



CONSULTATIONS

DRAFT CROFTING REFORM (SCOTLAND) BILL CONSULTATION PAPER (SE 21/03/05) The reform of crofting legislation is the latest in a series of measures by the Scottish Executive to deliver land reform to Scotland. It follows the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003 which gave crofting communities the right to seek to purchase croft land itself. This draft Bill is consistent with the land reform agenda and will allow crofters and crofting communities greater rights and enhance their ability to determine and secure their own future. The deadline for responses is the 13 June 2005.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/consultations/rural/dcrsb-02.pdf>

THE DRAFT PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2005 AND PROPOSALS FOR A PRIVATE WATER SUPPLIES GRANT SCHEME (SE 24/03/05) The Scottish Executive is consulting on Regulations to implement the revised EU Drinking Water Directive and other recommendations on the delivery of safe drinking water, including the World Health Organisation Guidelines and Scotland's E.coli Task Force Report. The deadline for responses is the 6 June 05.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2005/03/20902/55285>

PUBLICATIONS

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS (SE 21/03/05) This document highlights the forthcoming publications from the Scottish Executive.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library4/ASD/CSU/00018798.aspx>

A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK FOR INSHORE FISHERIES IN SCOTLAND 2005 (SE 21/03/05) Measures that will put the future of Scotland's inshore fisheries in the hands of local communities have been recently announced. Scottish objectives will be set by the Scottish Executive Environment and Rural Affairs Department (SEERAD) in liaison with Scottish Inshore Fisheries Advisory Group (SIFAG), with inshore fisheries groups developing these into local management plans with area specific objectives.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/library5/fisheries/sfifs.pdf>

SMALL TOWNS AND RURAL ECONOMIES (SE 31/03/05) Investing in rural areas provides economic benefits both for the area and linked small towns, according to an Executive-funded study published recently. Economic Linkages between small towns and rural areas examined the interdependence of small towns and their surrounding rural areas and the factors which impact on the links.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/37428/0009554.pdf>

LISTING IS CHANGING (EH 01/04/05) From 1 April 2005 a number of changes to the system of Listing in England will commence. These include the transfer of the administration of the listing system from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, to English Heritage. New notification and consultation procedures for owners and local authorities will be introduced, as well as clearer documentation for list entries. Information packs for owners of listed buildings will be introduced during 2005/6. English Heritage will continue to inspect properties and formulate advice for the Secretary of State. These changes are the first stage of a wide ranging reform of the system for protecting and managing England's historic environment which the government intends to implement over the next few years.

<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/FileStore/conserving/designating/listed/ListingIsChanging.pdf>

DESIGN REVIEWED 2 (CABE 21/03/05) Design Reviewed 2 is an annual review of some of the most significant building and public space projects seen by CABE's expert design panel in 2004-05.

<http://www.cabe.org.uk/data/pdfs/DesignReviewed2.pdf>

THE DEPARTMENT FOR CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT FIVE YEAR PLAN, 'LIVING LIFE TO THE FULL' (DCMS 17/03/05)

The Plan sets the Department's course for the next five years. It identifies achievements and goals and the steps that DCMS will take to achieve these in the years ahead.

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/NR/rdonlyres/E4A67940-54A1-4A0C-9456-91865328C8A4/0/DCMSFIVEYEARPLAN.pdf>

EVENTS

MANAGING THE HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE DIGITAL AGE This event is organised by English Heritage, the Institute of Historic Building Conservation (IHBC) and the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA). It will take place on 20 May and starts at 10am. The event considers impacts and opportunities for the Historic Environment. Cost: £78 (£87 with lunch). For more information please contact the Oxford University Continuing Education Administrator on (01865) 270380 or email professional.arch@contexd.ox.ac.uk

SCOTTISH EXECUTIVE NEWS RELEASES

FUNDING FOR RURAL COMMUNITIES (04/04/05) Over £3 million is to be shared amongst community projects throughout rural Scotland. The fund is made up of three component grant schemes. The Rural Challenge Fund (RCF) offers grants to rural projects which propose innovative ways of tackling particular rural problems, or create a wider range of opportunities in rural areas. The Rural Strategic Support Fund (RSSF) offers grants to support Local Rural partnerships or community-led organisations to promote capacity building and the Local Capital Grants Scheme (LCGS) offers grants for the building or upgrading of community facilities.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/04102545>

FUNDING FOR 'GREEN' BUILDINGS (01/04/05) A project to help Scottish companies design energy efficient buildings will receive more than £265,000. The Scottish Energy Systems Group, based at the University of Strathclyde, is among three projects to benefit from awards made through the SEEKIT fund. The SEEKIT programme is designed to support projects that promote co-operation in research and development and knowledge transfer between the Scottish public sector science base and our small to medium sized enterprises.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/04/01105200>

WATER GRANTS LEAD THE WAY (21/03/05) Scotland is leading the way in the UK with a pioneering scheme to get freight off congested roads and onto the water, it was announced recently. The Waterborne Freight Grant (WFG) scheme will help meet shipping costs for freight currently transported by road. The grant will be available to canal, inland waterways and short sea shipping operators. Scotland is the first area in UK to introduce this scheme. The WFG scheme will not only help with shipping routes around Scotland, but also between Scotland, the rest of the UK and mainland Europe.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/03/21101441>

FUNDING FOR FISHING INDUSTRY (21/03/05) More than 80 projects ranging from modernising fishing vessels, to harbour refurbishment and business start-up have been awarded grants totaling £4.7 million. The funding, from the Executive and EU Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG) programme, is expected to trigger £16.2 million in private investment. An additional £1.5 million of Executive support is being granted to the Highlands and Islands FIFG programme to maintain the overall value of the programme following a shortfall on the Commission spending target last year. This will provide continued opportunities for grant support to the region's fisheries sector.

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2005/03/21120905>

NEWS RELEASES

SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT WINS DESIGN AWARD (RIAS 19/03/05) The Scottish Parliament has recently been awarded the Edinburgh Architectural Association Century medal. The award is the highest accolade that the Association can give any project, which is awarded to recognise outstanding architectural merit.

http://www.rias.org.uk/content/default.asp?page=s2_10&newsid=1415&back=home

BECKETT WELCOMES BUDGET SUPPORT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT (DEFRA 16/03/05)

Margaret Beckett welcomed the Budget and the Chancellor's commitment to sustainable development and his intention to meet the global challenge of climate change. Key announcements include: a package of new measures to support further action on the abatement of greenhouse gas emissions including two new reduced rates of VAT for the installation of low carbon technologies; an extension of the Landlord's Energy Savings Allowance to cover solid wall insulation; an energy services summit later this year; and a new energy efficiency theme as part of the Government's "invest to save" budget.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/latest/2005/budget-0316.htm>

NEW PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

(S2W-15726) CHRISTINE GRAHAME (04/04/05) To ask the Scottish Executive when it will consult on the draft guidance referred to in the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Bill; when it expects the consultation period to end, and whether the Parliament will be able to consider the draft guidance before it is finalised.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-04-04e.htm>

(S2W-15415) ALEX NEIL (22/03/05) To ask the Scottish Executive what discussions took place between it and the UK Government prior to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Budget 2005 announcement regarding the establishment of a new agriculture inspectorate; which ministers participated in any discussions; whether it will place the minutes of any discussions in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre; whether the new inspectorate will have offices in Scotland; how it will report to the Executive and the Parliament; who will appoint its board; what role the Executive will have in such appointments, and how much of the inspectorate's budget will be for devolved functions.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-03-22e.htm>

(S2W-15574) FIONA HYSLOP (24/03/05) To ask the Scottish Executive how many cases were referred to it or the Scottish Environment Protection Agency on planning or environmental grounds where there were concerns in respect of asbestos disposal from brownfield sites in each year since 1999, broken down by local authority area.

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/businessBulletin/bb-05/bb-03-24e.htm>

PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Q (S2W-14065) SANDRA WHITE, EMERGENCY PLANNING

A This information is not held by the Scottish Executive. **NICOL STEPHEN (22/03/05)**

Q (S2W-15022) RICHARD LOCHHEAD, CLIMATE CHANGE

A Sustainable development, of which climate change is a key element, has been a cross-cutting theme in the last two spending reviews. It is, therefore, central to our decisions on spending allocations. In the Spending Review 2004, all portfolios had to show how they were taking this issue forward and mainstreaming it within their work, taking particular account of the sustainable development priority areas of resource use, energy and travel. There are also many initiatives taking place within departments. Other mechanisms by which projects and spending programmes are assessed for environmental impact include Pre-expenditure Assessments, the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidance (STAG) and Environmental Impact Assessment. The Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Bill, which will extend the scope of environmental assessment, was introduced to Parliament on 2 March. **TOM McCABE (18/03/05)**

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0318.htm>

Q (S2W-15189) BRIAN ADAM, PLANNING

A Circular 8/2002: Control of Development in Airport Public Safety Zones already contains a general presumption against new or replacement development, or changes of use of existing buildings, within Public Safety Zones, such as the ones at Aberdeen airport. In particular, no new or replacement dwelling houses, mobile homes, caravan sites or other residential buildings should be permitted. Circular 10/1999 Planning and Noise contains the Executive's general policy on this issue. Additional advice on the impact of aircraft noise is provided for Scottish local authorities in Planning Advice Note: PAN 56 Planning and Noise, issued in 1999. This sets out recommended noise exposure categories when assessing the suitability of new residential development near to existing transport related noise sources,

including airports. These range from noise levels where noise need not be considered as a determining factor in granting planning permission to where planning permission should generally be refused. The Executive has no plans at present to review these documents. **JOHANN LAMONT (17/03/05)**
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0318.htm>

Q (S2W-14999) MARK RUSKELL, HOUSING

A The Executive has previously examined the concept of cohousing as a model for housing and community development. While we do not consider the model as a whole is appropriate for promotion, we recognise that the concept has many positive elements, in terms of resident participation, community development, physical design and environmental sustainability - elements which have featured in different combinations in different housing developments in Scotland. **MALCOLM CHISHOLM (HOLDING ANSWER FROM 17/03/05)**
<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/business/pqa/wa-05/wa0318.htm>

Information in the Bulletin is extracted from a number of websites; such as the Scottish Executive (SE); the Scottish Parliament (SP); Architecture and Design Scotland (A&DS); Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH); Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations (SCVO); English Heritage (EH); Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); Department of Environment and Rural Affairs (DEFRA); National Assembly for Wales (NAW). For further information, links are provided to the relevant documents.

If you have any questions or comments on the above, or would like to submit information to be included, please get in touch with Chris Stuart cstuart@bef.s.org.uk or Jo Robertson jrobertson@bef.s.org.uk at the BEFS office on 0131 556 5353.