



Sandy Murray was born and brought up in Strathalladale, Sutherland and is tenant of 4 crofts, totaling 360 hectares. Sandy took over the crofts from his father in 1975, in a family tradition of crofting which goes back several generations. Sandy runs 300 North Country Cheviot sheep and 22 spring-calving cows. Sandy has installed a 20kw wind turbine on one of his crofts, providing power for his home and feeding into the national grid.

Sandy has converted the old Corn Mill, which was built by his ancestors in the early 1800s and is situated on one of his crofts, into a Bunkhouse, to provide affordable and comfortable accommodation for visitors to the area. Sandy is an active member of the crofting community and has been an Assessor with the Crofting Commission, helping crofters in his local area, since the late 1970's.

Is there anyone I can contact locally for help?

The Crofting Commission has a network of Area Assessors who act as a point of contact for crofters in their local area to provide advice and guidance on crofting matters.

Visit www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk/assessors.asp to find out more or contact us at:

Crofting Commission
Great Glen House
Leachkin Road
Inverness
IV3 8NW

01463 663 439
info@crofting.scotland.gov.uk
www.crofting.scotland.gov.uk



CROFTING COMMISSION
COIMISEAN NA CROITEARACHD

SECURING THE FUTURE OF CROFTING

Creating a well regulated crofting system that positively contributes to the sustainability of rural communities.



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This factsheet is intended for general guidance only and is not intended to constitute legal advice



The Crofting Commission is the regulatory body for crofting.

Who are we?

We are a Non Departmental Public Body (NDPB) which operates on a day to day basis independently of the Scottish Government, but for which, Scottish Ministers are ultimately responsible.

The Crofting Commission comprises of six elected Commissioners representing each area of the crofting counties, and three Commissioners appointed by Scottish Ministers.

What do we do?

The Crofting Commission is working to secure the future of crofting by creating and promoting a well regulated crofting system that positively contributes to the sustainability of rural communities.

The Crofting Commission's principal function is to regulate crofting and promote the interests of crofting.

What is crofting?

Crofting is a system of landholding which is unique to Scotland. There are over 18,000 crofts across the Highlands and Islands. A croft is a relatively small agricultural holding and they can range in size with the average croft being 5 hectares. Traditionally croft land was used to raise animals, grow vegetables and crops but now it can be used for a range of productive uses.

What is a crofter?

A crofter is the tenant or owner-occupier of a croft.

How do you become a crofter?

Many people acquire their tenancy or ownership of croft land through inheritance or assignation by a family member or neighbour or through a sublet.

A number of crofts do come onto the open market each year. Prospective crofters can look for tenancies in local newspapers and contact crofting solicitors and estate agents to register interest.

Also, the Scottish Crofting Federation (SCF) has a register of interest in crofts and will provide information on vacant crofts available. Contact the SCF if you wish to be added to the register:

hq@crofting.org or telephone 01599 530005



There are legal duties that a crofter must fulfil:

- A duty to be resident on, or within 32km of, their croft
- A duty not to misuse or neglect their croft
- A duty to cultivate and maintain their croft or put it to another purposeful use

