

ASSET TRANSFER REQUESTS

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

Annual Report 2017/18

June 2018



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

INTRODUCTION

Asset Transfer Requests legislation creates a right for community bodies to request to buy, lease, manage or occupy any land or buildings owned or leased by HIE. It requires us to assess ATRs against a specified list of criteria and to agree to the request unless there are reasonable grounds for refusal.

Section 95 of the Act requires every relevant authority to publish an annual report setting out the numbers of asset transfer requests received and their outcomes – see Section 1. The report must also describe anything the relevant authority has done to promote the use of asset transfer requests and support community transfer bodies to make requests – see Section 2.

SECTION 1

REPORT FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018

Report measure	1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018
How many asset transfer requests were received	1*
How many requests were agreed to or refused	0
For requests agreed to, whether they resulted in a transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights	n/a
For appeals relating to requests made to the relevant authority, how many have been allowed, dismissed, or have resulted in any part of the authority's decision being reversed or changed	n/a

*During this reporting period, HIE received, but had not yet made a decision on, an asset transfer request from Unst Partnership Ltd to acquire Unit 1, Hagdale Industrial Estate, Baltasound, Unst ZE2 9TW.

SECTION 2

ASSET TRANSFER REQUEST PROMOTION AND SUPPORT

Specific support

During this period HIE staff engaged with 9 community organisations (including Unst Partnership Ltd) who had expressed an interest in asset transfer. Each organisation was provided with an overview of our asset transfer process and had direct contact with HIE's asset transfer 'named officer'. Further to this, all groups received additional support from HIE development managers in the relevant HIE area office or a member of HIE's Community Assets Teams; NB most groups received contact from both.

The table below details the asset transfer enquiries received within each of our 8 areas:

Asset Transfer enquiries by HIE area office	Number
Shetland	1
Orkney	0
Caithness and Sutherland	1
Innse Gall	1
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	2
Inner Moray Firth	4
Moray	0
Argyll and the Islands	0
TOTAL	9

Of the 9 enquiries received:

- 1 has come forward as an asset transfer request
- 1 has been successfully concluded out with the legislation (this involved the transfer of a lease)
- 4 are considered to be 'live' at the end of this reporting period so may come forward as an asset transfer request in the future.
- 3 are not expected to proceed further

General support

We have created new pages on our website to promote and publish asset transfer requests: <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-assets/community-empowerment-act.html>

Our Asset Transfer guidance details the support available from HIE's dedicated Community Assets Team and our [Ten Steps to Community Ownership](#) resource.

We also promote the support available to communities via the [Community Ownership Support Service](#) (COSS). Community Assets Team colleagues regularly liaise with COSS colleagues to discuss how we can best support communities seeking to make an asset transfer request.

Ends
