

Asset Transfer Requests

Annual Report 2018/19

Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015



Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Iomairt na Gàidhealtachd 's nan Eilean

Introduction

Asset Transfer Requests (ATR) 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 2018 TO 31 MARCH 2019

Report Measure	1 April 2018 – 31 March 2019
How many asset transfer requests were received	0
How many requests were agreed to or refused	1
For requests agreed to, whether they resulted in a transfer of ownership, lease or conferral of other rights	Ownership
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	No appeals received

During this reporting period, HIE did not receive any asset transfer requests.

However, agreed to an asset transfer request received during the previous reporting year. This request was from Unst Partnership Ltd to acquire Unit 1, Hagdale Industrial Estate, Baltasound, Unst, ZE2 9TW. Details can be found here: <http://www.hie.co.uk/community-support/community-assets/unst-partnership-ltd.html>

Section 2

Asset Transfer Request Promotion and Support

Specific support

During this period HIE staff engaged with four community organisations 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	0
Orkney	0
Caithness & Sutherland	0
Innse Gall	0
Lochaber, Skye and Wester Ross	0
Inner Moray Firth	1
Moray	0
Argyll and the islands	3
Total	4

Of the four enquiries received:

- 2 are not expected to proceed further
- 1 is considered to be 'live' so may come forward as an asset transfer request in the future
- 1 is expected to be concluded as a negotiated sale outwith ATR legislation

General support

We have 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.

28 June 2019