

# COMMON GRAZING REGULATIONS AND COMMITTEES



## Ionaltraidhean Coitcheann Riaghlaichte

Common grazing - regulations and grazing committees

Regulatory Notifications

**C**ommon Grazing are areas of land used by a number of crofters and others who hold a right to graze stock on that land.

Good shared management of common land helps to foster stronger communities and delivers economic benefits through reducing the likelihood of these areas being abandoned or becoming overgrown.

### Is it possible to create a new common grazing?

You can create a new common grazing providing the land meets specific criteria. You will find more details on our website [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk) or by contacting our office. See our factsheet on Creating a New Common Grazing.

### What are Grazing Regulations?

Grazing Regulations are a set of rules detailing the management and use of a common grazing. The regulations provide details of each person who is entitled to use the common grazing and the number of stock they are allowed to graze. They also give details of how a grazings committee should be appointed and various other factors relating to the management of the common grazing.

### What if you don't have any Grazing Regulations?

If a common grazing is to be regulated, the first thing shareholders need to do is establish a Grazing Committee and have details of the committee recorded with the Commission. We have created a standard set of regulations to give clearer guidance for committees and shareholders about how their common grazings is regulated. These can be found on our website. The Grazing Committee can tailor the regulations so they are specific to their grazing.

The Committee must then submit their regulations to the Commission. Once the grazing regulations have been confirmed by us, they can still be amended on request by the grazing committee.

### What are Grazings Committees?

**Grazing Committees** are set up to manage the common grazing. To have a regulated (protected by law) common grazing there must be a Grazing Committee. The committee consists of a number of people who share in the common grazing and are elected onto the Committee by other shareholders.

Properly constituted Grazing Committees are the most effective way to safeguard the future of common grazing land and they can hold a valuable source of knowledge about crofting in the area. Grazing Committees can also contribute to increasing the confidence in communal working and management of community assets.



## Gheibhear tuilleadh foisrachaidh mu lionaltraidhean Coitcheann air ar làrach-lìn

[www.Coimisean na Croitearachd](http://www.Coimisean na Croitearachd)

You can find more information on common grazing on our website:

[www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk)

### Why do Grazing Committees need to be recorded by the Crofting Commission?

The Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 states that to have a properly constituted Grazing Committee, who have the powers to regulate and manage a common grazing, details of that Committee must be recorded with the Commission.

Also, if work is to be undertaken on a common grazing and grant aid claimed, the grazing committee details must be recorded with the Commission.

### How do you set up a Grazing Committee?

In order to elect a grazing committee, a meeting must be held which all the shareholders are invited to attend.

A notice advertising the meeting must be published in one or more local newspapers at least 10 days before the meeting is held. The notice should include the reason for calling the meeting, the name of the common grazing, date, time and place the meeting is to be held. It is for the shareholders to decide how many people will serve on the committee.

When the Committee has been elected, the members should appoint a Chairperson and a Clerk but the Clerk does not need to be a member of the Committee or a shareholder in the 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](http://www.ruralpayments.org/publicsite/futures/topics/all-schemes/crofting-agricultural-grant-scheme/crofting-agricultural-grants-scheme-full-guidance/#45148).

### What happens after you elect a Grazing Committee?

You must complete the appropriate Notification Form and send it to the Commission along with a copy of the newspaper advertisement/notice. Notification Forms can be found on our website [www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk](http://www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk) or by contacting our office.

If the correct process has been followed in setting up the Committee, it will be recorded by the Commission for a period of 3 years.

### What happens at the end of the 3 years?

Shareholders should be notified of a meeting to appoint a new Committee at **least** one month before the term of the present Committee ends. It is important, before arranging the meeting, to refer to the Grazing Regulations for guidance on the procedure to follow regarding the re-election of a Grazing Committee.

If they wish, shareholders can re-appoint the same people to the Committee at the end of the term. After the meeting is held, details of the new committee must be sent to the Commission on the appropriate Notification Form.