

A crofting guide to helpful organisations

Frequently asked questions

More information about these organisations, including contact details, can be found at the end of this document

Q: I'd like to find out what grants and subsidies I can apply for, who do I speak to?

A: The Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Division (SGRPID) are responsible for most grant and subsidy schemes, such as CAGS (crofting improvement grants, formerly run by the Crofting Commission), and the Basic Payment Scheme (BPS) and Less Favoured Area Support Scheme (LFASS) payments.

Q: I'd like to decroft a part of my croft for a house site, who do I apply to?

A: The Crofting Commission. In addition, they are responsible for other regulatory applications such as apportionments, assignations, and sublets.

Q: How can I check my croft boundaries?

A: If your croft is registered, the boundaries will be available on the Registers of Scotland (ROS) Crofting Register website. In addition, the Crofting Commission maintain the Register of Crofts (RoC) which is a non-map based register, where details of croft size, shareholding, etc. are available.

Q: How do I find out details of a resumption on my croft?

A: The Scottish Land Court will have these details.

Q: I want to start keeping livestock, where do I start?

A: A guide is available on the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) website at <https://www.fas.scot/publication/registering-a-croft-or-small-holding-for-cattle-and-sheep/>. In addition to this guide, FAS offers a wide range of advice to Scottish agriculture.

Q: I want to register to keep livestock, who do I need to inform?

A: You should contact the Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA, the ministry vets) to register you and your croft with them. They will issue you a flock/herd mark that you can then use to order tags.



Q: How do I move cattle/sheep onto my holding?

A: The British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) deal with cattle moves. If you have bought the cattle from a mart in Scotland, they will do the move for you. If bought privately, you will need to notify BCMS. The Scottish Animal Movement Unit (SAMU) and ScotEID deal with sheep moves. Similarly to cattle, the mart will move them for you if bought at a mart in Scotland. If bought privately, it is your responsibility.

Q: How do I find out what works I can do on a designated site, or to a protected species?

A: Contact NatureScot for advice and consent. The website <https://sitelink.nature.scot/home> has a map based register that you can search to establish if your land falls within a designated site.

Q: Who issues licences for controlling ravens/geese?

A: NatureScot. Information and application forms can be found on their website at: <https://www.nature.scot/professional-advice/protected-areas-and-species/licensing>

Q: I'd like grant support for planting trees, where should I go?

A: Scottish Forestry have details of a range of support that is available.

Q: I'm interested in starting a diversified business on my croft, who can help?

A: Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) offer support to small business in the crofting counties, and can provide a range of advice for those entering a new business. In addition, they support a number of programmes such as the Scottish Crofting Federation training courses, and the Rural Leadership programme.

Q: I have an issue with a right of access, who can help me?

A: Rights of access can be a tricky situation to clarify. The Scottish Land Court, or ROS, may hold records which will be relevant, and can search and provide you with them for a fee.

Q: I'm concerned about the welfare of farmed livestock, who do I contact?

A: Contact APHA, or your local council animal health officer.

Q: Who is responsible for marauding deer?

A: If marauding deer are on your land, you, or anyone you have given permission to, can shoot them. NatureScot deal with wider deer management issues.

Description & contact details of relevant organisations

The Scottish Government's Rural Payments and Inspections Division (SGRPID)



- responsible for the payment of the main support schemes and grants available to farmers and crofters. They deal with livestock inspections, most grant applications (including crofting grants), and administering the main subsidy schemes. Contact details for your local office, and details of grant schemes available, can be found at: <https://www.ruralpayments.org/>

The Crofting Commission - regulates and promotes the interests of crofting in Scotland. If you are a crofter you will have contact with this regulatory body when setting up because they hold information



on your croft and they will need to be notified when this changes. They are also the body to contact if you wish to make changes to your croft, such as decrofting or apportionments. More information can be found at: <https://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/>, or they can be contacted on 01463 663 439, or info@crofting.gov.scot

The Registers of Scotland (ROS) - hold the land register and the crofting register which are official records of the farm, croft, common grazing etc. It is important it is kept up to date with any changes to your croft. The crofting register can be found here: <http://www.crofts.ros.gov.uk/register/home>, and they can be contacted on 0800 169 9391.



The Scottish Land Court - The Court's job is to assist in resolving disputes relating to agricultural tenancies, including matters relating to crofts, decisions of the



Crofting Commission, and decisions by SGRPID. More information can be found at: <http://www.scottish-land-court.org.uk/>, or they can be contacted on 0131 271 4360, or SLCourtMailbox@scotcourtsribunals.gov.uk

Scotland's Farm Advisory Service (FAS, delivered by SAC Consulting) - is part of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) which is co-funded by the EU and Scottish Government, providing information and resources aimed at increasing the profitability and sustainability of farms and crofts. Grant support for advisory services, a full programme of events, a subscription service for crofts and small farms, and a range of articles and publications form the core of this service which is designed to provide integrated advice for farmers and crofters across Scotland. More information can be found at: <https://www.fas.scot/>, or they can be contacted on advice@fas.scot, or 0300 323 0161.



Animal and Plant Health Agency (APHA, the 'ministry vets') - is an executive agency safeguarding animal and plant health for the benefit of people, the environment and the economy. When purchasing cattle or sheep you will have to be registered with AHPA and you will also need to register any seasonal holdings where you keep sheep. Details of your local office can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/animal-and-plant-health-agency/about/access-and-opening#scotland-field-service-offices>



The British Cattle Movement Service (BCMS) - keep records of all the births, movements and deaths of cattle and you can phone BCMS to register these events within set time limits in place or use their online service Cattle Tracing System (CTS) online. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/british-cattle-movement-service>, or they can be contacted on 0345 050 1234, or bcmsenquiries@rpa.gov.uk



The Scottish Animal Movement Unit (SAMU) - hold a record of all the movements of sheep in Scotland and you will need to register movements of sheep with them using a movement document. They can be contacted on 0845 601 7597, or SAMU@gov.scot

ScotEID - works closely with the Scottish livestock sector & Scottish Government to design, develop



and deliver solutions to ensure robust traceability and minimize legislative difficulties. Registering for the ScotEID online service is a useful way to minimize the recording keeping associated with moving livestock. More information can be found at: <https://www.scoteid.com/>, or they can be contacted on 01466 794 323, or help@scoteid.com

NatureScot
(formerly Scottish



Natural Heritage – SNH) - is the lead public body responsible for advising Scottish Ministers on all matters relating to the natural heritage. They are responsible for issuing consents if you wish to do certain works on designated sites, and they are also responsible for licencing (including for ravens and geese) and deer management. Contact details of your local office can be found here: <https://www.nature.scot/about-naturescot/contact-us>

Scottish Forestry - are the Scottish Government agency responsible for forestry policy, regulation, grants incentives, and technical forestry advice. They also lead on the delivery of woodland creation targets. Contact details of your local office can be found here: <https://forestry.gov.scot/about/local-offices>



Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE) - are the economic and community development agency for the north and west of Scotland, with the aim to build a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy across the Highlands and Islands. They are responsible for crofting development. More information can be found at: <https://www.hie.co.uk/>, or they can be contacted on 01463 245 245, or enquiries@hient.co.uk



Local council – have certain responsibilities in relation to Animal Health and Welfare. Animal Health and Welfare Officers will also provide advice and assistance on Animal Health and Welfare Legislation.

www.fas.scot or contact us on 0300 323 0161.

