

Creating a new common grazing

Cruthachadh ionaltradh coitcheann ùr

Common Grazing

Regulatory Applications

Common Grazings are areas of land used by a number of crofters and others who hold a right to graze on that land.

A new common grazing cannot be created if:

- any part of the land is tenanted or occupied by a cottar
- it is next to or shares a boundary with a croft
- the land is already registered as a croft

Who can apply?

- The owner of the land, providing the land is located within the crofting counties.

Before applying you must:

- have the agreement of all the people who use the land, and
- have agreement on how the new common grazing will be used.

Why do I have to apply to the Crofting Commission?

The Crofting Commission is the regulatory body for crofting. Crofts and Common Grazings are a valuable resource that should be available both now and in the future, for existing crofters and new entrants to crofting, to use productively. The Crofting Commission has regulatory duties and powers to work with crofters and crofting communities to:

- Ensure crofts are occupied by a tenant or owner-occupier crofter
- Prevent misuse and neglect of the land
- Ensure the crofts are cultivated or put to other purposeful uses.

How do I apply?

- You must complete the appropriate application form and send it along with a scale map showing the boundaries of the common grazing to the Commission. Application forms can be found on our website www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk or by contacting our office.
- If your application is approved, you will be required to register the common grazing with the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland. You should send us the registration form along with your application form. Please check the Rules and Procedures on our website for further information. Details can also be found on www.ros.gov.uk/services/registration/crofting-register



Gheibhear tuilleadh
foisrachaidh mu
cruthachadh ionaltradh
coitcheann ùr air ar
làrach-lìn

www.Coimisean na
Croitearachd

You can find more
information on our
website:

www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk

What happens next?

- We will check that the application form and maps are correct. Providing they are, we'll send you an acknowledgement letter normally within 5 working days.
- Anyone who may have an interest in the application has 28 days, from the date we place the advert in the newspaper, to send comments to the Commission.
- After the 28 day period, if we receive comments on your application we will let you know. Normally we need to obtain more information, for example from Scottish Government Rural Payments & Inspections Directorate (SGRPID) before taking a decision.

The Commission is required to advertise that you have made the application in a newspaper local to the new proposed common grazing.

How long will the application process take?

We aim to take a decision on the application within 16 weeks.

What happens after we take a decision on the application?

- If we approve the application, we will advertise our decision in the local press.
- We will forward your registration application to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland.
- Our decision or determination of the application can be appealed to the Scottish Land Court, within 42 days from the date of our decision letter.
- A grazings committee can then be established and regulations for the common grazing created. See our factsheet on Common Grazing.

You may be eligible for assistance of up to £500 towards the establishment of a properly constituted common grazings committee. To find out more see www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/crofting-agricultural-grant-scheme/crofting-agricultural-grants-scheme-full-guidance/#45148.