

**CROFTERS (SCOTLAND) ACT 1993 and CROFTING REFORM ETC. ACT 2007:**

**CONSULTATION ON DESIGNATION OF NEW AREAS FOR CROFTING**

**QUESTIONS TO BE POSED.**

**1. Do you agree that new areas should be designated for Crofting?**

*Yes. There are a number of areas which did not get designated as crofts by the Napier Commission. Most of these small landholdings have the same character and met the same criteria as crofts and have only been omitted as a historic mistake. Some of these crofts have also been able to get access to crofting grants under CAGS.*

*The only way that these landholders will be able to survive is if they achieve crofting status and can take advantage of crofting schemes.*

**2. Do you agree the new areas should align with those of Highland and Islands Enterprise?**

*No*

**If not, Why?**

*There are areas in the foothills of the Grampians and on the outskirts of Aberdeen where there have traditionally been small holdings which also match the criteria as those in proposed new areas.*

*If this is not acceptable the area aligning with the HIE boundaries is a sensible compromise.*

**3. Is there another area which has a stronger claim?**

**If so, Why?**

*See above*

**4. Do you agree that Crofting Community Right to Buy should not be extended to the new areas?**

*Not initially, but over time crofting communities will develop and they should have the option to exercise the CCRtB when they have evolved into communities in their own right.*

**5. Any other comments?**

*The ability to convert to croft status should not just be restricted to tenants of land held under the Small Landholders Acts. There are a number of agricultural units which will have originally been held under these acts but no longer do so as they have been subsumed into Agricultural Holdings. Many of these holdings exist in Speyside. They make an important contribution to the local rural economy and their continuing viability will be more assured under crofting tenure.*

**6. What is your background? (please tick)**

Agricultural tenant