

Commissioners  
Crofting Commission  
Great Glen House  
Inverness

29/04/2014

Dear Commissioners

**Removal of grazings committee members and implications for crofting**

Crofters are extremely concerned about the manner in which some recent events have led to the removal of grazings committee officials from their posts.

As you are aware common grazings are the backbone of crofting, but less than 50% of grazings are regulated. We have all been trying to increase this percentage and the commission has been very positive, until now. The recent actions you have taken put any chance of rejuvenation of grazings at great risk and have the potential to lead to more grazings becoming unregulated. With the possibility of being humiliated and publicly vilified by the commission, no one can reasonably be expected to enter their committee into a regulatory relationship with the commission willingly.

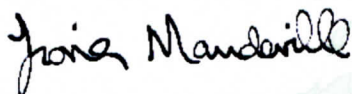
We therefore strongly urge you to make a public statement on what is behind this as soon as possible and endeavour to allay fears. It would be helpful were the public statement to include:

1. What common grazings are involved;
2. What the rules are that they have broken;
3. Why such draconian action has been taken;
4. How this affects other common grazings;
5. What the commission intends to do to rectify the situation.

SCF has been very supportive of a majority elected commission, something we fought hard to get, but we feel the credibility of this board is being tried. We are not contesting the legalities of the cases involved, but the manner in which it has been addressed and the wider implications for grazings.

We look forward to conciliatory action to be taken on this issue very soon.

Sincerely,



Fiona Mandeville, Chair, Scottish Crofting Federation



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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*Rooted in our communities, the only member-led organisation dedicated to the promotion of crofting and the largest association of small-scale food producers in the UK.*