



APPLICATION FORM (HOUSE IMPROVEMENT) - CROFT HOUSE GRANT

(For Official use only)

Client Ref:	File Ref:
Business Reference:	Agricultural Code No:
Cross Ref:	Date of Receipt:
Priority Area <i>(Standard/High):</i>	
Area:	
Casework Officer:	

NOTES FOR GUIDANCE

- Before completing this form, please read the Croft House Grant (CHG) Applicants Guidance at <https://www.ruralpayments.org> and see the further guidance on pages 2 and 16 of this form.
- Your plans should be at an advanced stage and you should have a realistic estimate of the cost of your house improvements before you apply. The guidance notes should help you to determine whether you and your circumstances fit into the scheme. Only then should you apply for assistance
- The purpose of this form is to allow you to explain your circumstances, and for you to present your case for assistance. The information that you provide is essential in considering the merits of your case, and you should provide as much evidence as possible to support what you set out in this form.
- The notes on the form are there to help you and you are advised to read these notes as you go through the form. The notes are not intended to be a comprehensive summary of the provisions of the scheme.
- If the information requested does not apply to you, please write "N/A". It may be necessary to write to you for more information at a later stage or for a member of staff from the local area office to visit you to discuss your application in more detail, before a final decision can be made.
- The scheme is designed to assist those whose circumstances are genuine and deserving of support. In this discretionary scheme, RPID has the right to reject applications if the circumstances appear to have been contrived to fit the scheme rules.
- Please complete this form in **BLACK INK**.

You should answer all the questions as fully as possible as incomplete forms cannot be processed and will be returned to you.

Part 1 – About the Croft House Grant (CHG)

The Croft House Grant opened to applications from 1 April 2016 and provides grants for new houses and the rebuilding and renovation of existing croft houses. The scheme is geographically targeted with two levels of grant determined by priority areas with the highest grant maximum available in the more remote and fragile communities.

A map of these priority areas can be found on page 3. A full list of the postcodes for these areas can be found on the Croft House Grant pages of <https://www.ruralpayments.org>

The grant rates for house improvements are:

Rebuilding and Improvement Grant	Geographical Area	
	High Priority	Standard priority
	40% of costs up to a maximum grant of £38,000	40% of costs up to a maximum of £28,000

Warning

As CHG is a discretionary scheme, there is no guarantee that you will receive assistance.




You should be aware that:

- Expenditure on preparing plans, obtaining planning permission, consents etc, is the responsibility of the applicant.
- If work is started before RPID gives written approval, assistance may not be given. Please refer to the Starting work without prior approval section of the Croft House Grant Applicants Guidance.
- If you are receiving or have received grant assistance from another public source for this project then you may not be eligible for CHG assistance. If you are in doubt, you should consult the RPID Tiree office before submitting your application to ensure that there are no double funding issues.
- It is an offence for any person to knowingly or recklessly make a false statement for the purpose of obtaining grant assistance under CHG. Any such person is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale (presently £5,000). Providing false or misleading information may also result in the refusal of CHG or the recovery of any assistance paid.
- Breach of any of the conditions of grant set out in regulation 4 of the Croft House Grant (Scotland) Regulations 2016 during the 10-year grant period may result in recovery of a proportion of the CHG assistance plus interest.
- As a crofter, you are required by law to comply with your statutory obligations as set out in the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993, as amended. Failure to do so may result in the refusal of assistance or the recovery of any assistance paid. Any default under the contract of grant you enter into with RPID may also result in recovery.
- **If you require further help or guidance on the completion of this form please contact RPID Tiree on Tel: 01879 220240 or email: CHGS@gov.scot Completed forms should be returned to: Rural Payments and Inspections Division, Croft House Grant, The Business Centre, Crossapol, Isle of Tiree, PA77 6UP**

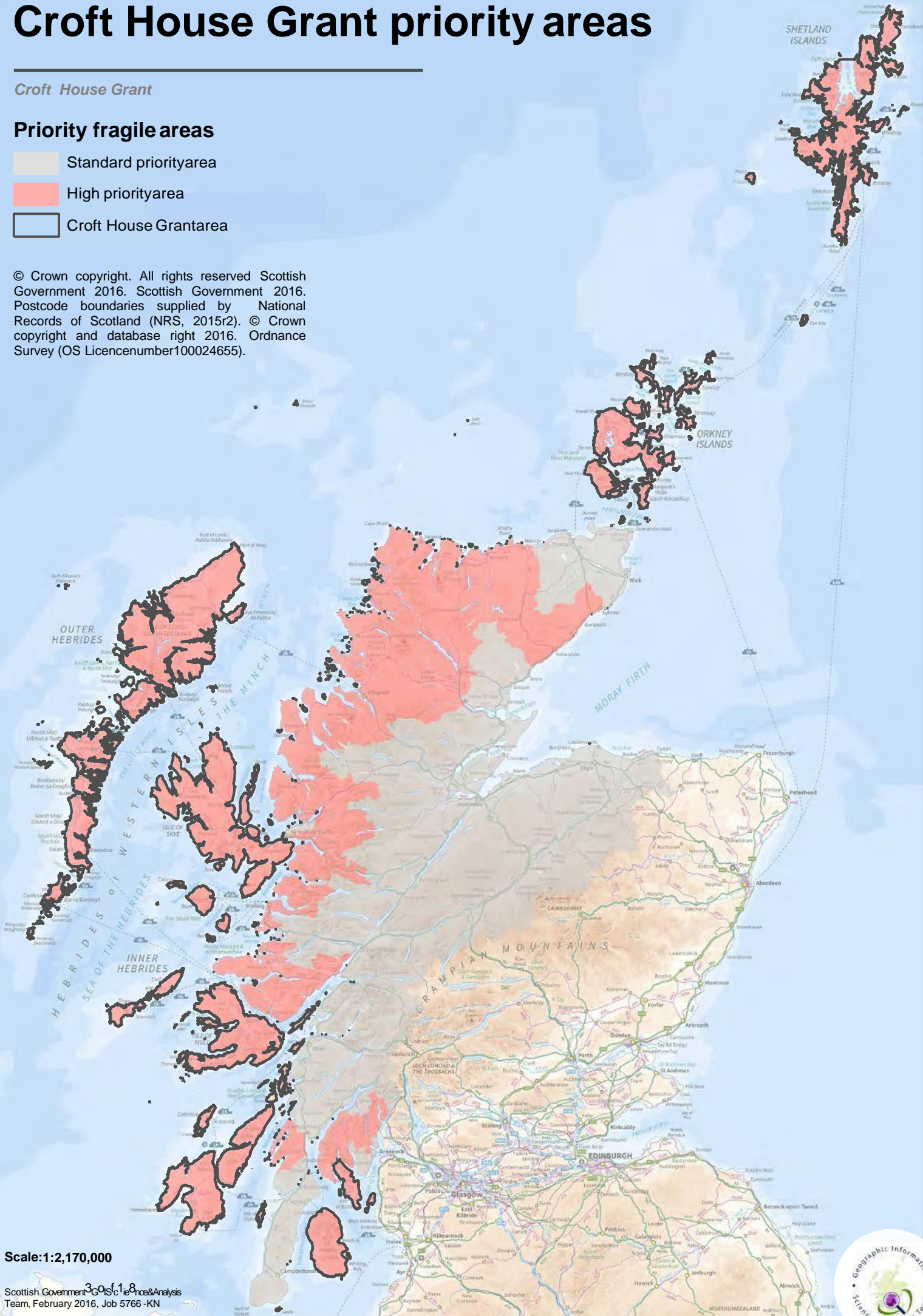
Croft House Grant priority areas

Croft House Grant

Priority fragile areas

-  Standard priority area
-  High priority area
-  Croft House Grant area

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Scale: 1:2,170,000



Part 2 – Your application

Q1. Applicant status

This question is to establish whether you meet the basic eligibility criteria of the scheme. In order to qualify for CHG you must be one of the following:

Are you:	Tick one only
A Crofting Tenant	<input type="checkbox"/>
An Owner Occupier Crofter	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Cottar	<input type="checkbox"/>
A Kyles Crofter	<input type="checkbox"/>

All of the above are defined in the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (as amended).

Q2. Personal details

This question is to obtain basic information about you, the applicant. In every case it is necessary to check our records for previous applications and for details of assistance given in the past. This is why we wish to know the previous surname used including the maiden name of married female applicants.

Name

Any previous surname (such as a maiden name)

Date of Birth / / Email address

Q2(a) – Other family members

We need to know who lives in your current house. We also need to know who will be living in the proposed improved house. You should only include people who will be staying with you on a permanent basis.

Please provide details of other family members who live with you on a permanent basis at present.

Full Name	Relationship to the applicant	Age if under 21 years old

Q2(a) – Other family members (Contd)

New household

If, after the proposed works are completed, the list of people in your new household is to be different from those shown on page 4, please give details of those in the new household.

Full Name	Relationship to the applicant	Age if under 21 years old

Q3. Details of your present accommodation

Address*

Postcode Telephone number

How many rooms do you have for your use at your present accommodation?

How many of these are bedrooms?

*Please enclose proof of address (bank statement, utility bill dated within the last four months or a copy of your full driving licence).

Q3(a). Distance from croft

To help determine whether or not you need to live on the croft, we need to know how far you live from the croft.

How far away from the croft do you live at present (give distance by road in miles)?

Do you have the use of any other house, other than your present accommodation?

Yes No

Q3(b). Type of accommodation

We need to know the type of accommodation in which you live at present. If you do not live on the croft at present, to be eligible for assistance, you will have to show you are either inadequately housed or that you require to live on the croft to ensure it is satisfactorily managed.

At present are you:

Tick one only

Living in the croft house

An owner occupier (of a house)

A residential tenant (private or housing association)

Living with your parents

Living in caravan

Other, please explain below

Use this box to explain any circumstances not described above

Q3(c). Previous accommodation

We need to know what your accommodation arrangements have been for the last five years, in particular if you or your spouse/partner has sold a house or given up a rental property.

Please use the table below to provide a complete history of you and your spouse/partners accommodation arrangements for the last five years.

Address	Number of rooms in the property	Number of bedrooms in the property	Type of Occupancy	Dates of occupancy	Reason for Giving up/sale

Q4. About the croft

This question is to establish the basic information about where the house improvements are going to take place. We need the name of the parish in which the croft is located for preparing legal documents if assistance is given. We need the location code and business reference number to properly identify the croft.

You must enter your postcode as this will determine the priority area of your croft.

Croft address (if different from postal address)

Postcode

County

Parish

Has assistance been given on this croft within the last 10 years ? Yes No

If yes, give date assistance was received / /

Main location code

Business Reference Number

Q5. Landlord (if owner occupier go to Q5a)

We need to know the name and address of your landlord as they will be informed if your application is approved.

Full name and address of your landlord or landlord's agent

Postcode

Name of estate (if applicable)

Q5(a). Assignment/re-let

This question helps us determine if you are a crofter, particularly if there was a recent assignment/re-let

Delete as appropriate

If the croft was assigned/re-let to you, please give the following details:

Date of assignment/re-let //

Name of person who assigned/re-let the croft to you

If the croft was assigned/re-let to you by a member of your family, what is their relationship to you?

Please enclose copy of letter from the Crofting Commission, which you received, confirming details of the assignment.

Q6. Other houses on croft

Is there another house on the croft? Yes No

If yes, please explain the details of this other house in the box below (including a description of the house, who has ownership of the house and its condition).

Q6(a). House site Decrofting (if owner occupier go to Q7)

If you are a tenant you should indicate below whether you have decrofted and purchased or intend to decroft and purchase the site of the house to be improved. Please note that you may need to consider decrofting your house site for mortgage purposes.

Has the house site been decrofted and purchased? Yes No

If not, is it your intention to decroft the house site and purchase Yes No

Crofting tenants who have already decrofted and purchased their house site should submit a copy of their title with this application. Crofting tenants who intend to decroft and purchase (if tenant) will need to inform RPID Tیره as soon as possible after the process has concluded.

Q7. Cost/estimated cost for your rebuilding and improvement

Please note that house improvement assistance can only be given if the total cost of the project is over £8,000. Please provide the estimated cost of the house improvement works below. This should be supported by at least two competitive quotations for the work, and three competitive quotations where one has been provided by a contractor connected to you.

The cost/estimated cost of the rebuilding and improvement is £

If you are receiving grant assistance from another public source for this project then you may not be eligible for CHG assistance. You should consult the RPID Tیره office to make sure there are no double funding issues.

Applicants will be required to submit plans showing proposed floor layouts and room sizes with their application for CHG funding. Plans must provide sufficient detail for a floor area calculation by RPID (for details of standards of house plans required, please refer to the CHG Applicants Guidance).

You will also be required to attach a map showing where the house is situated on the croft.

Please provide a description of the rebuilding and improvements works you propose below:

Q8. Justification for the house improvement

We need to know all the circumstances of why you require assistance. You should provide as much information and evidence as possible. We may need to contact you regarding further information and we may also ask a member of our local area office to visit your croft to determine your eligibility.

Please tick the boxes which apply to your circumstances:

- Current house is too small for the family
- Existing croft house requires improvements
- Croft house and/or current house is in poor condition and is beyond economical repair
- Need to live on the croft for agricultural reasons
- Need to live on the croft for business reasons (non-agricultural)
- Other (use the box below to explain your circumstances)

Q8(a). Income details to justify assistance

To allow us to assess your application correctly we require you to confirm below what your combined net household income* is after deductions such as Income Tax and National Insurance. You must also submit proof of income from all employments and certain other** income.

Your combined net household income

Tick one only

Combined net household income of £24,000 and under

Combined net household income of £24-£29,000

Combined net household income of £30-£44,000

Combined net household income of over £44,000

In addition to the requirement to submit proof of income, please complete the tables below detailing you and your partners (if they will reside with you) employment for the last three years.

Applicants Employment

Company	Job title	Remuneration	Duration of employment

Applicant's Spouse/Partners Employment

Company	Job title	Remuneration	Duration of employment

*Proof of income from each employment, such as P60s for the last three years for you (and your partner, if they will reside in the croft house) you should include P60's for all jobs that you have had during these years. Written confirmation of gross salary minus tax and NI contributions from present or previous employers is acceptable. If you or your spouse/partner is declaring foreign income then a letter from the employer confirming their foreign income is acceptable. Also if you (or your partner) have been in your current role for less than one year written confirmation of salary from your employer is acceptable.

**Other income includes pension statements for the last three years (or since you retired if less than three years ago) or HMRC Tax Returns for the last three years if self-employed.

Q8(b). Any property on or off the croft that could or has been sold to fund the proposed rebuilding or improvement works

Again, to allow us to assess your application correctly, please would you confirm below, if you or your spouse/partner have any property on or off the croft which could or has been sold to fund the rebuilding or improvement works. You will also need to provide evidence of any outstanding mortgage settlements.

Do you have:

Tick one only

No previous property

Property sold or retained but showing asset value under £50,000

Property sold or retained but showing asset value of £50,000-£100,000

Property sold or retained but showing asset value of over £100,000

Address of property sold or retained	
Amount the property was/is valued at	
Amount the property sold for (if applicable)	
Outstanding mortgage	
Profit/Loss	

For current fixed assets the value of asset must be confirmed in writing by a suitably qualified surveyor if the application is successful. For assets sold within the last five years you will need to provide a copy of the title from the record of titles.

Please use this box to provide any other info regarding other property sold or retained by you or your spouse/partner

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Q9. Details of land

Please note that you will be required to submit a five year business plan for the croft which you agree with us and you must adhere to (there is a five year plan template at the back of this application form for applicants use). If successful, it will be a condition of your grant award that you maintain the crofting activity achieved in year 5 of your business plan until the end of your (10 year) grant conditions.

Area of croft (in hectares)	
Rough grazing (in hectares)	
Improved ground (in hectares)	
Details of any common grazing shares	

Q9(a). Details of any other permanent land held

Code number	Name of croft/holding	Area in hectares

Q9(b). Current and proposed activity on croft and common grazing (CG)

Crops (please specify)	Hectares	
Stock	Present number	Proposed number
Breeding cows on the croft		
Breeding ewes on the croft		
Other (specify) on the croft		
Breeding cows on the CG		
Breeding ewes on the CG		

Other (specify) on the CG		
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Q10. Management of croft

Please provide details on who will carry out the day-to-day work on the croft.

Q11. Non-agricultural business activity

We need to know details of non-agricultural activity on the croft if you intend to make this the justification for living on your croft. If the business activity is at the proposal stage and you have a business plan, please submit a copy of the business plan along with your application.

Describe current or proposed non-agricultural business activity on the croft.

(continue on separate sheet if necessary)

What is your role in the business?

How long have you been involved in this business (years and months)

If it is your own business, how long has the business been trading/operating?

If already established, where does the business operate from, at present?

Why do you wish to move the business to your croft?

Do you employ others in the business (please state how many)?

What would happen to the business, if you continued to live at your present address?

Part 3 – Further Guidance

Checklist for applicants

The checklist below is to help you ensure that you have provided all the documentation that is required to allow us to process your application.

Please tick off the documentation which you must send to support your application below. If the relevant documentation is not provided with your application this could lead to a delay in processing your application or it being rejected.

- Applied to your local RPID office for a Main Location Code and Business Reference Number (if you do not already have one) – All applicants
- Copy of proof of address (a bank statement or utility bill, driving licence) – All applicants
- Copy of details of assignation/succession from Crofting Commission/landlord etc – All applicants
- Copies of P60s for all employments, tax returns, pension statements (three years) for both the applicant and their partner (if applicable). Written confirmation showing gross salary minus tax and NI contributions from present or previous employers is acceptable. If the applicant is declaring foreign income then a letter from their employer confirming their foreign income – All applicants
- Agricultural evidence (i.e. five-year plan), including details of stocking and cropping activity – All applicants indicating agricultural activity on their application. There is a template at back of this application form for the applicants use.
- Business evidence (i.e. business plans, current business details) – All applicants indicating non-agricultural business activity on their application.
- Copy of detailed house plans (for details of standards of house plans required, please refer to the CHG Applicants Guidance) – All applicants
- Map showing location of house contained in application – All applicants
- Copy of any mortgage statements for current fixed assets. For any properties sold in last five years a copy of a solicitors letter confirming the sale price along with associated mortgage redemption certificates – All applicants with current property assets or property assets sold in the last five years.
- Copy of the title deeds for the house – All applicants who have Decrofted and purchased their house.
- Evidence of crofting activity (livestock records, invoices for livestock, seeds, contractors etc) – All applicants who have crofting activity at time of application
- At least two competitive quotes for the work (three if one of the quotes is from

a relative) – All applicants

The data you have provided in this form is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA), the Data Protection Act 1998 and the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004 (EIR). We will protect personal data we receive in line with the Data Protection Act 1998.

Part 4 – Declarations and undertakings

I declare:

- I have read and I understand the CHG notes for applicants to the scheme.
- I am applying for a grant to rebuild or improve a croft house
- I certify that the information contained within this form is, to the best of my knowledge, accurate and correct and I hereby authorise RPID to make any enquiries necessary to verify the facts.
- I certify that on completion of the work the assisted house will be occupied by me or a member of my family.
- I confirm that if successful in obtaining an award I will operate the croft as an agricultural/business unit for the duration of the grant period.
- I certify that work has not yet started and will not start before I receive written permission from RPID to do so.
- I understand that if I knowingly give inaccurate information or make an inaccurate statement, fail to comply with any statutory obligations under the Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (as amended) or if I default on the grant contract under which CHG assistance is paid, I may be required to repay immediately all the CHG assistance advanced.
- I understand that if any of the conditions of grant set out in regulation 4 of the Croft House Grant (Scotland) Regulations 2016 are breached during the 10 year grant period , I may be required to repay immediately a proportion of the CHG assistance advanced together with interest.

I confirm that I have read and understand the points within the above declaration

If you wish for your spouse/partner to correspond with RPID regarding this application please complete the following statement.

I am content for _____ (name of individual) to discuss my application with RPID or receive/provide information on my behalf as requested by RPID relating to this application.

Signature of applicant

**Name
(BLOCK CAPITALS)**

Date

 / /

Croft House Grant – Five Year Croft Plan Template

Year	Types of Croft Activity	Details of the Crofting Activity Proposed
1	Livestock - No. of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry etc.	
	Cropping - Area of silage, hay or arable cropping in hectares	
	Details of other activities - Forestry, Horticulture, Tourism etc.	
2	Livestock - No. of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry etc.	
	Cropping - Area of silage, hay or arable cropping in hectares	
	Details of other activities - Forestry, Horticulture, Tourism etc.	
3	Livestock - No. of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry etc.	
	Cropping - Area of silage, hay or arable cropping in hectares	
	Details of other activities - Forestry, Horticulture, Tourism etc.	
4	Livestock - No. of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry etc.	
	Cropping - Area of silage, hay or arable cropping in hectares	
	Details of other activities - Forestry, Horticulture, Tourism etc.	
5	Livestock - No. of cattle, sheep, pigs and poultry etc.	
	Cropping - Area of silage, hay or arable cropping in hectares	
	Details of other activities - Forestry, Horticulture, Tourism etc.	

