it survive and flourish. The membership forms a key input to the SCF's broader operations and policy positions, helping ensure local engagement while also providing a structure for local initiatives.

SCF currently has five payroll staff; a membership services administrator, a financial administrator and an assistant administrator, based in the HQ office in Kyle, and a policy coordinator and a chief executive who work from home. We also have several self-employed staff managing projects from across the crofting areas.

SCF is a charity, a voluntary organisation and exists within the Scottish Third Sector. The organisation achieves the substantial standing it has through the input of its volunteers. Its core income base is annual membership subscriptions and we get some restricted funding for specific work.