

**Asset Transfer Request
Reporting Template 2019/20 for Relevant Authorities**

Section 95 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 requires relevant authorities to produce an annual report on Asset Transfer Request activity and publish this no later than 30 June each year.

Following stakeholder feedback and in response to summary evaluations over the last two years (final 3 year evaluation report is due to be published by end of June 2020), this template has been created to help gather asset transfer data for the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. Information provided will help inform policy and practice at local and national level as the data will be collated and shared by the Scottish Government's Community Empowerment Team. However, it will be for each relevant authority to make their own annual report publicly available by 30 June 2020, whether using this template or not.

Please provide information in the four sections below and email the completed template by 30 June 2020 to community.empowerment@gov.scot.

Section One – Relevant Authority Information

Organisation: Highlands and Islands Enterprise

Address: An Lòchran, 10 Inverness Campus, Inverness, IV2 5NA

Completed by: Sandra Holmes

Role: Head of Community Assets

Email: sandra.holmes@hient.co.uk

Telephone: 01463 383309

Date of completion: 22nd June 2010

Are you the Asset Transfer Lead Contact for the organisation: Yes

If not please provide the name, job title and email address for the lead contact for any queries:

n/a

Section 2: Asset Transfer Data in 2019/20

2.1 Please complete the following table:

Total Applications Received in 2019/20	Number of successful applications	Number of unsuccessful applications	Number received in 2019/20 and yet to be determined	Number received prior to 2019/20 and yet to be determined
0	0	0	0	0

2.2 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests received which resulted in transfer of ownership, lease, or rights from your relevant authority to a community transfer body in 2019/20:

Name of Community Transfer Body, or community group that will take ownership, lease, or management of the asset.	Date request was validated	Date decision was agreed to transfer the asset	Date transfer completed	Please provide further details, such as: description of the asset / area transferred / amount paid / discount given/ type of ownership / purpose of the transfer.
none				

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that were refused in 2019/20 and went to a relevant authority appeal or review including whether they were allowed or dismissed:

Name of Community Transfer Body	Was the Asset Transfer Appeal/Review accepted? (Y/N)	Why was the Appeal/Review accepted/refused? <i>Please provide details of the asset transfer request and reasons for your decision.</i>
none		

2.4 Please use this space to provide any further comments relating to the above data:

n/a

Section Three – Promotion and Equality

3.1 Please provide information on any action you have taken to promote the benefits of asset transfer or any support provided for communities to engage with the Asset Transfer Request process.

We have a dedicated Community Assets Team that supports the community ownership of assets. This includes asset transfer as a route to ownership and the purchase of HIE assets. Details of the support available and our Ten Steps to Community Ownership resource can be found here:

<https://www.hie.co.uk/support/support-for-community-organisations/community-assets/>

Details of our asset transfer process and asset register can be found here:

<https://www.hie.co.uk/support/support-for-community-organisations/community-assets/routes-to-ownership/what-the-community-empowerment-act-means-for-your-community/>

We also promote the support available to communities via the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS).

As detailed in section 4, we consult with local communities prior to marketing an asset for sale where we consider they may have an interest.

3.2 In particular what action has been taken to support disadvantaged communities to engage with the asset transfer process?

We provide a tailored support offering, reflecting the needs and capacity of the community. Initial support is provided by our 'named officer'. Thereafter support is provided by a member of our Community Assets Team. Further support is often provided by our local area team; of which we have eight across our region.

The support includes meetings with, and visits to, the community body, a detailed explanation of the asset transfer process, assistance to set up an eligible community body – or to amend an existing one – guidance and support to develop the project and feedback on a draft asset transfer application.

Section Four – Additional Information

4.1 Please use this space to provide any further feedback not covered in the above sections.

During this reporting period we did not received any formal asset transfer requests, nor did we make a decision on any asset transfer applications. We have however agreed to the transfer of two properties and are in discussions regarding a further three potential transfers as summarised below:

Land in Colonsay

Following an approach, we agreed to sell a small, low value area of land to a community body. This was a negotiated sale at market value. However, we awarded £100k grant assistance towards their purchase of an adjacent higher value area of land that is privately owned. The purchase of both areas, the HIE land and the private land, was concluded in April 2020. This will enable the development of much needed affordable housing and business units on the island.

Land in Tiree

We have a small site that became surplus to our requirements. Prior to marketing this for sale we contacted local community organisations to determine if there was any community interest. We have since offered to sell the land to an existing community organisation at 20% below market value through a negotiated sale. The community body hopes to conclude the sale this financial year (2020/21).

Land in Broadford, Skye

We have been engaged in a potential asset transfer of a commercial site for almost two years now. We were expecting a formal asset transfer request application before now, however the community body is currently busy with a COVID response locally.

Forest land in Skye

A commercial forest we own in the Orbst area of Skye was deemed surplus to our requirements. Prior to marketing this for sale we contacted local community organisations. One has expressed an interest so we have delayed marketing the forest to allow the community time to consider making approach to purchase.

Land in Cairngorm

We have had extensive engagement regarding a possible asset transfer of all, or part, of Cairngorm Mountain. This is a very complex asset and whilst there is interest in an asset transfer from a community body we anticipate a formal request being some years away.

Subject to the pressures of responding to the Covid-19 emergency situation and recovery – if possible please email the completed template by 30 June 2020 to community.empowerment@gov.scot

If you have any queries please contact Malcolm Cowie, Asset Transfer Policy Manager at Malcolm.cowie@gov.scot

Thank you!

Community Empowerment Team
Scottish Government