

WOODLAND CROFTS: INFORMATION PAPER

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR TENANTS OF NEW CROFTS

Public advertisement

The availability and filling of the tenancy is best conducted in an open and transparent manner. The tenancy should therefore be advertised publicly by the landlord of the vacant croft land by means of advertisement in a local paper circulating in the community. The advertisement should set out the details of the vacant croft including a figure to be paid for any permanent improvements on the land and the rent that is to be charged.

The advertisement should invite applications for the croft tenancy. It is suggested that an application form be drafted to allow for consistency of information provided.

To continue transparency of process, the landlord should set criteria for short listing applicants. Landlords may also consider it appropriate to introduce some form of weighting or scoring system for the criteria to assist in selection of the most appropriate tenant. However, any weighting or scoring system would depend on local circumstances and may vary from community to community. So no scoring system is suggested in this paper.

General selection criteria may include:

1. Proposed tenant's plans for living on or near the croft. It would be expected that the new crofter would live within 16 kilometres of the croft and therefore would not be open to any absentee action by the Crofters Commission in terms of section 22 of the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993
2. Proposed tenant's plans for working and developing the croft and his/her contribution to the community.
3. How the proposed tenant works existing land at his/her disposal.
4. The proposed tenant's commitment to take part in communal activities.
5. Skills brought to the crofting community by the proposed tenant and/or their family.

Interview process

Interviews should be carried out by the community landlord.

The interview process will consider how the proposed tenant meets the initial sift criteria.

The interview also provides an opportunity to consider

1. Social and economic factors including the retention or repopulation of a community
2. Assessment of skills, including relevant woodland management skills, that the new tenant would bring to the local community
3. Views of the local community and, where appropriate, the views of the existing croft tenants
4. Competing demands for the tenancy and “weighing up” of individuals
5. How well the proposed tenant meets any community requirements
6. Identification of local community connections.

NOTE

The Crofters Commission works in partnership with Highlands and Islands enterprise and several local authorities to deliver the Highlands and Islands Croft Entrant Scheme across the whole of the crofting counties.

Financial and practical support may therefore be available to help introduce active young people to new crofts.

**CROFTERS COMMISSION
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