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Survey of the Economic Conditions of Crofting 2019 -2022

AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND MARINE

social research

Survey of the Economic Conditions of Crofting 2019 - 2022

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Research Resource

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research resource

RESAS

Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank all those who freely gave their time to complete the survey questionnaires. We would also like to thank members of the Research Advisory Group who guided this research.

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List of acronyms

Abbreviation	Meaning
CAGS	Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme
CC	Crofting Commission
CHG	Croft House Grant scheme
FAS	The Farm Advisory Service
NFUS	National Farmers Union Scotland
RAG	Research Advisory Group
RESAS	Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services Division
ROC	Register of Crofts
SRDP	Scottish Rural Development Programme

Glossary

Mean	The mean (average) of a data set is found by adding all numbers in the data set and then dividing by the number of values in the set
Median	The median is the middle value when a data set is ordered from least to greatest

Highlights

What is the report about?

The Scottish Government recognises the contribution that crofting makes to the rural economy and rural communities. As part of this commitment to crofting, the Scottish Ministers are required (under Section 51 of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010) to submit a report on the economic conditions of crofting to the Scottish Parliament every four years. This research informs the report to parliament. This report builds upon previous publications in 2014 and 2018.

What did we do?

Research Resource was commissioned to survey crofters. As of June 2022, there were 16,785 registered crofters listed in the Crofting Commission's Register of Crofts. Of these, verified contact information was held for 12,409 crofters. Around a third (4,000) of those crofters were randomly selected to take part in the survey. Fieldwork took place between July and September 2022. A total of 942 surveys were received (24% response rate), which were representative of the population of verifiable and contactable crofters in terms of age, tenure and region.

What did we learn?

- In general, crofters tend to be male, living in a two-person household and are aged over 55. Crofters were likely to have been involved in crofting for 20 years or more and were brought up in a crofting household. This is unchanged since 2014. However, the proportion of females has continued to increase over the eight-year period, rising from 13% in 2014 to 26% in 2018 and 30% in 2022.
- Similar to the 2018 and 2014 surveys, raising livestock continues to be the most popular crofting activity (73%), this was also the case in 2018 (80%) and in 2014 (83%), although the proportion doing so has decreased. This is followed by growing crops (43%), and forestry and woodland creation (18%) which was a new question in the 2022 survey.
- The median combined income from both crofting and non-crofting activities, minus business running costs, was £29,810, higher than the result from the 2018 survey (£29,000) and the median Scottish household income of £27,716.
- 61% had invested in their croft in the last three years, a decrease from 68% in the 2018 survey. 62% had plans for investment which is up from the 48% reported in the 2018 survey and 55% in the 2014 survey.
- The proportion of crofters with a succession plan in place has continued to increase with each survey, from 46% in 2014, to 47% in 2018 to 60% in 2022.
- When asked about the sources of advice and support that crofters would use for crofting activities, the Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local Crofting Commission Assessor was the top response with 60%.
- 28% of crofters had carried out peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry and woodland creation activities in the 2019-2022 period and 34% plan to carry out these activities in the period 2023-2026.
- Those who had been crofting for the least amount of time (three years or less) were most likely to have received public funding (81%).

Executive Summary

Introduction to the Economic Conditions of Crofting Survey

- The Scottish Government recognises the contribution that crofting makes to the rural economy and rural communities and is committed to securing the future of crofting. The Scottish Government has a track record of investing in crofting and will continue to support ways in which to improve its economic condition. As part of this commitment to crofting, the Scottish Ministers are required (under Section 51 of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010) to submit a report on the economic conditions of crofting to the Scottish Parliament every four years.
- To satisfy this, Research Resource was commissioned to undertake a survey of crofters to provide detailed evidence on the uses and financial situation of crofts from 2019-2022. This report builds upon previous publications in 2014 and 2018.
- Broadly comparable with the previous surveys, this year's survey covered a wide range of social and economic issues such as the demographic composition of crofting households; the activities on crofts; the employment status of crofters; the investments made, and the income derived from crofts; and the outlook of crofting households. It also touched on crofters' views of support and information sources available to the crofting community and the future of crofting more broadly. A new section was introduced in the 2022 survey on peatland restoration, biodiversity activities, and forestry and woodland creation. The aim of this section was to gauge the proportions of crofters who have been involved in these activities or plan to undertake these in the future, and about any barriers preventing them from doing so. An additional question on what respondents would like to see on the Farm Advisory Service website was also added.
- 4,000 crofters were invited to participate in a self-completion survey using the Crofting Commission's Register of Crofts (ROC) as the sampling frame. Fieldwork took place between the 11 July and 26 September 2022. A total of 942 surveys were submitted via post, email, telephone or online, representing a 24% response rate, an increase of 6% compared to the 2018 response rate. The response profile was representative of the population of verifiable crofters in terms of age, tenure and region. No information on sex or gender is contained in the ROC and so it cannot be stated whether the data is representative of sex. Previous surveys were carried out using an exclusively postal methodology.

Crofting background and demographic information

- The ROC showed that there were 16,785 registered crofters in Scotland in 2022, from these we extracted verifiable contact information for 12,409.
- Crofters are most likely to be male (68%). However, the proportion of female crofters has continued to increase with each survey, from 13% in 2014 to 26% in 2018 and 30% in 2022.

- 42% of crofters are aged 65 and over, and only 3% are aged under 35, consistent with the 2018 survey where 45% were aged over 65 and 3% between 16 and 34. Crofters are most likely to live in a two-person household (48%), and again this is consistent with the findings from 2014 and 2018 (both 47%).
- Respondents were most likely to have become crofters because they had been brought up in a crofting family (60%), 5% less than the 2018 survey results.
- The proportion of respondents who have been crofting for 20 years or more continues to decrease from 70% in 2014 to 65% in 2018 and 48% in 2022.
- The most common activity undertaken on a croft continues to be raising livestock (73%), this compares to 83% in 2014 and 80% in 2018. This is followed by growing crops (43%), and forestry and woodland creation (18%) which was a new option in the 2022 survey.

Financial issues in crofting

- In terms of income from crofting activities, 53% had made less than £10,001 and 38% had made no income. The average income was £4,538 and the median was calculated as £500.
- Furthermore, most crofters had not received any income over the last 12 months from grant money or support schemes (63%). Where they had, this tended to be less than £5,001 (30%). The mean income from public funding was calculated as £11,763.
- 82% of crofters reported either no running costs relating to their crofting-based activities or running costs of under £5,001. The mean was £5,145, down from £8,385 in 2018.
- In terms of income from non-crofting activities, 61% reported an income of between £10,001 and £50,000, in line with the 2018 survey (64%). The median household income reported from non-crofting activities was £25,000, the same as the 2018 survey results (£25,000) and slightly higher than the 2014 median value of £21,000.
- There has been an increase in the proportion of crofters paying rent or mortgage costs on their land or house, from 57% in 2018 to 64% in 2022. The average mortgage cost on croft houses in the last 12 months was £8,374. Where crofters paid annual rent, 61% paid less than £50 in the last year. The average annual rent was reported as £133.95, and the median value was £32.
- 27% of tenant crofters who responded stated their rent is reviewed annually, 20% said it was reviewed between every 1 and 10 years, 29% said it was reviewed less frequently and 24% said it had never been reviewed.

Investment in crofts

- 61% had invested in their croft in the last three years, a decrease from 68% in the 2018 survey. 62% had plans for investment which is up from the 48% reported in the 2018 survey and 55% in the 2014 survey.

- Crofters were most likely to invest their own money (99.6%) than money received from grant or support schemes (39%), and crofters were most likely to invest in livestock (46%). The average amount invested from crofters' own money was £12,832 (£20,007 in 2018) and from public funding was £4,612 (£6,554 in 2018).
- One in ten crofters who had invested in their croft during the 2019-2022 period reported additional income because of the investment. The median reported additional income has fallen from £1,500 in 2018 to £1,000 in 2022.
- 62% of crofters said that they planned to invest in their croft in the next four years, up from 48% in 2018 and 55% in 2014. The average figure was £6,503, down significantly from £16,450 in 2018. Again, investing in livestock was the most common response when asked where the future investment would be spent (52%).
- The three most common reasons for not investing were that the financial cost/ outlay of investing was too great (36%), that there was no perceived desire to do so (32%), and the uncertainty of the potential benefit of investing (29%), which is consistent with the reasons from 2014 and 2018.
- The proportion of crofters with a succession plan in place has continued to increase with each survey, from 46% in 2014 and 47% in 2018 to 60% in 2022.
- Most crofters were in agreement that crofting is not economically viable without household members supplementing income from non-crofting activities (92%), consistent with the findings from 2018 (95%). Just under two-thirds of respondents (64%) believed that income from, for example, wind farm developments on the common grazing, should benefit the whole community and this has continued to increase with each survey from 50% in 2014 and 60% in 2018. The proportion of respondents who agreed the Scottish Government is committed to protecting the future of crofting has decreased from 49% in 2014 and 2018 to 42% in 2022.

Sources of information on crofting

- Just under a third of crofters had looked for advice or support on crofting activities in the last 12 months (30% in 2022, 33% in 2018).
- The Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local Crofting Commission Assessor were the sources that crofters were most likely to use for advice and support on crofting activities (60%), an increase of 10% from 2018.
- The most common service crofters would like to see developed on the Farm Advisory Service website was an advice line (34%), followed by technical notes (28%) and videos (28%).

Peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry and woodland creation

- 28% of crofters have carried out peatland restoration, biodiversity activities or forestry or woodland creation activities in the 2019-2022 period and 34% plan to carry out these activities in the period 2023-2026.
- The most common activities that were carried out were biodiversity activities on the croft (12%), and woodland or forestry creation on the croft (18%). These were also the two activities most likely to be carried out in the next four years (15% and 21% respectively).
- Of those that had not used any available schemes to either restore peatland, carry out biodiversity activities, or create forestry and woodland, 38% stated they lacked information on how to do this and 37% said they were uncertain of the benefits.

Conclusions

- The profile of crofters remains predominantly male, however the proportion of female crofters has continued to increase since 2014 (13%), to 26% in 2018 and 30% in 2022. The crofting population is more likely to be older, with 42% aged 65 and over. 60% were brought up in a crofting family. 48% of crofters have been a registered crofter for more than 20 years, this is a marked decrease from 2014 (70%) and 2018 (65%). On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who have been crofting for less than five years has increased from 8% in 2014 and 11% in 2018 to 17% in 2022. Those who have been a crofter for 20 years or more were significantly more likely to be older crofters, with 70% of this group aged 65 and over compared to just 5% of those aged 16-44.
- Most crofting activities are rooted in the traditional agricultural pursuits of livestock and crops – a similar picture to 2014 and 2018. A small percentage used their croft for other activities such as, forestry or woodland creation (18%), biodiversity activities (8%), glamping/camping (3%) and peatland restoration (1%). These new activities were more likely to be carried out by crofters aged under 65.
- The number of crofters who work only on the croft (22%), has not changed significantly since 2018.
- Crofting was designed to supplement other forms of employment rather than to be the sole source of income. In addition to agricultural activities, crofts are also used for a wide variety of other activities such as growing fruit and vegetables; growing trees; bed and breakfasts and holiday lets; and renewable energy production. 90% of crofters who responded had income from non-crofting sources. This was also the case in 2014 and 2018.
- 60% have invested in their croft with the average investment being £12,832. In 2018, 68% invested in their croft with the average investment being £20,007.

- Thinking to the future, an increasing proportion of crofters (62%, up from 48% in 2018) said that they planned to invest in their croft in the next four years, most commonly on livestock (52%).

- Although planning to invest in the future, 92% of crofters agreed that crofting is not economically viable without household members supplementing income from non-crofting activities.

1. Introduction

1.1. Introduction

This report provides an overview of the key findings of a survey on the economic condition of crofting covering the period 2019-2022 carried out by Research Resource on behalf of the Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services Division (RESAS) of the Scottish Government.

1.2. Background and objectives

Every four years, the Scottish Government is required to submit a report to the Scottish Parliament on the economic condition of crofting, in line with Section 51 of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

To inform the 2022 reporting, Research Resource, an independent research organisation, was commissioned to conduct research on a range of issues affecting crofting businesses and households.

Building on previous publications, in 2014 and 2018, this report provides a detailed outline of the uses and financial situation of crofts in the years between 2019 and 2022. Broadly comparable with previous surveys, this year's survey covered a wide range of social and economic issues such as the demographic composition of crofting households; the activities on crofts; the employment status of crofters; the investments made, and the income derived from crofts; and the outlook of crofting households. It also touched on crofters' views of support and information sources available to the crofting community and the future of crofting more broadly. A new section was added to the 2022 survey with additional questions on peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry and woodland creation.

To date there are currently 16,785 registered crofters listed on the Crofting Commission's Register of Crofts.

The report will provide up-to-date and accurate information to help inform decision making and legislation affecting crofting.

1.3. Research Method

The survey was carried out using a mixed methodology comprising a combination of email, online, postal, and telephone responses, with digital methods used first.

The database of crofters was provided by the Crofting Commission from its Register of Crofts. This showed there were 16,785 crofters in Scotland. From this total, a list of 12,409[1] verifiable crofters was extracted. The survey was sent to a representative sample of 4,000 crofters who were randomly selected.

The final research questions and survey design was developed in discussion with stakeholders through the Research Advisory Group (RAG), comprising of representatives from the Crofting Commission, members of Scottish Government Crofting Policy and analysts from Rural & Environmental Science and Analytical Services Division. Cognitive testing was carried out with six individuals, a mix of crofting stakeholders and crofters. The purpose of this was to test the questionnaire to investigate the way respondents understood, processed and responded to questions and to explore whether the questions, response options and any instructions were interpreted as intended. Stakeholders were asked to complete the survey themselves and this was followed up with a detailed discussion in order to understand crofter's perceptions of the questionnaire, and to identify any potential challenges they may face in completing it. The findings from this exercise were then fed back to the Project Manager along with recommendations on how the survey could be adjusted to improve the quality of data or response rates.

A digital first approach was taken with the survey. An initial email invitation was sent to all crofters for whom an email address was held. This was sent to 2,743 crofters on 11 July 2022. Then on 29 July, a postal survey was sent to all, including those for whom an email response had not been received. These respondents were sent a letter outlining the background and purpose of the survey, including frequently asked questions, along with a self-completion questionnaire. The front page of the questionnaire included a link to an online version which could be completed in place of the postal survey if desired. For paper based self-completion surveys, a freepost return envelope was provided. This was sent to 3,662 crofters. Between 1 and 6 September, 30 participants who did not respond to either the email or postal survey completed it over the phone.

A copy of the questionnaire is provided in Annex 1. Respondents were assured that all of their answers would be completely confidential and anonymous and that it would not be possible to identify any individual or croft business in the final report.

1.4. Sample Size

A total of 942 responses were received and of these responses, 49% were completed by email (460 responses), 42% (398 responses) were completed by post, 6% were submitted online (54 responses) and 3% were completed by telephone (30 responses).

[1] Both tenants and owner-occupier crofters were included in the extract. A number of exclusions were made from the complete Register of Crofts. Landlords of vacant crofts were excluded, as were incomplete entries and incomplete addresses as well as a limited number of entries containing invalid data. This left a pool of 12,409 crofters, from which a sample of 4,000 were selected at random.

This overall level of return provides robust data, accurate to +/-3.07%[2] of the overall crofters level (based upon the 95% level of confidence and a 50% estimate). Analysis of subgroups will be less robust. Please see Annex 2 for the level of confidence on different estimates and for subgroup analysis.

Of the initial 4,000 crofter addresses, 41 were returned as undeliverable or were considered out of scope for some other reason such as the land being decrofted or where the named respondent had died. 942 responses is therefore a 24% response rate from a sample of 3,959 crofters in scope for the research.

The methodology for this survey has changed from the previous survey when the survey was undertaken exclusively by post with 739 responses received, an 18% response rate.

Tables 1.1, 1.2 and 1.3 below shows the number of responses achieved by area, stakeholder type and region and how this compares to the population of verifiable crofters according to the database received from the Crofting Commission's Register of Crofts. As can be seen in the following tables the profile achieved varies by no more than four percentage points, which means that the achieved sample of responses is considered representative of the verifiable crofting population, therefore there was no requirement to weight the data. Weighting would be undertaken if it was believed that there was a significant difference between the profile of those surveyed and the overall population. Weighting allows for a dataset to be corrected so that results more accurately represent the population being studied.

Table 1.1: Respondents by stakeholder type

	Population – Counts.	Population %	Interviews – Counts	Interviews - %
Owner-Occupier	4,173	33.6%	314	33.4%
Tenant	8,236	66.4%	627	66.6%
Grand Total	12,409	100%	941	100.0%

[2] All proportions produced in a survey have a degree of error associated with them because they are generated from a sample of the population rather than the population as a whole. Any proportion measured in the survey has an associated confidence interval (±3%). It is possible with any survey that the sample achieved produces estimates that are outside this range. The number of times out of 100 surveys when the result achieved would lie within the confidence interval is also quoted; this is 95%.

Table 1.2: Respondents by age

	Population – Counts.	Population %	Interviews – Counts	Interviews - %
1-20	19	0.2%	1	0.1%
21-30	260	2.1%	13	1.4%
31-40	896	7.2%	54	5.7%
41-50	1,634	13.2%	130	13.8%
51-60	2,842	22.9%	224	23.8%
61-70	2,594	20.9%	218	23.2%
71-80	2,169	17.5%	192	20.4%
81-90	925	7.5%	65	6.9%
91-100	139	1.1%	8	0.9%
101+	2	0.0%	0	
Unknown	929	7.5%	36	3.8%
Grand Total	12,409	100%	941	**100.0%**

Table 1.3: Respondents by region

	Population – Counts.	Population %	Interviews – Counts	Interviews - %
Highland: Badenoch And Strathspey	71	0.6%	3	0.3%
Highland: Caithness	516	4.2%	47	5.0%
Highland: Inverness	249	2.0%	17	1.8%
Highland: Lochaber	562	4.5%	33	3.5%
Highland: Ross-Shire	1,386	11.2%	110	11.7%
Highland: Skye And Lochalsh	1,491	12.0%	110	11.7%
Highland: Sutherland	1,379	11.1%	104	11.1%
Orkney	220	1.8%	21	2.2%
Shetland	1,446	11.7%	97	10.3%
Strathclyde: Argyll And Bute	587	4.7%	38	4.0%
Western Isles: Barra	337	2.7%	22	2.3%
Western Isles: Harris	418	3.4%	35	3.7%
Western Isles: Lewis	2,779	22.4%	242	25.7%
Western Isles: North And South Uist	968	7.8%	62	6.6%
Grand Total	**12,409**	**100%**	**941**	**100.0%**

1.5. Interpreting results

Respondents in the survey are representative of registered verifiable crofters (i.e. those who are included in the Crofting Commission’s Register of Crofts, minus the exclusions mentioned in footnote 2). As only one person in the household can be included in the Register, this may not cover all crofters in the household. However, respondents are referred to as crofters throughout the report for the sake of brevity.

When reporting the data in this document, in general, percentages in tables have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Columns may not add to 100% because of rounding or where multiple responses to a question are possible.

All tables have a descriptive and numerical base, showing the respondent population or population subgroup examined in it. Due to the self-completion nature of the survey, the base (number of respondents) for each question varies slightly. Where respondents have left a question blank, these have been excluded from the base.

A population is a group targeted for analysis or study, in this case crofters. A sample is part of a population that researchers and statisticians use to collect data. Samples help represent populations and can be useful for making meaningful conclusions about a population. Samples of population, so long as the sample reflects the same characteristics of the overall population, are used to collect views from the whole population. The reason we only speak to samples of people is to reduce cost and to burden less of the population.

Because of sampling variation, some differences may occur by chance. We therefore use standard statistical tests to examine whether differences are likely to be due to chance. The z-test was used to compare the differences between scores in order to establish if the difference is significant, i.e. has occurred purely as a result of the sample or if it indicates a real difference in the percentages in the target population. Only differences that are statistically significant at the 95% confidence level are described as differences in the text of this report, unless explicitly stated otherwise.

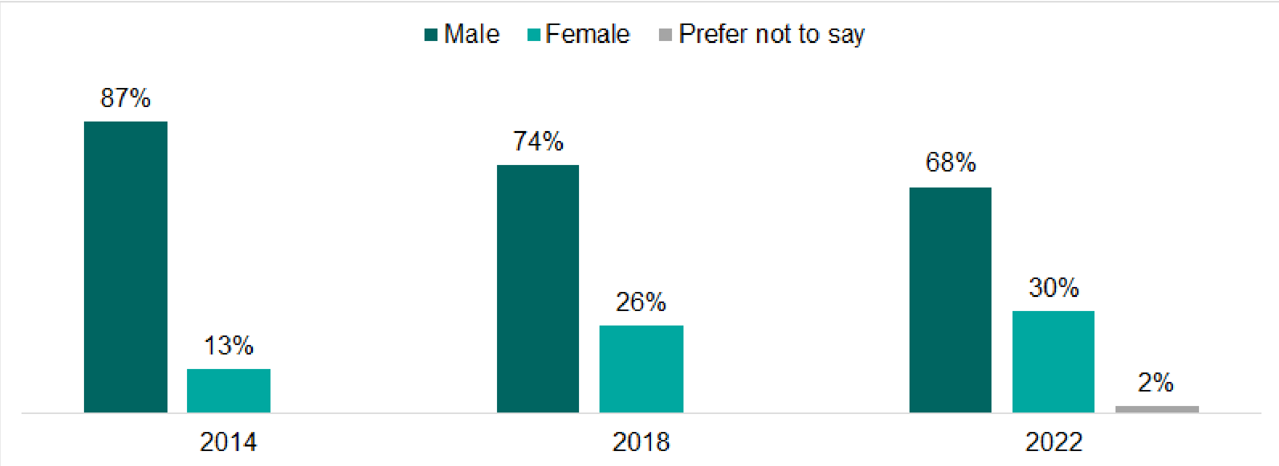
2. About crofting households

2.1. Summary of key points

- Overall, the profile of crofters is different from the general population, with crofters more likely to be male (68%) and older than the Scottish population (49%). However, it should be noted that the proportion of female crofters has continued to increase since 2014, rising from 13% in 2014 to 26% in 2018 and 30% in 2022.
- Crofters are most likely to live in two person households (48%). This is more than the Scottish population where 32% live in two adult households[3].

2.2. Age and gender

Figure 2.1: Gender of respondents over time



Base: respondents, 2014, n=751; 2018, n=719; 2022, n=920

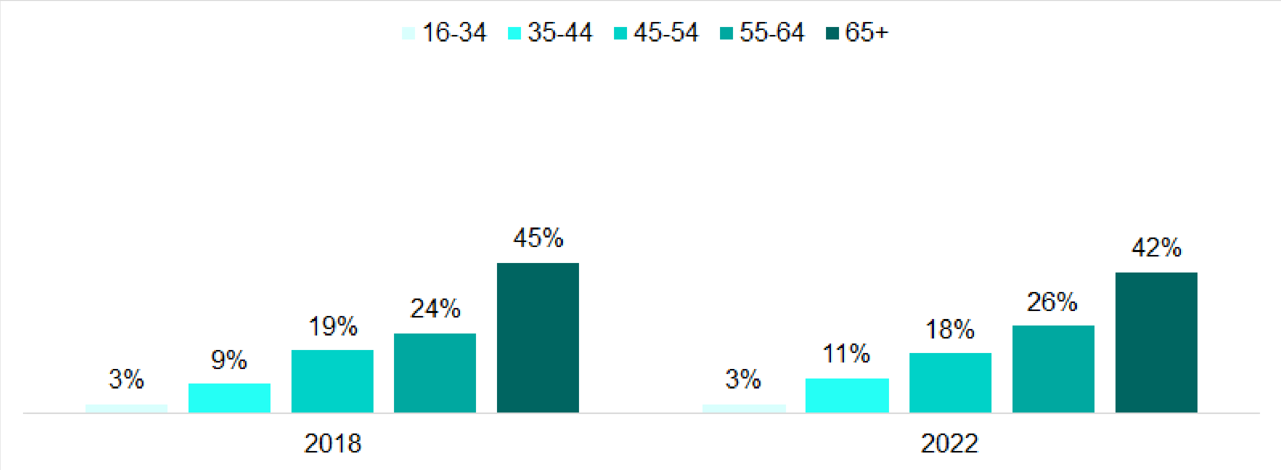
In line with the results from the 2014 and 2018 surveys, crofters were more likely to be male (68% in 2022) compared to the Scottish population[4] (49%). The 2021 Scottish Agricultural Census[5] shows that most agricultural working occupiers are male (60%) and 40% are female. The proportion of female crofters has continued to increase from 13% in 2014 to 26% in 2018 and 30% in 2022.

[3] Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland are available here. Estimates from 2002 onwards are based on the proportion of households of each type from the Scottish Household Survey (SHS). The estimates of the number of households of each type obtained from the SHS are adjusted so that the total number of households is equal to the National Records Scotland (NRS) mid-year household estimate figure in each year (Mid-Year Household Estimate).

[4] Mid-2021 Population Estimates Scotland from NRS are available here.

[5] Final results from the 2021 June Scottish Agricultural Census are available here.

Figure 2.2: Age profile of respondents over time



Base: respondents, 2018, n=719; 2022, n=919

In terms of the age profile of respondents, 42% are aged 65 and over, while only 3% are aged under 35. The age profile of crofters does not vary significantly compared to the profiles from the 2014 and 2018 surveys.

The 2021 Scottish Agricultural Census shows that most working occupiers are older than 55 years of age, as we can see with the crofting population. However, the proportion of crofters aged 65 and over is slightly higher than that of agricultural working occupiers. From the 2021 Scottish Agricultural Census[6] 40% of male working occupiers were aged over 64 and compared to 32% of females.

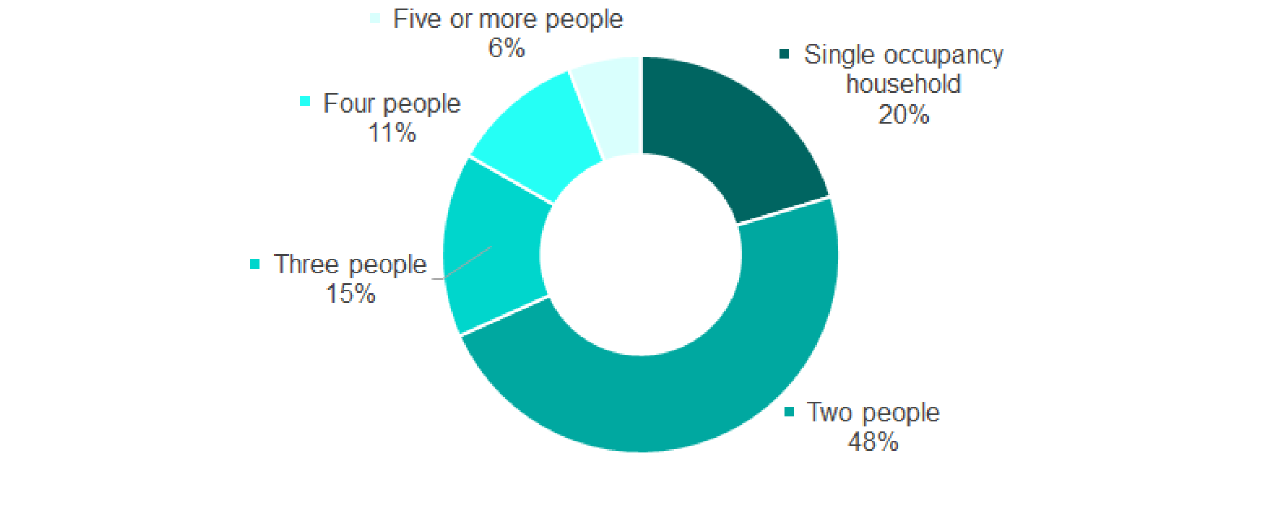
The crofting population is also more likely to be older than the Scottish population in general where 24% are aged 65 and over[7].

[6] Final results from the 2021 June Scottish Agricultural Census are available here.

[7] Mid-2021 Population Estimates Scotland from NRS are available here.

2.3. Household description

Figure 2.3: Household size



Base: respondents, 2022, n=918

It was most common for crofters to live in a two-person household (48%) which is consistent with the 2018 survey (47%). 20% lived alone, 15% lived in a three-person household, 11% lived in a four-person household and 6% lived in a household with five or more people.

2.4. Equalities information

18% of respondents said they had a physical or mental health condition or illness that was expected to last 12 months or more, and of these individuals 36% said that the condition limits their day-to-day activities a lot and a further 55% said it limits them a little. The proportion of respondents with a long term mental or physical health problem was slightly lower for crofters than the Scottish population (24%)[8].

In terms of religion, most crofters said they belonged to the Church of Scotland (42%). A further 16% said they were 'other Christian' and 5% said they were Roman Catholic. 26% of respondents said they did not belong to any religion, which is significantly less than the Scottish population (56%)[9].

With regard to sexuality, 90% of crofters identified as being heterosexual, 8% preferred not to answer and just over 1% identified as being gay or lesbian, bisexual or some other sexuality.

[8] The figure for the Scottish Population is taken from Excel tables, Chapter 2 – composition, Table 2.3 from the Scottish Household Survey. [Supporting documents - Scottish household survey 2019: annual report - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)].

[9] The figure for the Scottish Population is taken from Excel tables, Chapter 2 – composition from the Scottish Household Survey. [Supporting documents - Scottish household survey 2019: annual report - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)].

The vast majority of crofters said they were of white ethnic origin (90%) and of these individuals, 84% said they were White Scottish and a further 14% said they were white other British.

3. About your crofting background

3.1. Summary of key points

- The most common reason for becoming a crofter is where crofters have been brought up in a crofting family (60%).
- Just under half of crofters have been a registered crofter for 20 years or more, however, this number continues to decrease from 70% in 2014 to 65% in 2018, and 48% in 2022.
- Like the 2018 and 2014 surveys, raising livestock continues to be the most popular crofting activity (73%). This is followed by growing crops (43%) and forestry or woodland creation (18%), a new question in the 2022 survey.
- A further 13% of crofters said they ran bed and breakfast facilities or holiday lets. This appeared to be most common in Argyll and Bute (21%) and amongst females (16%).

3.2. Main reasons for becoming a crofter

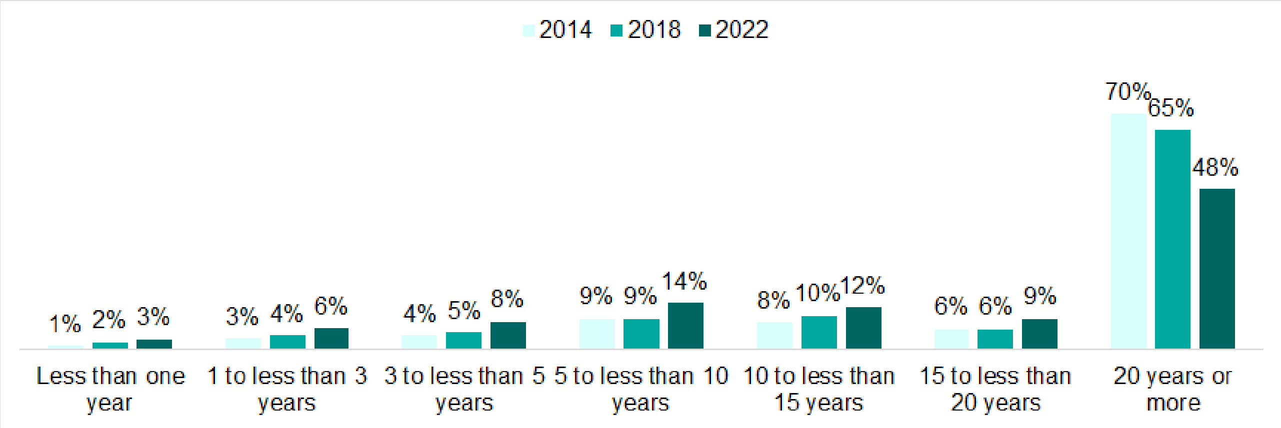
Table 3.1: Main reasons for becoming a crofter (Top 5 reasons)

Base, n=929	%
I was brought up in a crofting family/ a family croft became available	71.9%
To live amongst a small community	26.4%
To live with spouse/ partner	17.1%
To provide a source of income	14.6%
To live with family and/ or friends	13.1%

Crofters were most likely to have become a crofter due to being brought up in a crofting family or where a family croft had become available (72%), and this was also the most common reason given by respondents in the 2018 survey (65%). The next most common reasons were where a family croft had become available (33%) or where respondents wanted to live amongst a small community (26%), similar to the 2018 survey.

3.3. Length of time being a registered crofter

Figure 3.1: Length of time being a registered crofter



Base: respondents, 2018, n=706; 2022, n=926

Although crofters were most likely to have been crofting for 20 years or more, the proportion of respondents who have been crofting for 20 years or more has continued to decrease from 70% in 2014 to 65% in 2018 and 48% in 2022. On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who have been crofting for less than five years has increased from 8% in 2014 to 11% in 2018 and 17% in 2022. Those who have been a crofter for 20 years or more were significantly more likely to be older crofters, with 70% of this group being aged 65 and over.

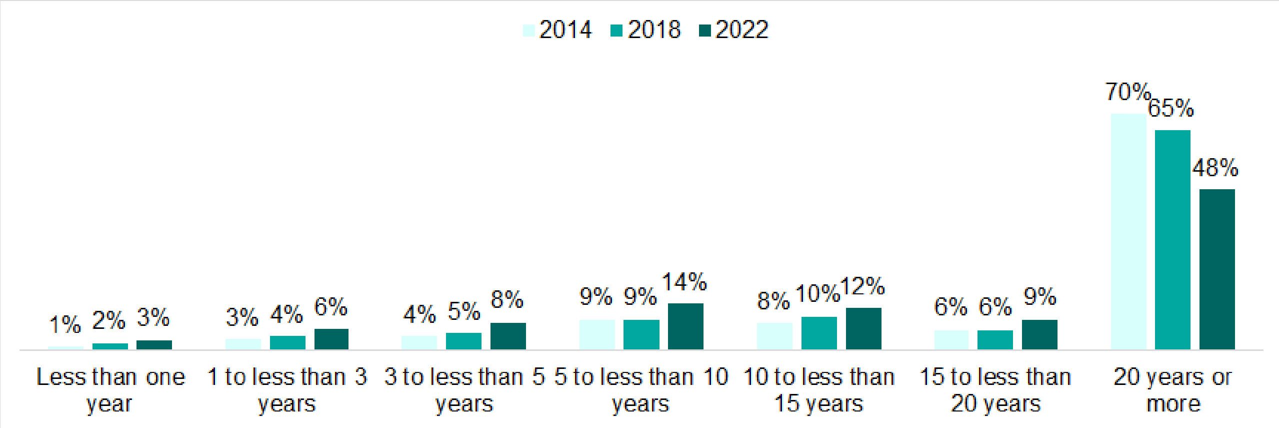
3.4. Number of crofts operated per tenure

Table 3.2: Number of crofts operated per tenure

	Base	Min	Max	Mean	Median
Number of crofts operated as tenant crofter	567	1	10	1.41	1
Number of crofts operated as owner-occupier	365	1	10	1.36	1
Number of crofts operated as landlord	32	1	4	1.31	1
Number of crofts operated as sublet/ short term lease	102	1	6	1.85	1

Respondents were asked about the number of crofts they currently operate as a tenant, owner-occupier crofter, landlord or as a sublet. Where respondents operated crofts as a tenant crofter this ranged between 1 and 10 crofts with a mean of 1.41 crofts. Where crofts were owner-occupied, this ranged between 1 and 10 crofts, with a mean of 1.36. Those crofters that also identified as being a landlord of a croft, were the landlord of between 1 and 4 crofts, with a mean score of 1.31 and for those who operated crofts as a sublet or short lease this ranged from between 1 and 6 crofts with a mean of 1.85 crofts.

Figure 3.2: Length of sublet/ short term lease

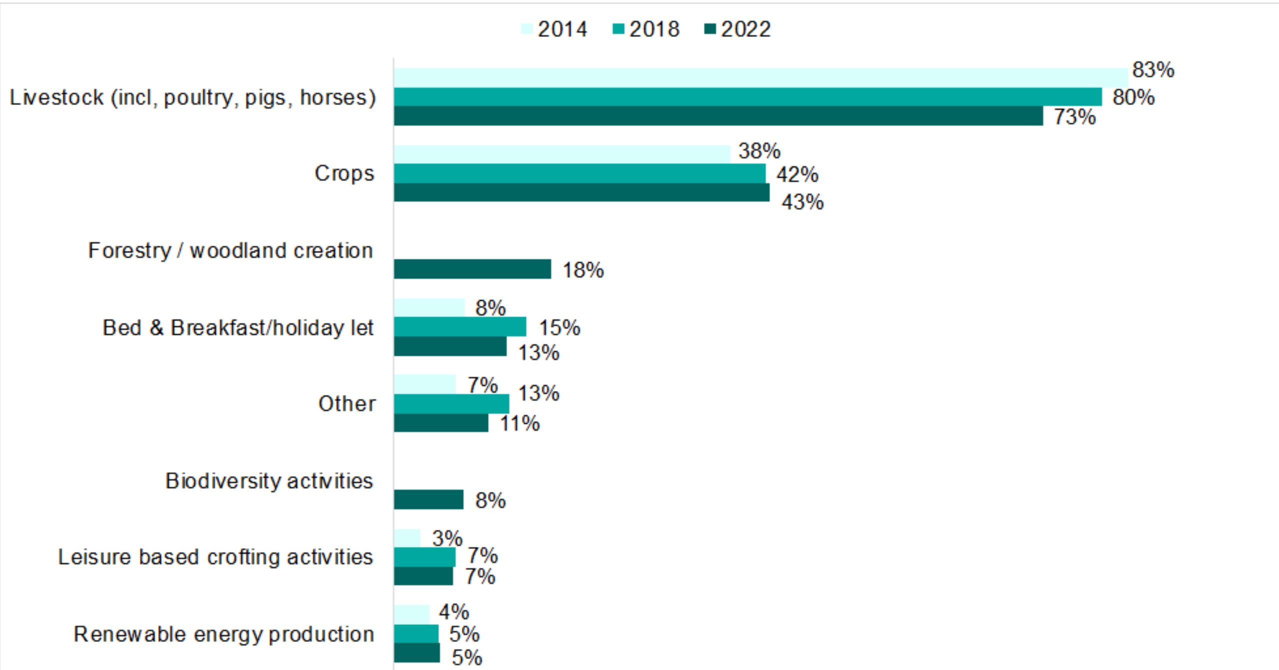


Base: respondents, n=71

Of those who sublet a croft or had a short-term lease, 40% said their lease was for one year or less, 17% said it was between 2-5 years, 21% said it was between 6 and 10 years, and 1% said it was for more than 10 years. A further 7% of respondents said they had a seasonal let or a let for summer grazing and 3% said they had an unofficial sublet.

3.5. Crofting activity

Figure 3.3: Crofting activities undertaken (top 8 activities)



Please note that other activities noted but not shown were camping/ glamping (3%), Aquaculture (2%), Wood processing (3%), Peatland restoration (1%)
Base: respondents, 2018, n=562; 2022, n=848

Raising livestock was by far the most common crofting activity undertaken by respondents in 2022 (73%), this was also the case in 2018 (80%) and in 2014 (83%), however it has begun to slowly decrease. A further 43% grew crops on their croft (42% in 2018 and 38% in 2014). Several new activities were added to the 2022 questionnaire. These included peatland restoration (1%), biodiversity activities

(8%), forestry and woodland creation (18%) and leisure-based crofting activities such as camping and glamping (3%).

The results to this question generally do not vary significantly when analysed by the length of time being a registered crofter. Raising livestock, growing crops and forestry and woodland creation remained the top three most common activities for respondents regardless of how long they had been a registered crofter.

Table 3.3: Crofting activities analysed by local authority

	Argyll And Bute	Highland	Na h-Eileanan Siar	Orkney Islands	Shetland Islands
Base: no of respondents	**38**	**384**	**313**	**18**	**94**
Livestock (incl, poultry, pigs, horses)	82.0%	70.0%	72.0%	72.0%	86.0%
Crops	45.0%	42.0%	45.0%	33.0%	35.0%
Bed & Breakfast/ holiday let	21.0%	17.0%	10.0%	11.0%	2.0%
Camping/ glamping	8.0%	3.0%	2.0%	-	2.0%
Aquaculture	-	3.0%	1.0%	-	2.0%
Wood processing	11.0%	5.0%	1.0%	-	-
Renewable energy production	3.0%	6.0%	4.0%	22.0%	3.0%
Peatland restoration	-	1.0%	2.0%	-	2.0%
Biodiversity activities	11.0%	11.0%	5.0%	6.0%	6.0%
Forestry/ woodland creation	13.0%	23.0%	14.0%	-	12.0%
Leisure based crofting activities	5.0%	5.0%	9.0%	-	7.0%
Other	13.0%	7.0%	4.0%	17.0%	4.0%
Croft is sublet for grazing/ cropping etc	-	2.0%	3.0%	-	-
Horticulture	-	1.0%	1.0%	6.0%	-
Land maintenance/ maintenance and repairs of equipment	3.0%	2.0%	1.0%	-	1.0%

As shown in Table 3.3, the most notable differences in crofting activity by local authority were for bed and breakfast or holiday lets, where 21% of crofters in Argyll and Bute, 17% in highland, 11% in Orkney and 10% in Na h-Eileanan Siar did this compared to just 2% of crofters in the Shetland Islands, and also for renewable energy activities which were more common in the Orkney Islands (22%) than in all other local authority areas (between 3% and 6% for all other areas).

Analysis by gender showed that females were more likely to run bed and breakfast or holiday let facilities (16%) than males (11%). On the other hand, males were more likely to raise livestock (77%) than females (65%). Renewable energy production, while small proportions, was more likely amongst males (6%) than females (3%).

Analysis by age showed that crofters aged 55-64 (17%) were most likely to be involved in bed and breakfast of holiday let facilities compared to 14% aged 65 and over, 10% aged 45-54 and 5% aged 16-44. Raising livestock was more common amongst crofters aged 16-44 (83%) and aged 45-54 (85%) than those aged 65 and over (65%). Forestry or woodland creation was more likely to be undertaken by crofters aged 55-64 (21%) than aged 45-54 (12%). Leisure based crofting activities were least common amongst crofters aged 45-54 (3%).

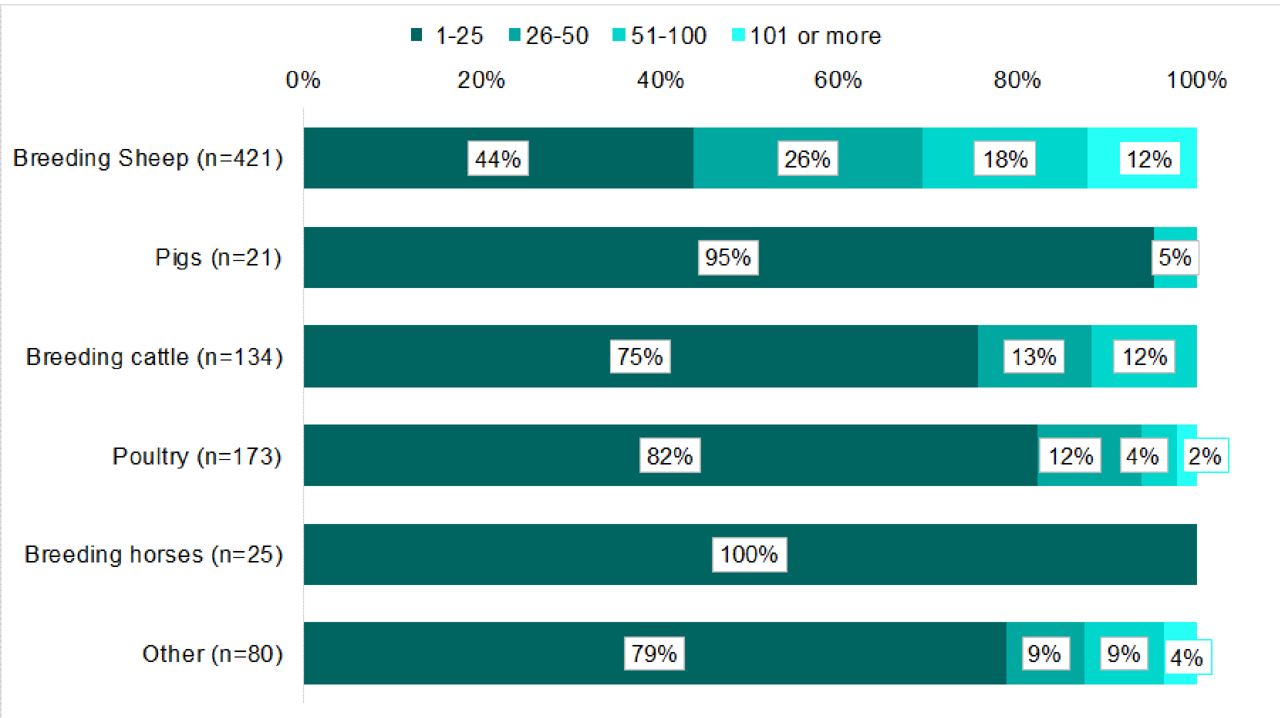
Table 3.4: Percentage of time performing each crofting activity

	Base	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Livestock (incl, poultry, pigs, horses)	600	0	100	74.56	90
Bed & Breakfast/ holiday let	104	0	100	52.81	50
Leisure based crofting activities	54	0	100	40.76	31.5
Crops	351	0	100	40.66	30
Camping/ glamping	24	0	100	39.79	25
Forestry/ woodland creation	141	0	100	34.83	20
Aquaculture	14	0	100	31.79	15
Biodiversity activities	64	0	100	25.78	20
Peatland restoration	12	0	100	22.17	12.5
Wood processing	26	0	70	22.15	10
Renewable energy production	41	0	80	12.10	5
Other (If other, please specify - includes Horticulture/ maintenance and subletting croft)	58	4	100	58.59	60

Crofters were asked what proportion of their time each activity took. Activities which appear to take up the largest proportion of time were raising livestock (with a mean percentage of 75% and a median value of 90%), followed by bed and breakfast and holiday lets (with a mean percentage of 53% and a median value of 50%) as shown in Table 3.4.

3.6. Livestock types

Figure 3.4: Livestock numbers



Please note n= refers to the number of respondents who had animals in each category and reflects the number upon which the % is calculated

Table 3.5: Livestock statistics (excluding 0)

	Base	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Breeding Sheep	421	1	520	55.52	30
Pigs	21	1	60	6.71	3
Breeding Cattle	134	1	100	19.37	8
Poultry	173	1	600	22.54	12
Breeding Horses	25	1	20	4.4	2
Other (largely nonbreeding sheep)	80	1	407	24.73	8

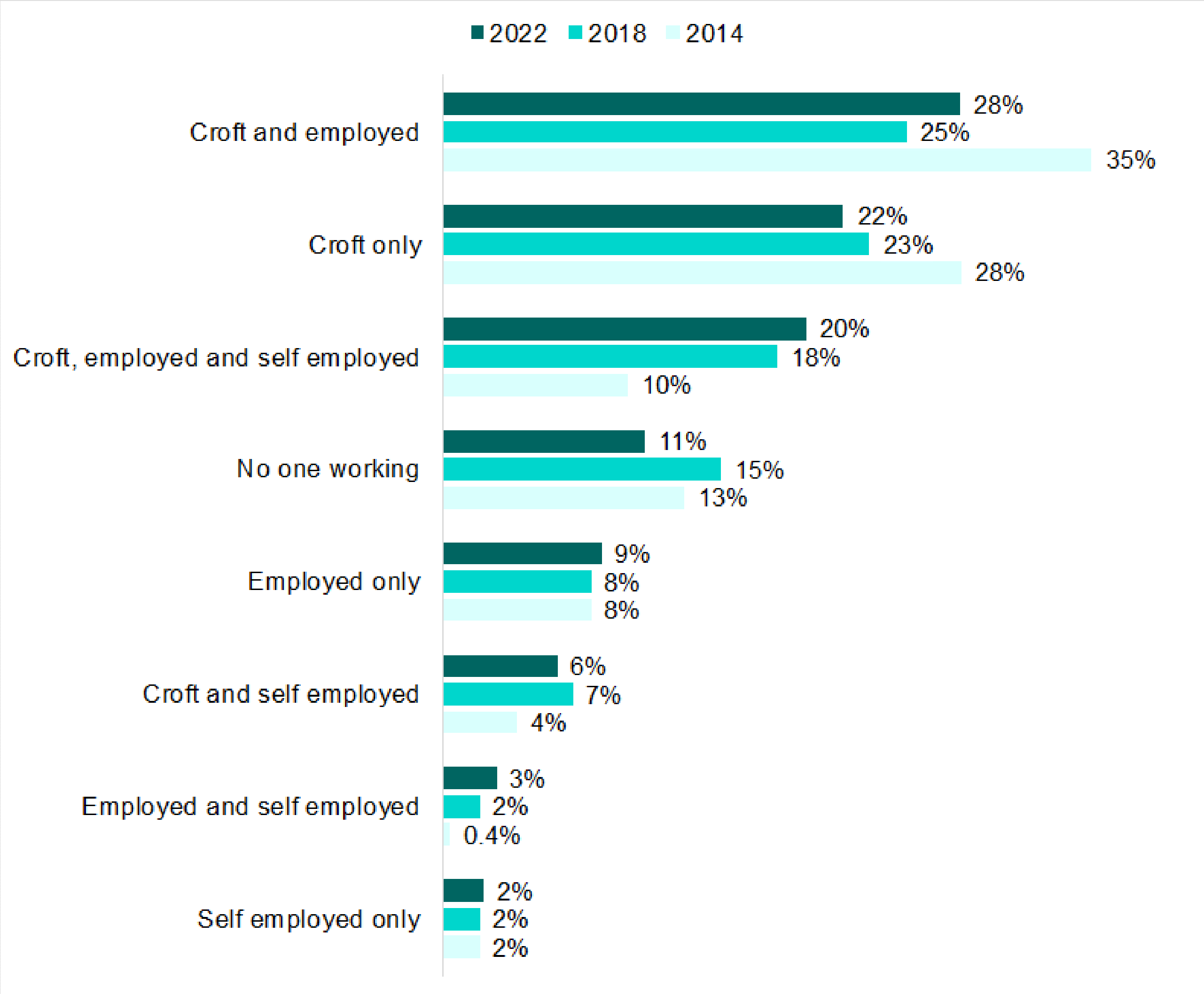
Where crofters said they raised livestock on their croft they were asked to detail how many of each type of livestock they had. As can be seen in Figure 3.4, most respondents who had pigs, breeding cattle, poultry and breeding horses had between 1 and 25 animals. Those who had breeding sheep were the most likely to have over 100 animals (12%). Table 3.5 shows that the mean number of animals ranged from 4.4 for breeding horses to 55.52 for those who had breeding sheep.

Table 3.6: Number of adults involved in crofting activities (excluding 0)

	Base	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Actively worked on your croft	620	1	5	1.68	2
Worked in paid employment outside of crofting	486	1	7	1.79	2
Received income from non-crofting self-employment	254	1	5	1.47	1
Attended full-time education	106	1	5	1.58	1
Attended part-time education	39	1	2	1.05	1
Have served on the Grazing Committee	171	1	3	1.12	1

Respondents were asked to specify the number of adults who were involved in various crofting activities. The most common responses were actively working on the croft and working in paid employment outside crofting. As can be seen in Table 3.6, the number of adults who actively worked on the croft ranged between one and five adults with the mean number of adults being 1.68. Regarding the number of adults who worked in paid employment outside of crofting, this ranged from one to seven adults with the mean number being 1.79.

Figure 3.5: Different working activities of households over time



Base: respondents, 2022, n=823

Figure 3.5 shows the breakdown of the working status of households in the survey. 68% of households had at least one resident that worked in employment outside of crofting (62% in 2018 and 59% in 2014). 11% said that no-one within their household was working in crofting activities, or elsewhere. 22% of crofters worked on crofting exclusively, consistent with the 2018 survey (23%) and a small reduction from the 28% that said the same in 2014.

3.7. Hours spent on crofting and paid non-crofting work

Table 3.7: Hours spent on crofting and paid non-crofting work

	Base	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Median
Crofting - All adults	1049	1	100	14.36	10
Paid non-crofting work - All adults	878	1	120	32.43	36

Crofting households where at least one person actively worked on a croft, spent a mean of 14 hours per week engaged in crofting activities, a decrease compared with 2018 where households spent a mean of 22 hours per week on crofting. The mean number of hours for 2022 is consistent with the result from the 2014 survey (12 hours).

Where there was at least one household member who worked on non-crofting paid activities a mean of 32 hours was spent on these, a decrease from 40 hours in 2018 and 49 hours in 2014.

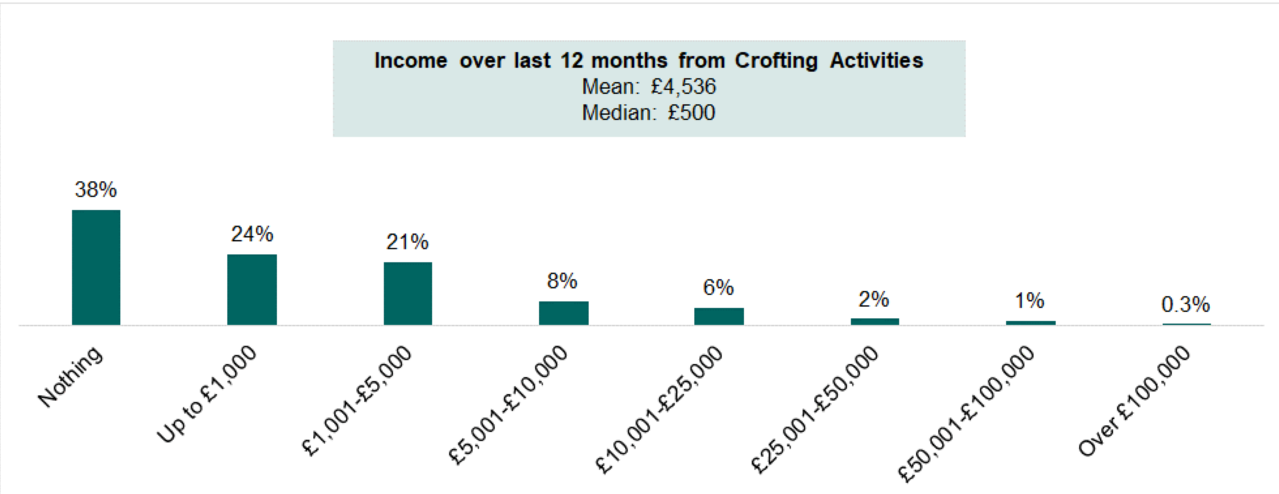
4. Financial issues in crofting

4.1. Summary of key points

- Over a third of respondents (38%), had made no income from crofting activities in the last 12 months and over half (53%) had made less than £10,001 and 10% made more than £10,000. The majority (57%) had not received any income over the last 12 months from grant money or support schemes, 30% had received up to £5,000 and 13% had received over £5,001. 61% did not anticipate any changes to their income levels over the next 12 months.
- The majority of crofters reported no running costs (14%) relating to their crofting-based activities or running costs of under £5,001 (67%). The median running cost was reported as £1,100 (up slightly from £1,000 in 2018).
- 61% of respondents reported their non-crofting income as between £10,001 and £50,000 (64% in 2018). The median household income reported from non-crofting activities was £25,000 consistent with the 2018 survey results (£25,000).
- Just under two-thirds of crofters had rental and/ or mortgage costs on their land or croft house (64%), an increase from 57% in 2018.

4.2. Income and anticipated change in next 12 months

Figure 4.1: Approximate income from crofting-based activities (last 12 months)



Base: respondents, n=707

Crofters were asked to approximate their income from crofting-based activities in the last 12 months, including any income from grant money or support schemes and before deducting costs. 38% made no income (25% in 2018), 44% made up to £5,000 (42% in 2018), 14% made between £5,001 and £25,000 (24% in 2018) and 4% made over £25,000 (6% in 2018). The mean income reported was £4,538 (£13,095 in 2018), and the median is £500 (£2,000 in 2018).

Table 4.1: Analysis of mean and median income from crofting-based activities

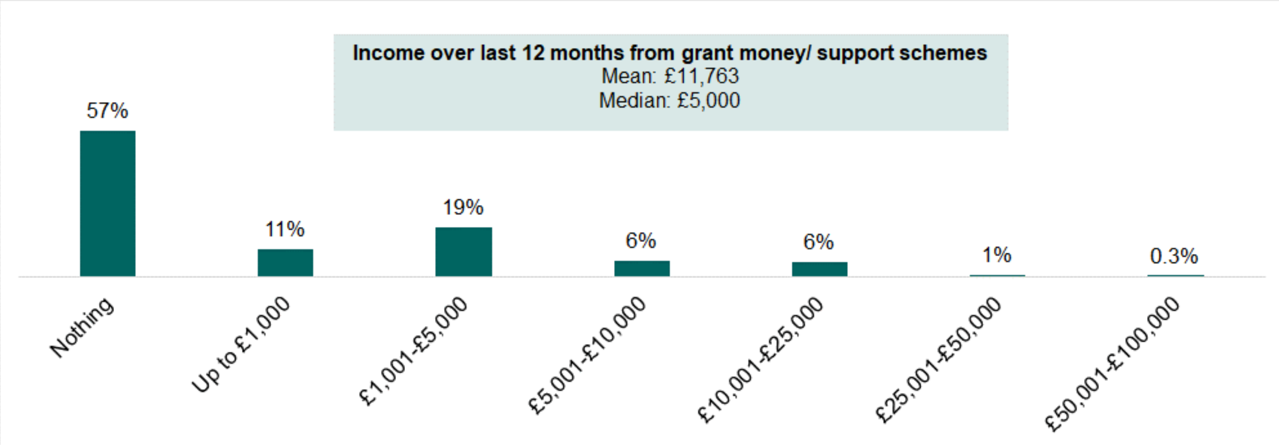
	Length of time	Base	Mean (£)	Median (£)
Length of time crofting	Less than 3 years	71	1,976	0
	3 to less than 10 years	164	2,929	200
	10 to less than 20 years	158	7,795	500
	20 years or more	307	4,260	800
Local Authority	Argyll And Bute	33	5,657	1,500
	Highland	327	4,373	500
	Na h- Eileanan Siar	249	2,550	100
	Orkney Islands	15	40,773[10]	10,000
	Shetland Islands	82	4,187	1,000
Tenure	Tenant	463	3,234	500
	Owner Occupier	243	7,035	500

Those who had been crofting between 10 and 20 years (mean income of £7,795) and 20 years or more (mean income of £4,260), had higher income levels than those who were newer to crofting (mean income of £1,976 for those crofting for less than three years). The median value increases with length of time crofting from £0 for those who have been registered crofters for less than three years to £800 for those who have been crofting for 20 years or more.

Mean and median values vary considerably by local authority, however the base sizes were too small for these differences to be significant. Please note that the mean for Orkney Islands is skewed by a small number of respondents who noted a very high level of income. In terms of tenure, while the median remains consistent at £500 for both groups the mean value is considerably higher for owner occupiers (£7,035) than tenants (£3,234).

[10] This figure represents a small number of respondents with a very high income.

Figure 4.2: Approximate income from Grant money/ support schemes (last 12 months)



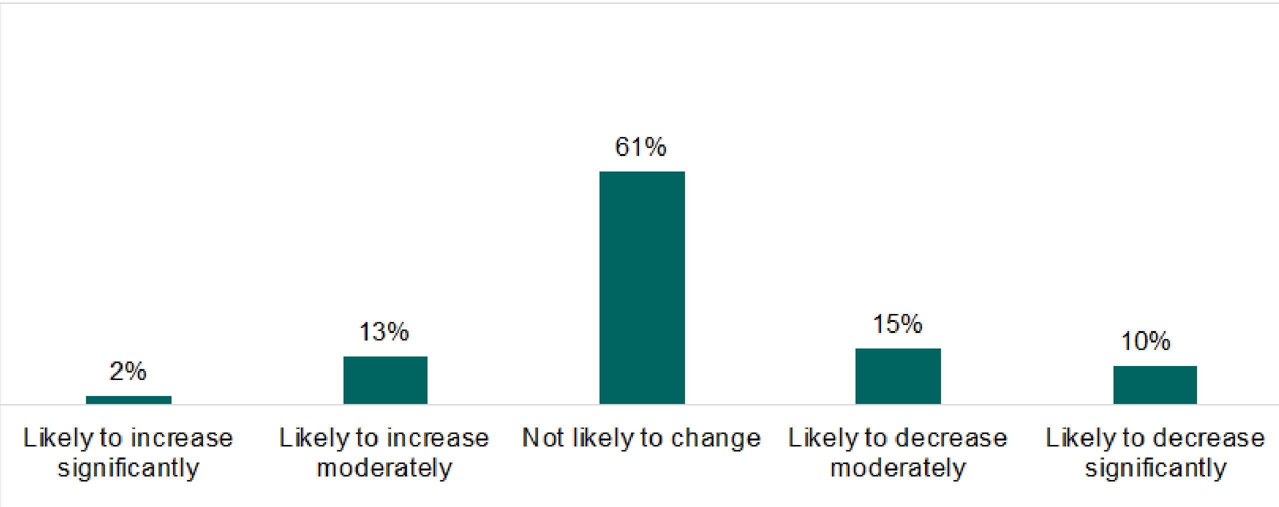
Base: respondents, n=650. NB the mean and median values have been calculated only for those who have received grant money or support (129 respondents)

The majority of crofters (57%) said they had not generated any income from grant money or support schemes, 30% had received up to £5,000 and 13% had received over £5,000.

Those who had been crofting for the least amount of time (three years or less) were most likely to have received public funding (81%).

The mean and median values have been calculated only for those who have received income from grant money or support schemes. The mean value has been calculated as £11,763 and the median is £5,000. This was a new question in the 2022 survey and therefore there is no comparison.

Figure 4.3: Anticipated changes to income position in next 12 months



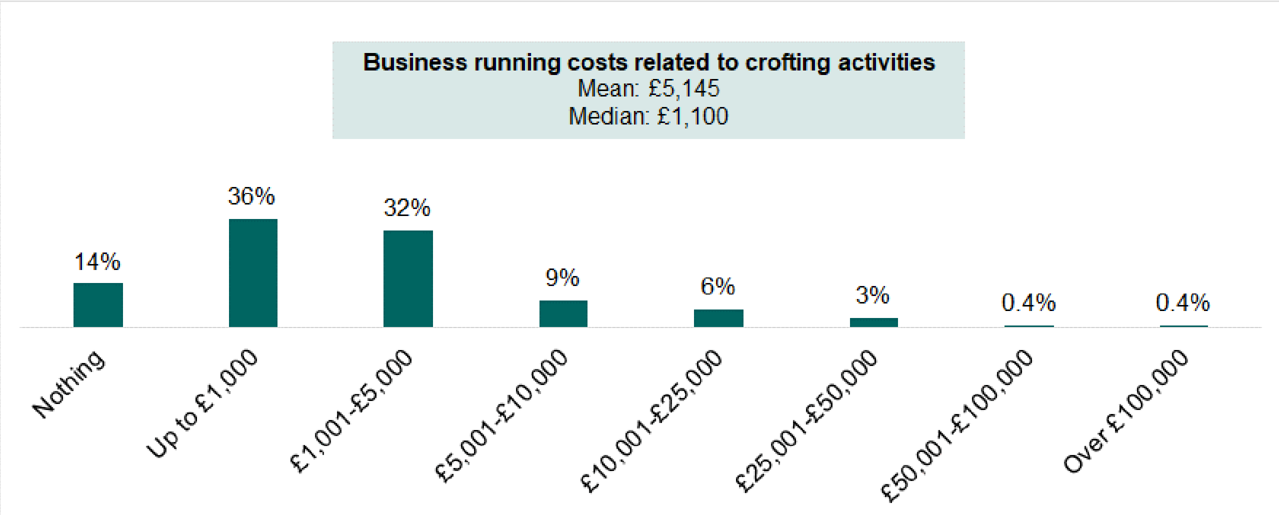
Base: respondents, n=870

The majority of respondents felt their income position was not likely to change in the next 12 months (61%). This is less than was reported in 2018 (81%) and not significantly different from the 2014 survey (63%). More respondents were of the opinion their income was likely to decrease (25%) than increase (15%). The proportion of respondents expecting an increase in income is more than the 2018 survey (6%) and similar to the 2014 survey (14%). On the other hand, those expecting a decrease in income is more than the 2018 survey (12%) and similar to the 2014 survey (22%).

Crofters were asked the reasons for their anticipated changes to their income position. The top response was in regard to rising costs such as feed, transport, electricity, materials etc. (25%). One in ten respondents said they saw no change in their income position and a further 9% said their crofting activities do not generate a profit or income. A further 9% said their income would be dependent on funding, and 9% mentioned retirement or ill health may have an impact on their income from crofting activities.

4.3. Business running costs and household income

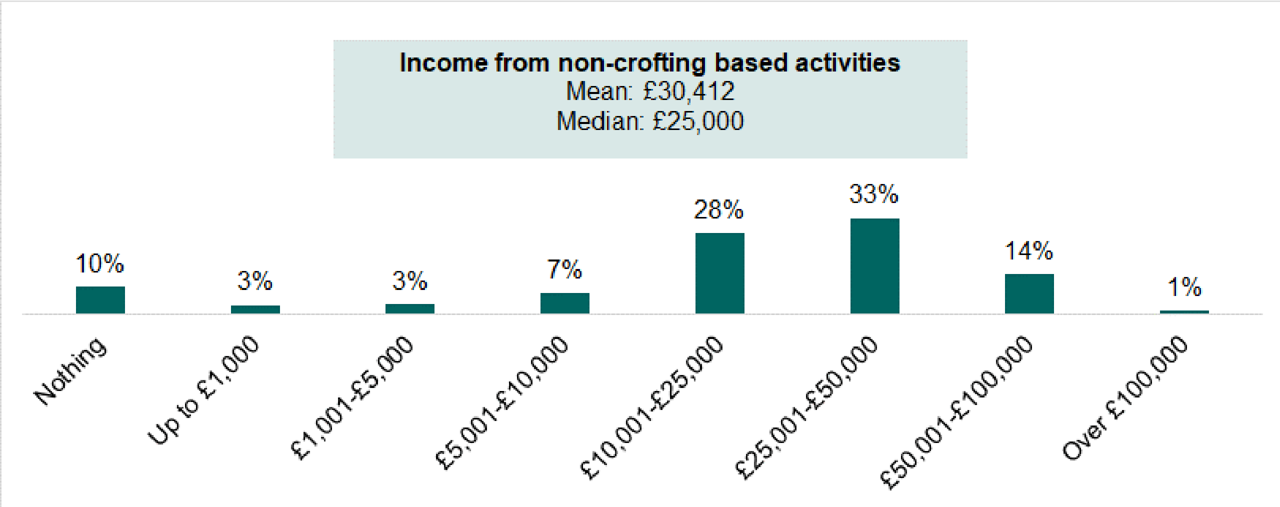
Figure 4.4: Business running costs related to crofting-based activities (last 12 months)



Base: respondents, n=703

The majority of crofters reported no running costs relating to their crofting-based activities or running costs of £5000 or under (82%), which is higher than was reported in the 2018 survey (73%). The median running cost reported was £1,100 (up slightly from £1,000 in 2018) and the mean was £5,145 (£8,385 in 2018).

Figure 4.5: Total household income from non-crofting activities (last 12 months)



Base: respondents, n=682

Crofters were also asked about their total household income from all non-crofting activities in the last 12 months, including all sources of paid employment, pensions, benefits and interest on bank deposits and investments.

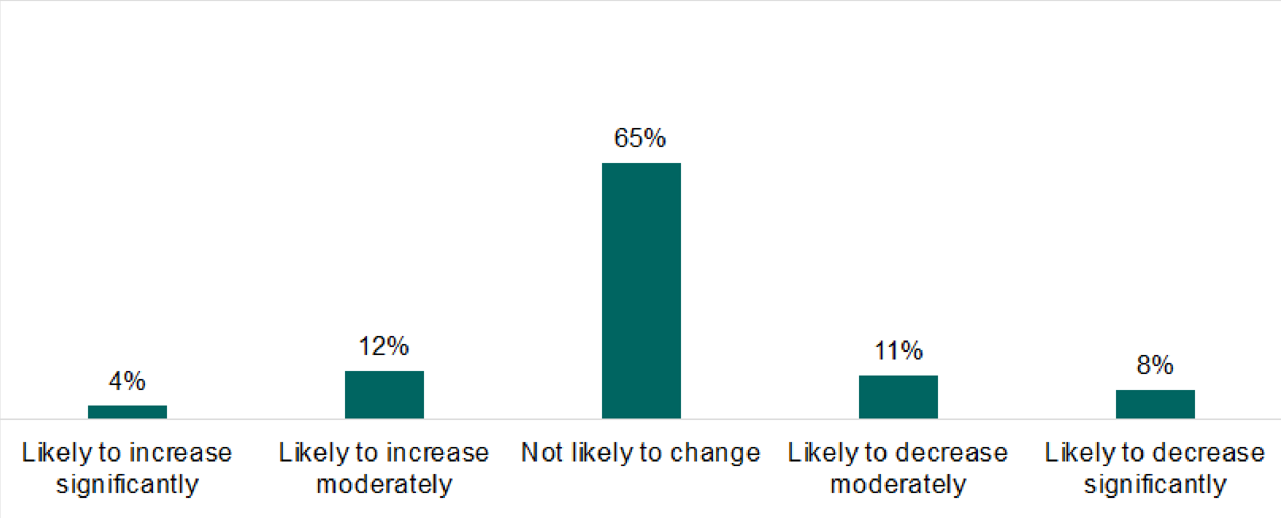
In 2022, 10% of respondents reported no income from non-crofting based activities (6% in 2018). 62% of respondents reported their non-crofting income as between £10,001 and £50,000 (64% in 2018), 7% said it was up to £5,000 (7% in 2018), 7% between £5,001 and £10,000 (7% in 2018) and 15% said it was over £50,000 (16% in 2018).

The median household income reported from non-crofting activities was £25,000, consistent with the 2018 survey results (£25,000) and slightly higher than the 2014 median value of £21,000. Despite the spread of income being similar, the mean value was reported as £30,412, less than the £41,760 reported in 2018. It should be noted that the proportion of respondents who had a household income from non-crofting activities of over £100,000 has decreased from 5% in 2018 to 1% in 2022, which may explain the reduction in the mean income for 2022.

The median combined revenue from both crofting and non-crofting activities, minus business running costs was £29,810, higher than the result from the 2018 survey (£29,000), and the median Scottish household income of £27,716[11].

[11] Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland 2017-20 (data.gov.scot) It should be noted that the figure for crofting households does not take into account household composition, however.

Figure 4.6: Change to non-crofting income and business running costs (next 12 months)

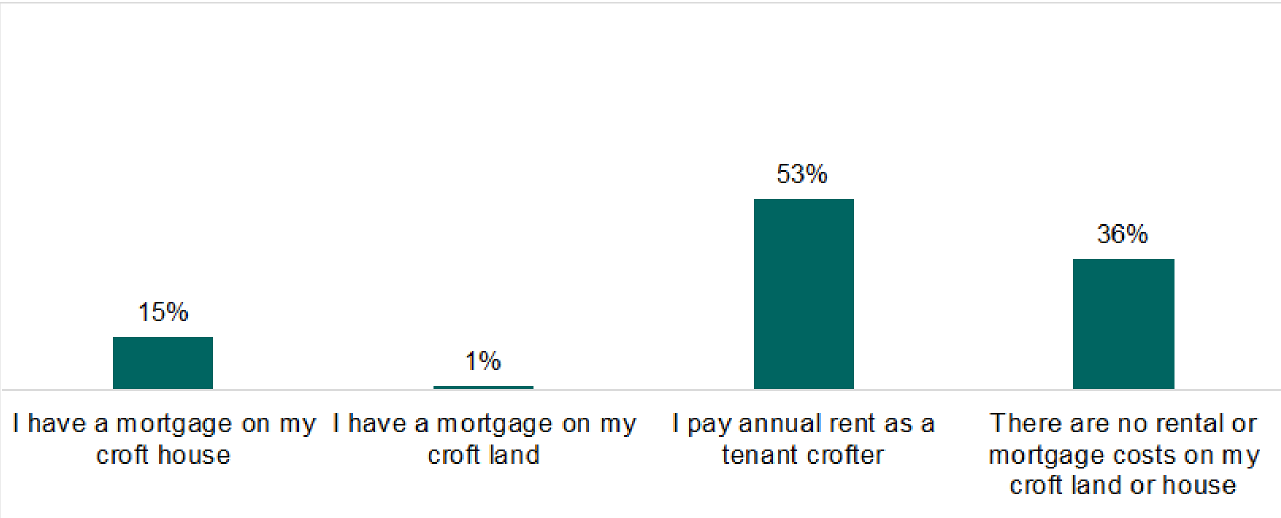


Base: respondents, n=753

The majority of respondents said their non-crofting income and business running costs were not likely to change in the next 12 months (65%), 16% said it was likely to increase and 19% said it was likely to decrease. The main reasons given for any changes were due to pension funds or retirement (23%), rising costs and inflation (22%) and career progression or promotion (8%).

4.4. Rent/ mortgage costs

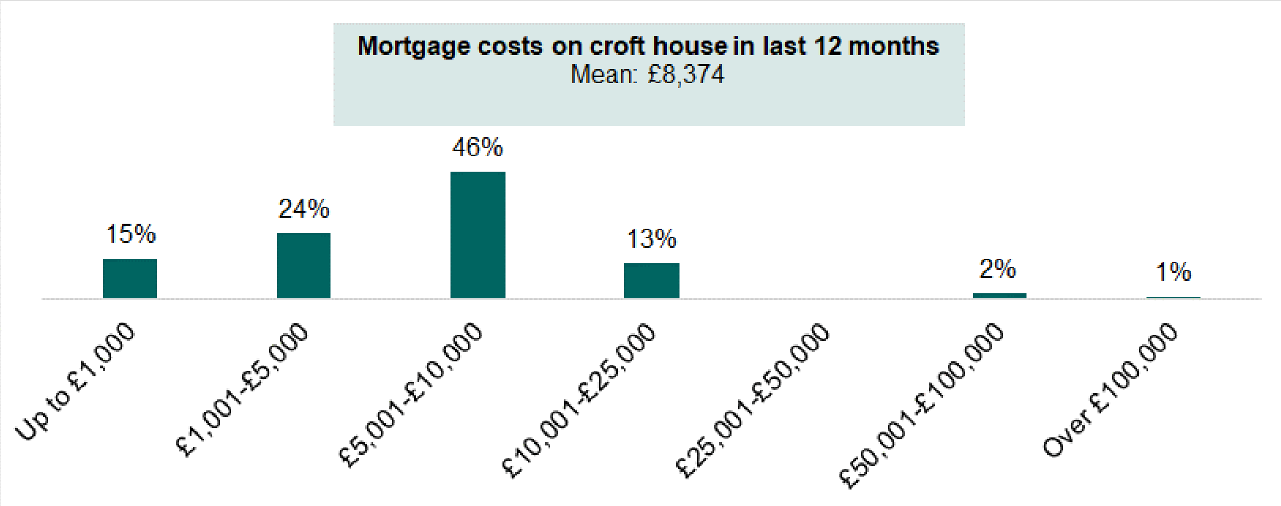
Figure 4.7: Tenure types



Base: respondents, n=884

When asked about rent or mortgage costs for both croft land or housing, 64% of respondents (57% in 2018) reported having rental or mortgage costs. Please note that respondents could select both mortgage and rent as options. Among those who did, it was most common for respondents to pay annual rent as a tenant crofter (53%).

Figure 4.8: Mortgage costs on croft house (last 12 months)

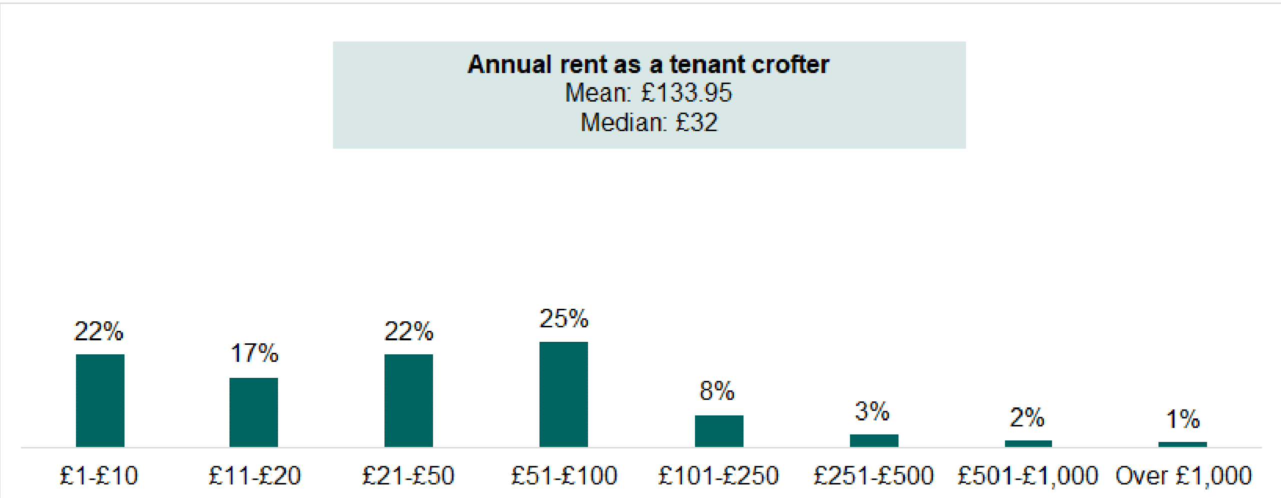


Base: respondents, n=117

Those who had rental or mortgage costs were asked what their costs for housing were in the last 12 months. As Figure 4.8 above illustrates, just under half said their mortgage costs were between £5,001 and £10,000 (46%), 38% said they were under £5,001 and 15% said they were over £10,000. The mean value was calculated at £8,374 and a median of £6,000. No comparison has been made to this question as the 2018 survey combined mortgage and rent costs in the one question whereas they have been separated in the 2022 survey.

Only five crofters said they had a mortgage on croft land.

Figure 4.9: Annual rent charges as a tenant crofter (last 12 months)

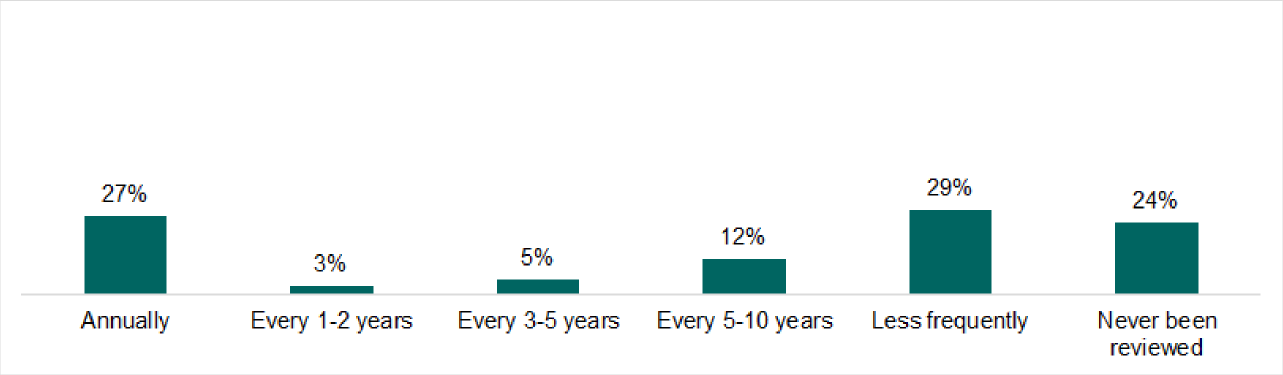


Base: respondents, n=410

61% of crofters who paid annual rent said they paid less than £51 in the last year, 25% paid between £51 and £100, and 14% paid over £100 per year. The mean annual rent was reported as £133.95 and the median value was £32.

4.5. Rent reviews

Figure 4.10: How regularly is your rent reviewed?



Base: pay rent, n=442

Of those who pay annual rent, 76% said their rent is reviewed, with over one-in-four respondents (27%) stating this is done annually. This question has not been compared to the 2018 survey due to changes to the wording of the question and the options provided.

5. Investment in crofts and looking to the future

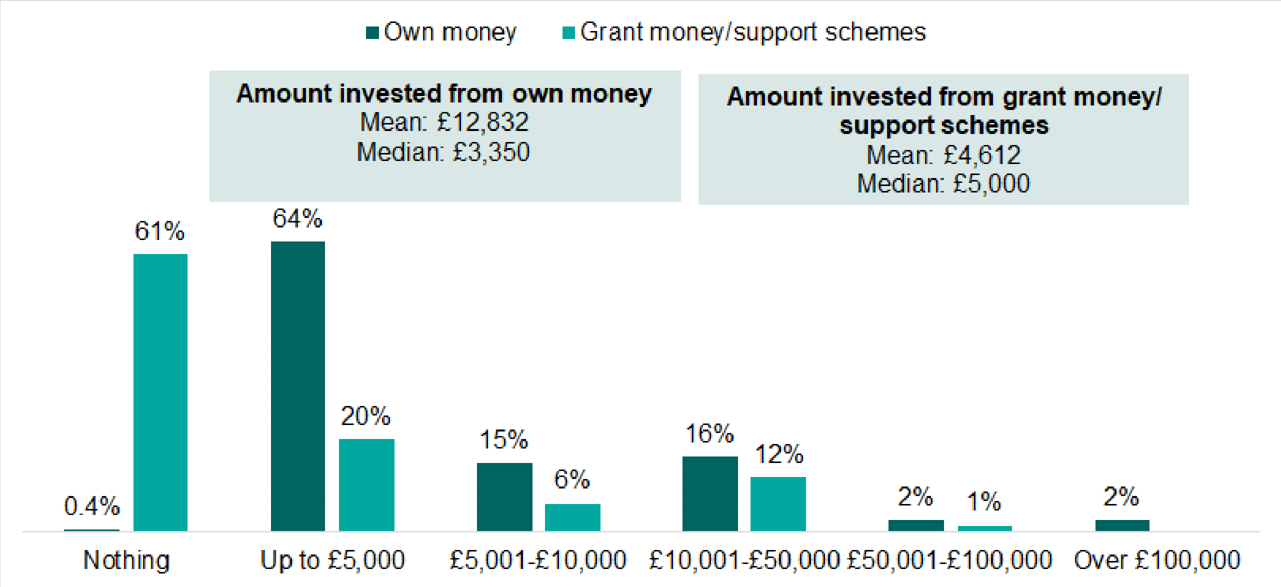
5.1. Summary of key points

- 61% of respondents said they had invested in their croft in the last three years (68% in 2018). Those most likely to have made an investment were those who owned their croft, were under 65, and had been crofting for less than three years.
- Where crofters had invested, this was most likely in livestock (46%). The median amount invested from crofters' own money was £3,350 (£5,000 in 2018), and the mean was £12,832 (£20,007 in 2018). 39% of crofters had invested money from grant money or support schemes in the last three years, the median amount invested from grant money or support schemes being £5,000, while the mean investment was £4,612.
- One in ten respondents who had invested in their croft in the last three years reported additional income received because of the investment they made (16% in 2018). The median reported additional income was £1,000, down from £1,500 in 2018.
- 62% of respondents planned to invest in their croft in the next four years (up from 48% in 2018), and again crofters were most likely to invest in livestock (52%). The most common reason for not planning for future investment was due to the financial outlay or where it was believed that the costs would be too great (36%).
- The proportion of crofters with a succession plan in place has continued to increase with each survey, from 46% in 2014 to 47% in 2018 and 60% in 2022.

5.2. Investment in croft in the 2019-2022 period

61% of respondents said they had invested in their croft in the last three years, which is a slight decrease from the 2018 survey where 68% had done so. This is higher than the proportion of crofters who said they planned to invest in the 2019-2022 period in the previous survey (48% in 2018). It is interesting to note that respondents aged 65 and over were less likely to have invested in their croft (49%) than respondents aged under 65 (69%). Furthermore, those who had been crofting for 20 years or more were less likely to have invested in their croft (54%) than those who had been crofting for less than three years (77%). Analysis by tenure indicates that owner occupiers were more likely to have invested in their croft (66%) than tenants (57%).

Figure 5.1: Total invested in croft 2019-2022



Base: Invested from own money, n=510; Invested from grant money/ support schemes, n=329

Those who had invested were asked about the amount they had invested from their own money and also any investment from grant money or support schemes since 2019. Firstly, in terms of investment from crofters' own money, the median figure was £3,350 (£5,000 in 2018), and the mean was £12,832 (£20,007 in 2018). As shown in Figure 5.1, the majority had invested up to £5,000 (64%) of their own money with an additional 15% investing between £5,001 and £10,000 and 21% investing over £10,000.

39% of crofters had invested money from grant money or support schemes in the last three years, an increase from 24% in 2018. The median amount invested from public funding was £5,000 (£1,000 in 2018), while the mean investment was £4,612 (£6,554 in 2018).

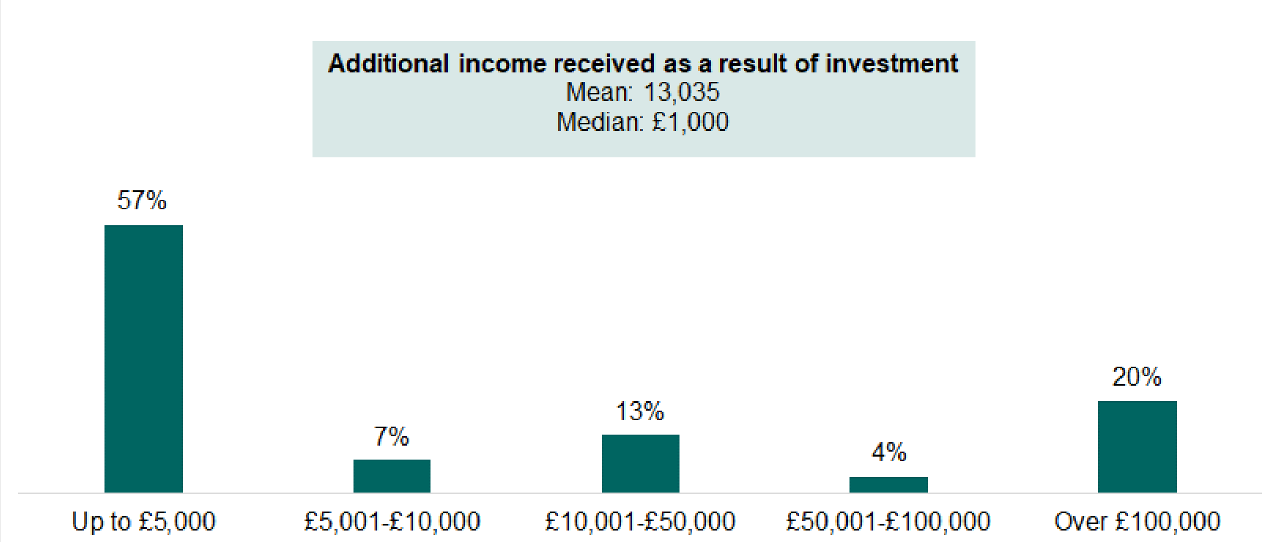
In terms of the nature of the investment, just under half (46%) said the money was invested in livestock, 27% said it was for fencing or gates, 24% said it was for crops and 15% said it was for forestry or woodland creation.

5.3. Investment sourced from secured and unsecured loans

19 crofters (2%) said they had used a secured loan (i.e. a loan that requires something of value to be offered as collateral in case you cannot pay back the loan) for their investment and 15 crofters (2%) said they had used an unsecured loan (i.e. a loan made without an asset given as security). With regard to secured loans the mean was £12,705 and for unsecured loans the mean amount received was £23,213.

5.4. Additional income received as a result of investment

Figure 5.2: Additional income received as a result of investment made in croft



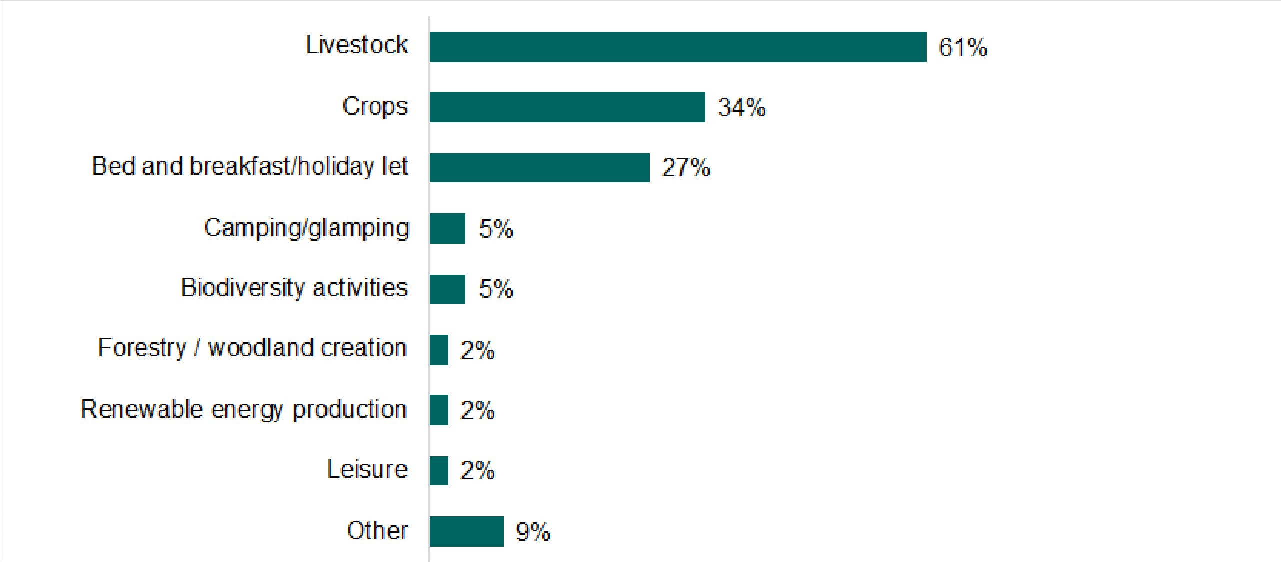
Base: n=56. NB This is crofters who have invested in their croft and provided income details.

10% of the crofters who had invested in their croft during the 2019-2022 period provided details of the additional income they had received as a result of the said investment. This is less than in the 2018 survey where 16% reported that they had received additional income. The median reported additional income has fallen from £1,500 in 2018 to £1,000 in 2022, however the mean income has risen from £6,219 to £13,035.

The majority of respondents did not anticipate there being any change in their income as a result of the investment made to their croft, while 17% said it was likely to increase (12% in 2018) and 11% said it was likely to decrease (4% in 2018).

When asked to provide their reasons for any anticipated change in their income as a result of investment made to their croft, 14% said that the improvements made were not to make profit and that they were, for example, to make processes easier, repairs or improving the ground. 11% mentioned rising costs and 10% said that increased productivity would mean a change to their income in the next 12 months.

Figure 5.3: Which activities produced additional income?

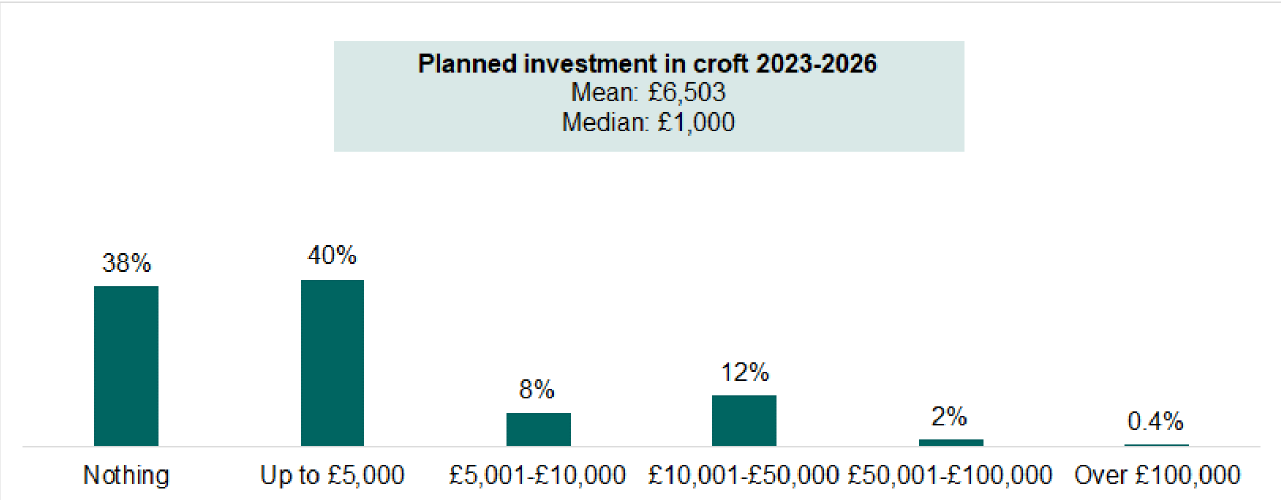


Base: respondents, n=494

Livestock (61%) was by far the greatest contributor to additional income among crofters, which was also the case in the previous survey (63%). This was followed by crops (34%) and bed and breakfast and holiday lets (27%). These were also the next two biggest contributors reported in the 2018 survey (13% and 17% respectively) and both have seen an increase compared to the previous survey.

5.5. Planned investment for 2023-2026

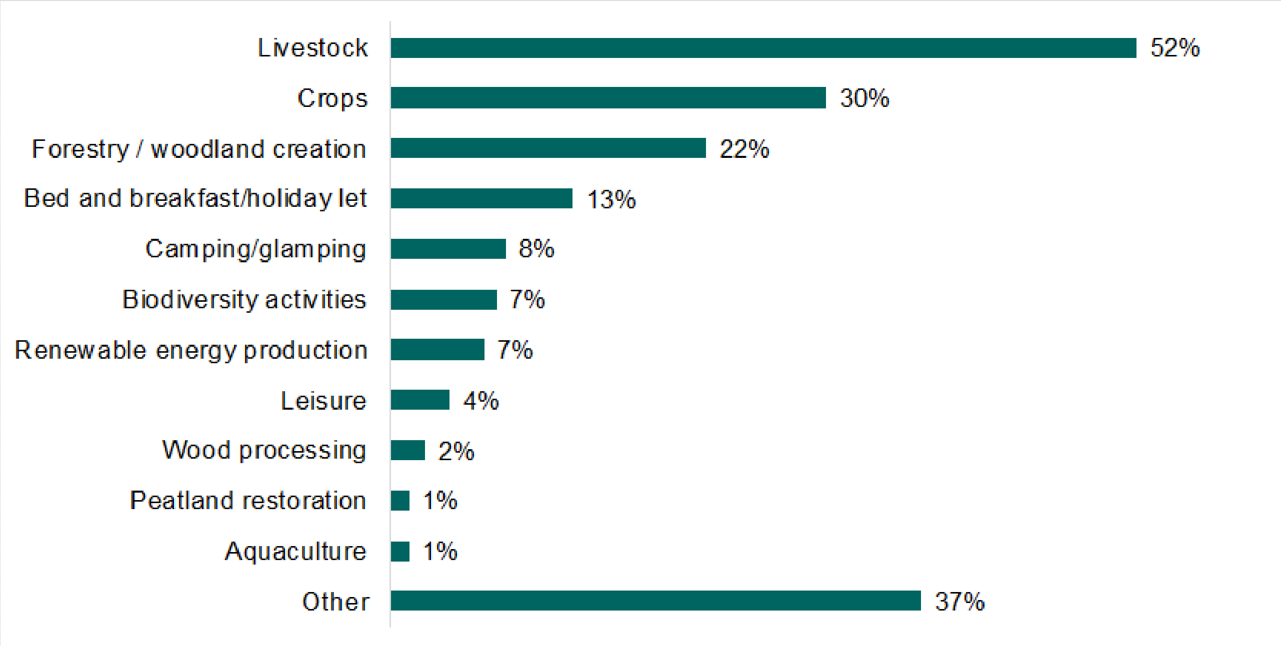
Figure 5.4: Planned investment in croft 2023-2026



Base: respondents, n=793

Crofters were then asked about their planned investment for 2023-2026. Of those respondents, 62% had plans for investment which is up from the 48% reported in the 2018 survey and 55% in the 2014 survey. The median planned investment stated was £1,000, down from £2,000 in 2018 and the mean figure was £6,503, down from £16,450 in 2018 and £9,100 in 2014.

Figure 5.5: Type of investment planned 2023-2026

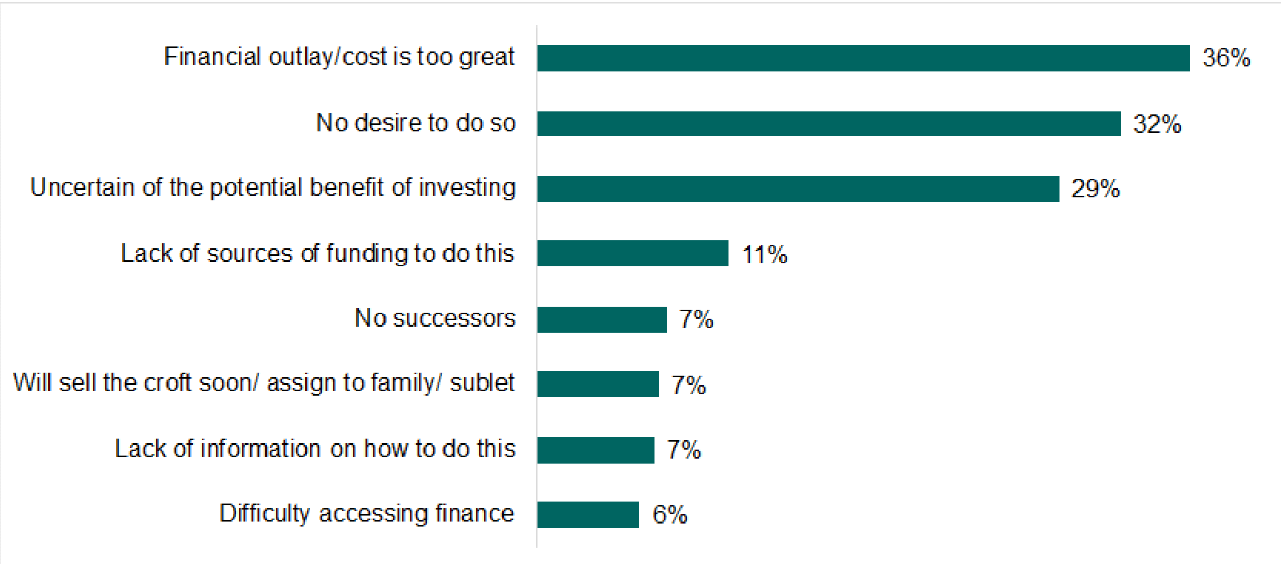


Base: respondents, n=464

Livestock was again by far the most common response when asked about how crofters plan to invest between 2023-2026 (52%), followed by crops (30%) and forestry and woodland creation (22%). In 2018 the three most common responses were livestock (57%), crops (28%) and bed and breakfast/ holiday let (16%).

Planning to invest in livestock was more common in crofters aged 16-44 (65%) and aged 45-54 (63%), than those aged 55-64 (46%) and aged 65 and over (40%). Crofters aged 65 and over were the least likely to plan to invest in camping or glamping facilities (2%). The nature of the planned investment does not vary significantly by gender.

Figure 5.6: Top 8 reasons for not planning on investing 2023-2026



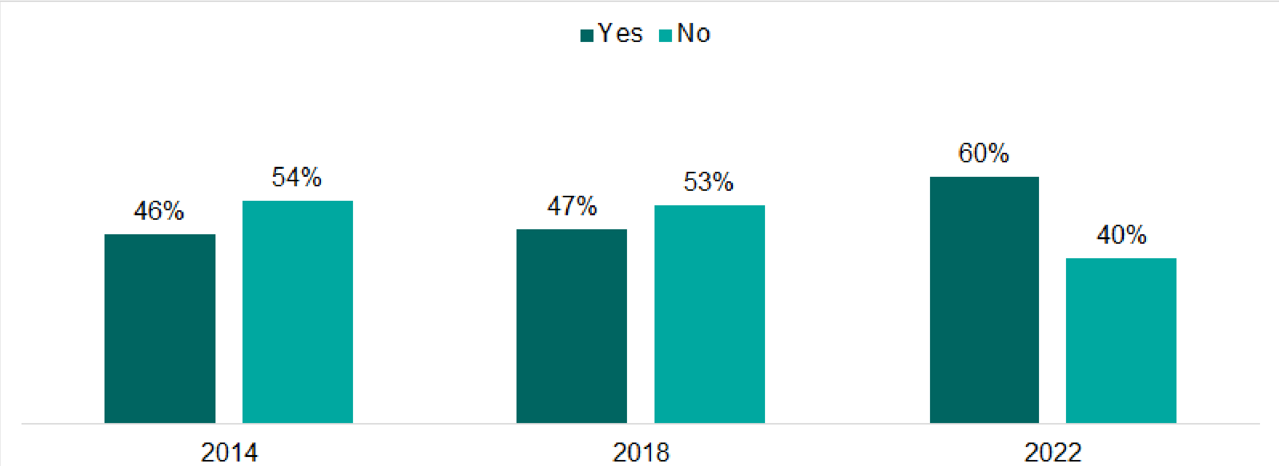
Base: respondents, n=263

Just under 36% of respondents did not plan on investing in their croft during 2023-2026. The most common reasons given were crofters believed the financial outlay or cost would be too great (36%), they had no desire to do so (32%), or they were uncertain of the potential benefit of investing (29%). These were also the top three reasons cited in 2018.

Crofters aged 65 and over were the most likely to have no desire to invest in their croft (40%), while those aged 55-64 were most likely to say the financial outlay or cost prevents them from investing in their croft. Crofters aged 16-44 were most likely to say that a lack of sources of funding stops them from being able to plan any investment (29%). A lack of information was cited by significantly more crofters aged 55-64 (21%) than aged 65 and over (5%).

5.6. Succession plans

Figure 5.7: Proportion of respondents who have a succession plan



Base: respondents, 2022, n=887

The proportion of crofters with a succession plan in place has continued to increase with each survey, from 46% in 2014 to 47% in 2018 and 60% in 2022 as shown in Figure 5.7. Of those who had been crofting for 20 years or more, 71% reported to have a succession plan in place, compared to 44% of crofters who had been crofting for less than three years.

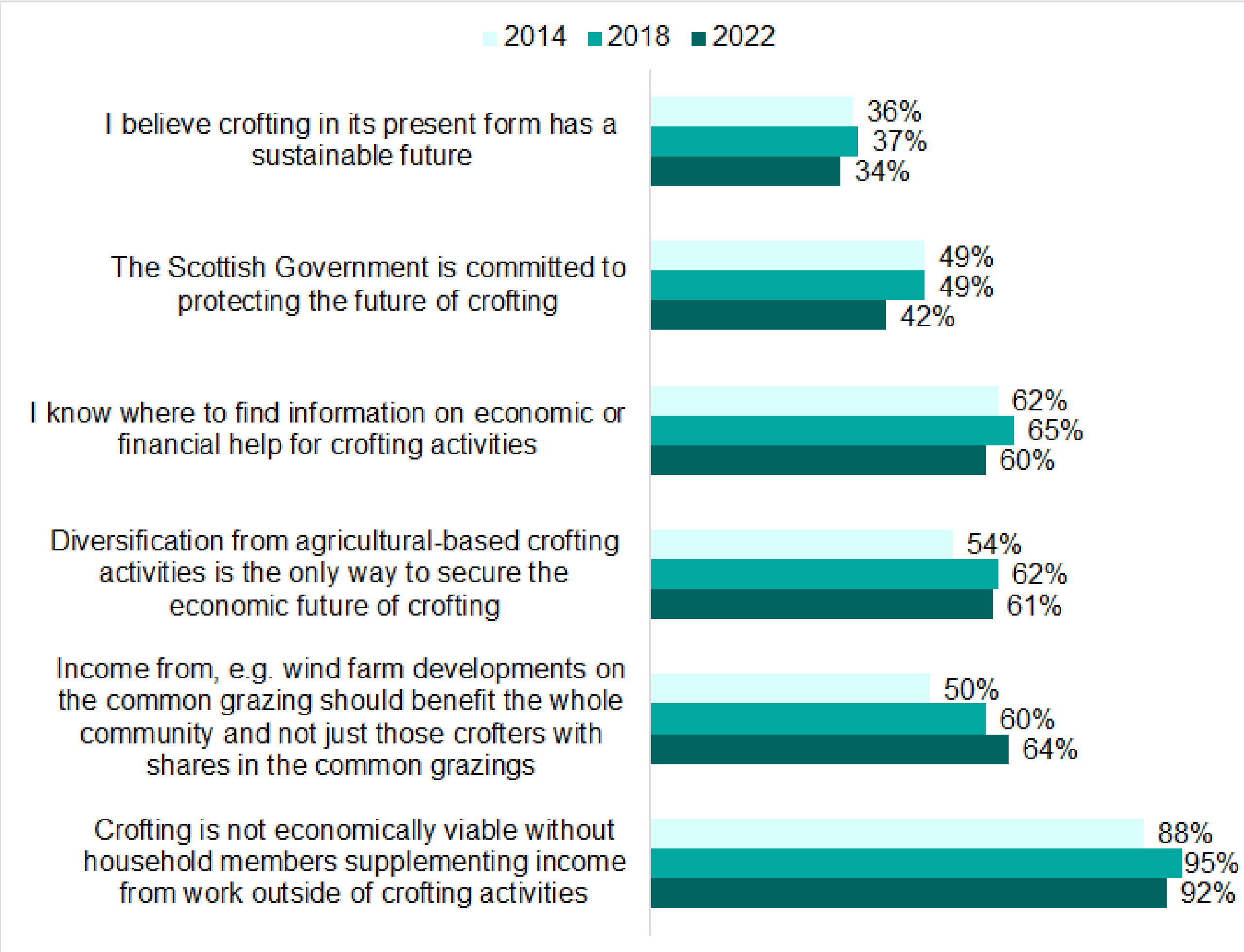
Table 5.1: Reason for not having a succession plan in place

Base: n=292	%
No potential successor	33%
Children/ successor not interested in crofting	18%
No interest in making succession plan	18%
Unsure/ haven't considered it yet	16%
Legislation preventing succession to more than one successor	7%
Children are too young, not made a decision yet	5%
Other (e.g. only just bought croft, will consider once older, don’t have children)	9%

Of those who did not have a succession plan in place the most common reason was where respondents did not have a potential successor (33%). This was followed by those whose children or successors were not interested in crofting, and those that had no interest in making a succession plan, both of which came in at 18%.

5.7. Opinions on crofting

Figure 5.8: Agreement with statements about crofting (% strongly agree/ agree)



Base: respondents, n=873-888

Crofters were also asked to consider the extent to which they agreed or disagreed with a number of statements about the longer-term outlook and future role of crofting in Scotland. The results in Figure 5.8, show an increasing trend in the level of agreement over the three surveys.

Almost all crofters were in agreement that crofting is not economically viable without household members supplementing income from work outside of crofting activities (92%), which is consistent with 2018 (95%) and 2014 results (88%).

64% of crofters agreed that income from, for example, wind farm developments on the common grazing should benefit the whole community. This has continued to increase with each survey from 50% in 2014 to 60% in 2018. The majority (61%) of crofters expressed the view that it was necessary for crofting to continue to diversify from agricultural-based activities in order to secure its economic future. This view is consistent with the 2018 survey and more than was reported in 2014 (54%). Furthermore, 60% of crofters know where to find information on economic or financial help for crofting (65% in 2018 and 62% in 2014).

The level of agreement was lowest regarding opinions on the Scottish Government being committed to protecting the future of crofting (42%) and regarding crofters' perception that crofting in its present form has a sustainable future (34%). Both have seen a decrease in the level of agreement compared to the 2014 and 2018 surveys.

Analysis by age reveals that respondents aged 65 and over were most likely to agree that the Scottish Government is committed to protecting the future of crofting, with 46% of those in agreement, compared to 35% of those aged 45-54. Furthermore, 63% of respondents aged 65 and over and 64% of respondents aged 55-64 were in agreement that diversification from agricultural-based crofting activities is the only way to secure the economic future of crofting, compared to 52% of respondents aged 45-54.

The level of agreement does not vary significantly by age with the exception of knowing where to find information on economic or financial help for crofting activities, where those aged 65 and over were most likely to agree (76%).

Crofters were given the opportunity to make any further comments regarding their croft or the future of crofting in Scotland. 20% of crofters took the opportunity to do so. The most common themes mentioned were:

1. A perceived lack of financial support available to crofters (19%);
2. A perception that crofting is dying out and that more needs to be done to encourage crofting (15%);
3. Comments regarding succession plans (10%);
4. More support needed from the Crofting Commission to support crofters (7%); and
5. More needing to be done to attract younger people to crofting (7%).

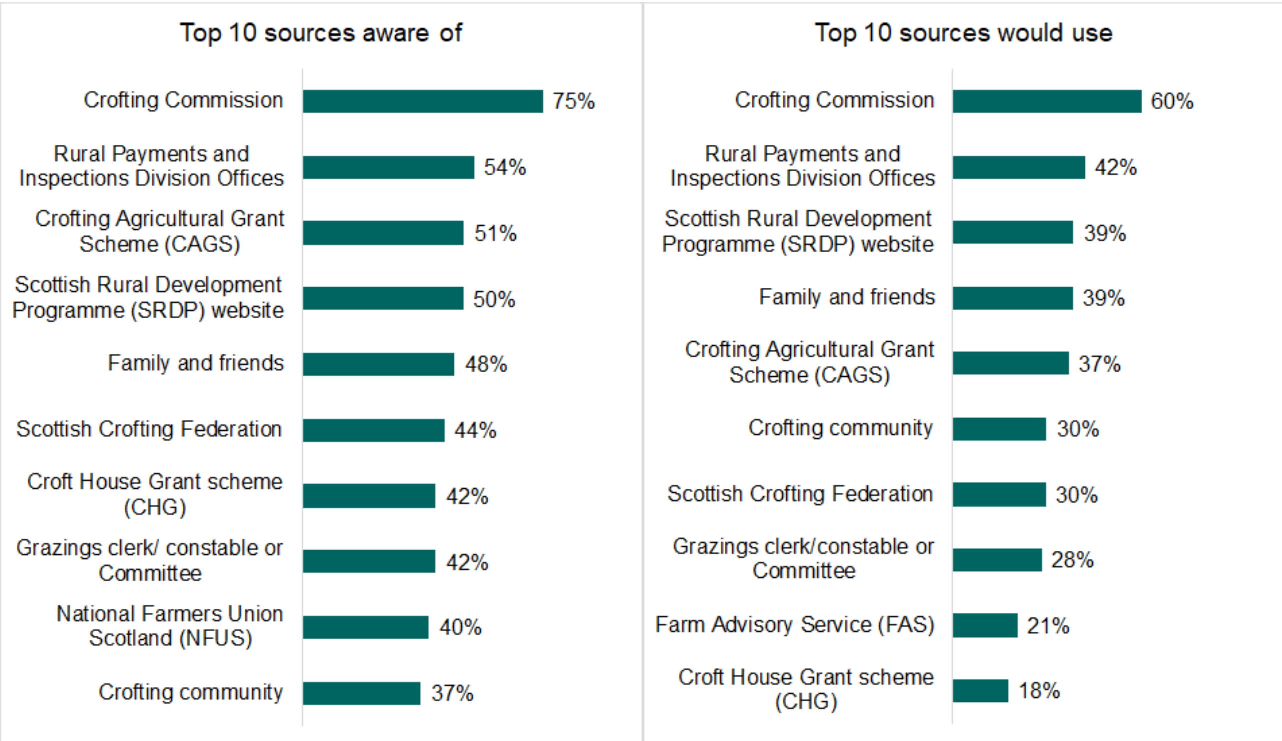
6. Sources of information on crofting

6.1. Summary of key points

- Just under a third of crofters had looked for advice or support on crofting activities in the last 12 months (33% in 2018). Crofters aged under 45 and those who had been crofting for less than three years were most likely to have looked for advice or support.
- In terms of awareness of various sources of advice and support, crofters were most likely to be aware of the Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local Crofting Commission Assessor (75%). 54% were aware of Rural Payments and Inspections Division Offices, 51% were aware of the Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme, and 50% were aware of the Scottish Rural Development Programme website.
- The Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local Crofting Commission Assessor was the source that crofters were most likely to use for advice and support on crofting activities (60%).
- An advice line was the most common feature that crofters would like to see available on the Farm Advisory Service (FAS) website.

6.2. Sourcing advice/ support on crofting activities

Figure 6.1: Sources of advice/ support



Base: Aware of, n=823; Would use, n=735

Crofters were asked about the sources of advice and support they were aware of regarding crofting activities.

From a list of support sources, crofters were asked to indicate which they were aware of. As shown in Figure 6.1, three quarters of respondents were aware of the Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local Crofting Commission Assessor (75%), while 54% were aware of Rural Payments and Inspections Division Offices, 51% were aware of the Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme and 50% were aware of the Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) website. 30% were aware of the Farm Advisory Service (FAS).

Those who had been crofting for over 20 years were twice as likely (23%) to be aware of the Crofting Cattle Improvement Scheme than those who had been crofting for less than three years (10%). The general awareness of support sources decreased with age, for example 63% of crofters aged 16-44 were aware of the Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme (CAGS) compared to 41% of crofters aged 65 and over.

In terms of the sources that crofters would use for advice and support on crofting activities, the Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local Crofting Commission Assessor was again the top response (60%), followed by Rural Payments and Inspections Division offices (42%), the SRDP website (39%) or family and friends (39%). Those who had been crofting for less than three years were more likely to use all sources of advice and support. Generally, respondents aged 65 and over were less likely to use sources of advice and support. For example, 31% of those aged 65 and over would use the SRDP website compared to 47% of respondents aged 55-64. Respondents aged 16-44 were more than twice as likely to turn to family and friends for support and advice (57%) than those aged 65 and over (28%).

30% of crofters had looked for advice or support on crofting activities in the last 12 months, which is consistent with the 2018 report (33%).

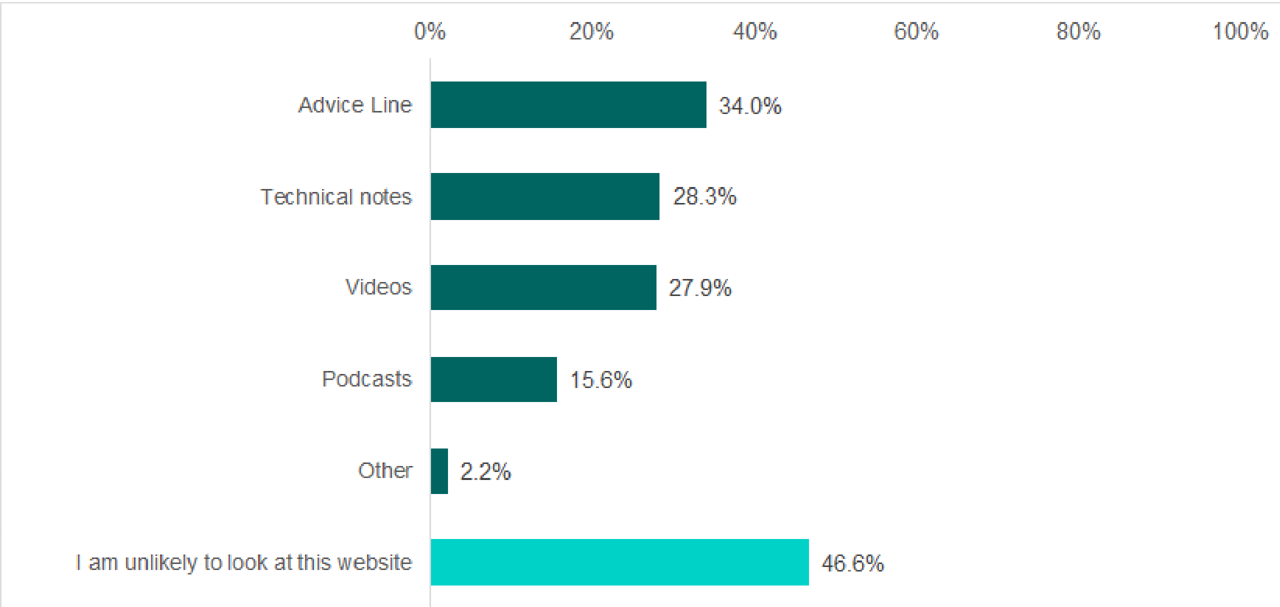
Crofters aged under 45 were most likely to have looked for advice or support (47%), while those aged 65 and over were least likely (17%). Furthermore, those who were newer to crofting were more likely to have looked for advice and support (51%). Those who had been crofting for 10-20 years (26%) or more than 20 years (24%) were least likely to have looked for information or support.

6.3. The Farm Advisory Service (FAS)

Respondents were asked to select from a list of options what they would like to see on the FAS website. An advice line was the most common response (34%) and this was followed by technical notes (28%) and videos (28%). Just under half of crofters (47%) said they would be unlikely to look at this website.

Respondents aged 65 and over were more likely to say they would not look at the FAS website (61%). On the other hand, podcasts were more popular with those aged under 45 (26%).

Figure 6.2: Priorities for Farm Advisory Service (FAS) website



Base: respondents, n=263

7. Peatland restoration, biodiversity and forestry and woodland creation

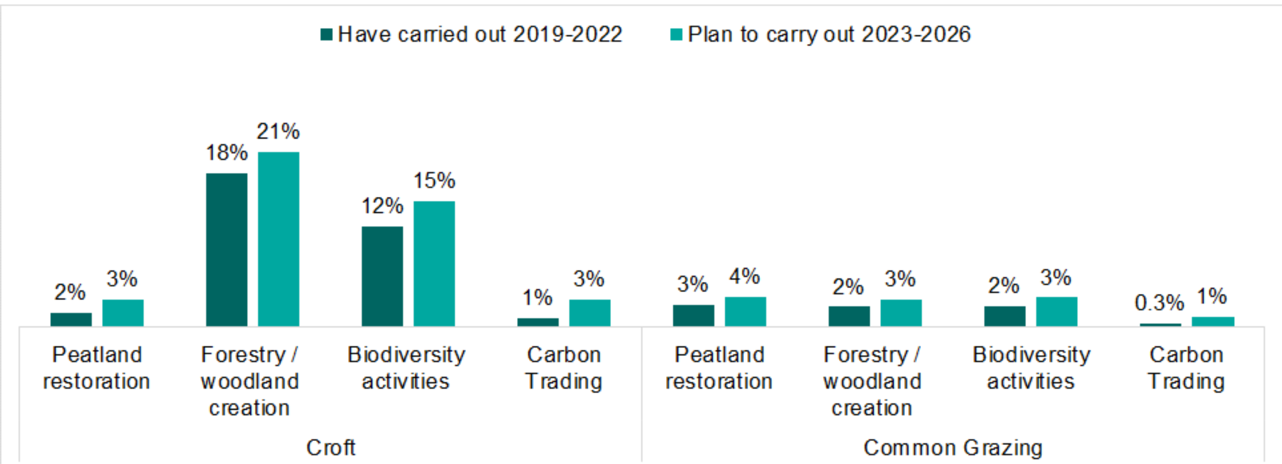
7.1. Summary of key points

- A series of new questions were included in the 2022 survey on the topic of peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry and woodland creation. 28% of crofters had carried out peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry or woodland creation activities in the 2019-2022 period and 34% plan to carry out these activities in the period 2023-2026.
- The most common activities that were carried out were biodiversity activities on the croft (12%), and woodland or forestry creation on the croft (18%). These were also the two activities more likely to be carried out between 2023-2026 (15% and 21% respectively).
- 25% have used available schemes to restore peatland, carry out biodiversity activities, or create forestry or woodland. Where schemes have not been used, the main reasons for not using them were lack of information on how to do this (38%) and being uncertain of the benefits (37%).

7.2. Peatland restoration, biodiversity and forestry and woodland creation

A series of new questions were included in the 2022 survey on the topic of peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry and woodland creation in order to create a baseline figure on these activities, inform future work and help target support and information. Crofters were asked if they had undertaken any of these activities between 2019-2022 or whether they intended to carry out these activities between 2023-2026.

Figure 7.1: Activities carried out 2019-2022 or planned 2023-2026



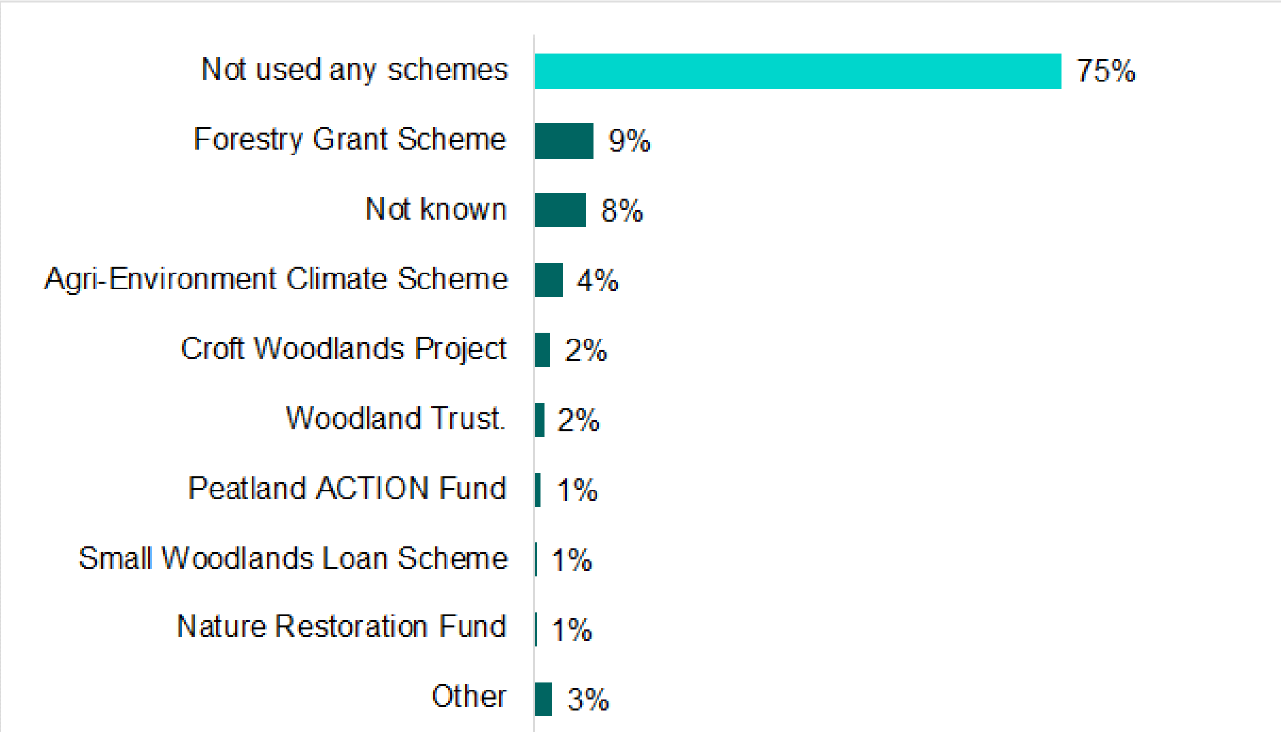
Base, Have carried out, n=888; Base, Plan to carry out, n=885

28% of respondents had carried out these activities in the 2019-2022 period and 34% plan to carry out these activities in the period 2023-2026. However, where these activities were carried out, the most common were biodiversity activities on the croft (12%), and woodland or forestry creation on the croft (18%). These were also the most popular activities planned for the future with 15% stating they would undertake biodiversity activities on the croft during the 2023-2026 period. A further 21% stated they would undertake forestry or woodland creation in the future. Much smaller proportions mentioned carrying out peatland restoration (1.6% on crofts and 2.6% on common grazing).

Forestry or woodland creation have been carried out by significantly more crofters who have been crofting between three and ten years (25%) than those who have been crofting for over 20 years (15%). They were also more likely to have undertaken biodiversity activities on their croft (15%) than those who had been crofting for more than 20 years (9%). Younger crofters were more likely than all other age groups to have said they have undertaken at least one of these activities (48%).

7.3. Schemes used

Figure 7.2: Schemes used to restore peatland, biodiversity or forestry/ woodland creation

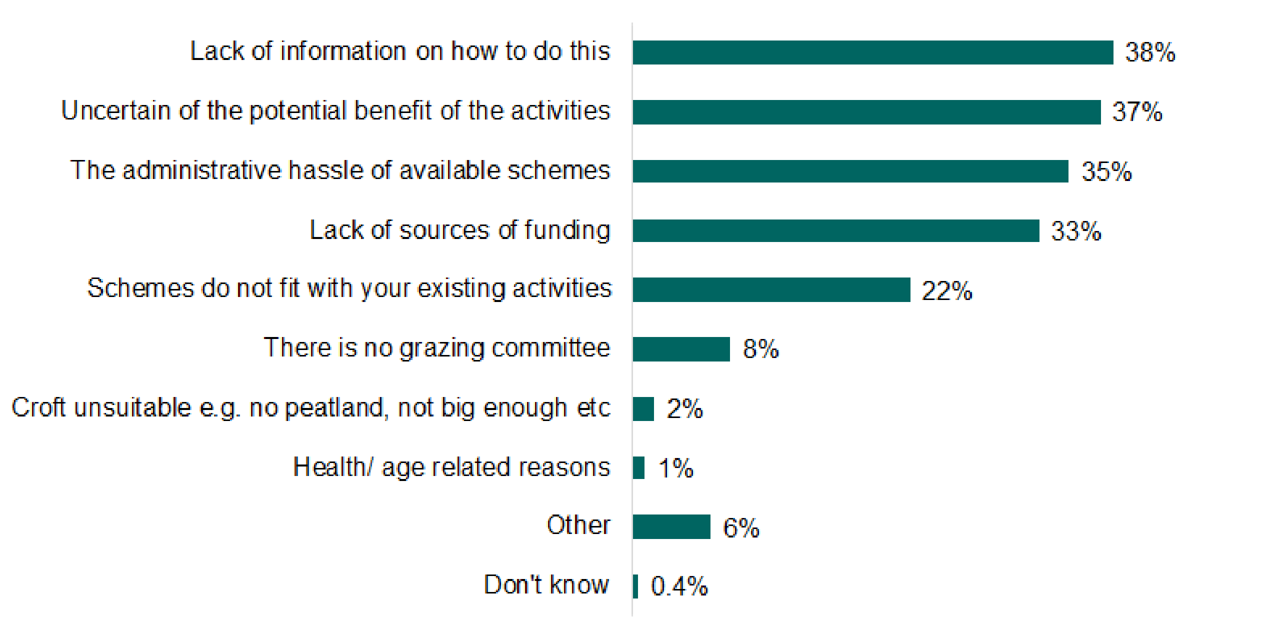


Base: respondents, n=666

Respondents were asked to identify any schemes, if any, they had used to either restore peatland, carry out biodiversity activities, or create forestry or woodland. 75% had not used any schemes. Where respondents had used schemes, the most popular responses were the Forestry Grant Scheme (9%) and the Agri-Environment Climate Scheme (4%).

7.4. Obstacles to undertaking these activities

Figure 7.3: Obstacles to peatland restoration, biodiversity, forestry/ woodland creation



Base: respondents, n=690

The most common obstacles preventing crofters from undertaking these types of activities on their croft or common grazing is a lack of information on how to do this (38%), followed by the uncertainty of the potential benefit of the activities (37%), the administrative hassle of available schemes (35%), and a lack of sources of funding (33%).

8. Conclusions

The profile of crofters remains predominantly male, however the proportion of female crofters has continued to increase since 2014 (13%) and 26% in 2018, to 30% in 2022. The crofting population is more likely to be older, with 42% being aged 65 and over. 60% were brought up in a crofting family. 48% of crofters have been a registered crofter for more than 20 years, this is a marked decrease from 2014 (70%) and 2018 (65%). On the other hand, the proportion of respondents who have been crofting for less than five years has increased from 8% in 2014 to 11% in 2018 and 17% in 2022. Those who have been a crofter for 20 years or more were significantly more likely to be older crofters, with 70% of this group being aged 65 and over.

The majority of crofting activities are rooted in the traditional agricultural pursuits of livestock and crops – a similar picture to 2014 and 2018. However, while only small proportions use their croft for other activities, new activities of forestry and woodland creation (18%), biodiversity activities (8%), glamping/ camping (3%) and peatland restoration (1%) were all noted in 2022. These new activities were more likely to be carried out by crofters aged under 65.

The number of crofters who work only on the croft (22%) has not changed significantly since 2018.

In addition to agricultural activities, crofts are also used for a wide variety of other activities such as growing fruit and vegetables; growing trees; bed and breakfasts and holiday lets; and renewable energy production. 90% of crofters who responded had income from non-crofting sources. This was also the case in 2014 and 2018.

60% have invested in their croft with the average investment being £12,832. In 2018, 68% invested in their croft with average investment being £20,007.

Thinking to the future, an increasing proportion of crofters (62%, up from 48% in 2018) said that they planned to invest in their croft in the next four years, most commonly on livestock (52%).

Although planning to invest in the future, 92% of crofters agreed that crofting is not economically viable without household members supplementing income from non-crofting activities.

Annex 1: Questionnaire

Date

Ref:

Name
Address

Dear **Name**

Survey of the Economic Conditions of Crofting 2019-2022

The Scottish Government recognises the contribution which crofting makes to the rural economy and rural communities and is committed to securing the future of crofting.

As part of this commitment, the Scottish Ministers are required (under Section 51 of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010) to submit a report on the economic conditions of crofting to the Scottish Parliament every four years. The results of this survey will inform a report on the economic conditions of crofting 2019-2022.

We have planned this survey with the support of the Crofting Commission.

We recognise that this is a busy time of year for all crofters, but we hope that you will be able to spare 20 minutes in the coming weeks to complete the survey. It is important we hear from as many crofters as possible.

If you would rather complete the survey online, you will need to use the reference number at the top of this letter and visit:
http://www.researchresource.co.uk/croftingsurvey.html

Please complete and return the questionnaire by **Friday 26th August**. If you need any help completing the questionnaire or information in any other format, please contact Research Resource on Freephone 0800 121 8987 or info@researchresource.co.uk

Please be assured that all your answers will be completely confidential and anonymous. It will not be possible to identify any individual or croft business in the final report. You will be asked at the end of the survey if you would like to receive a one-page summary of the results.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your time and input.

Yours sincerely

Aileen Rore
Crofting Policy Advisor
Scottish Government

Lorna Shaw
Director
Research Resource

Why are we carrying out this survey and what will we do with the results?
The Scottish Ministers are required (under Section 51 of the Crofting Reform (Scotland) Act 2010) to submit a report on the economic conditions of crofting to the Scottish Parliament every four years. Reports have been produced in 2010, 2014 and 2018. The next report is due at the end of 2022 and will focus on the period 2019-2022. The results of this survey will inform the report and build on previous results.

The survey results will be published in a summary report and integrated into the main Economic Condition of Crofting 2019-2022 report. It will not be possible to identify any individual or crofting business in the report. You will be asked at the end of the survey if you would like to receive a summary of the survey results.

The information we gather through this survey will help to inform future Scottish Government crofting policy development. In addition, the Crofting Commission will use the results to help focus resources on the factors which will be of most benefit to crofting.

What do we mean by crofting-based activities?
You will be asked about your crofting-based activities. We are defining these as commercial activities that you undertake on your croft or participate in on the common grazing, which use the resources or products of the location. This might include activities associated with farming, woodland, tourism, leisure and renewable energy production.

About this survey and the information we require
- Information you provide should relate only to the registered tenant(s) or owner-occupier crofter(s) of the croft associated with this address.
- If you are the *landlord of the croft*, please pass this form to the registered crofter.
- If there is *more than one registered crofter* on the croft, please complete jointly, clearly detailing income and outgoings etc., for all involved.
- If *you have more than one croft*, please complete this form about the croft to which this survey was addressed.

It would be helpful to have your financial crofting information available for reference, including basic income and expenditure, before you begin to complete the survey.

Please answer the survey as fully as you are willing, or able, if there is anything you would prefer not to answer please leave the question and move onto the next one.

Further research
This survey includes a new section on peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry/ woodland creation. These activities are an essential part of combatting climate change and using land in a sustainable way. These questions will help the Scottish Government to develop crofting policy and to address any issues that may exist.

- Peatland habitats across Scotland are important for storing carbon and absorbing rainfall. Only peatland that is in a good environmental state can deliver these benefits.
- Biodiversity refers to the diversity of plant and animal life, and forestry/ woodland creation offers many benefits including food, timber, carbon storage and cleaner air.
- Natural capital is defined as the world's stock of natural resources. This includes air, water, minerals and all living things. These natural resources provide a wide range of benefits, such as pollution removal, carbon sequestration and flood management.

You will be asked to provide your contact details if you are interested in taking part in further research on this topic.

Section 1: About your crofting background

This section asks about the reasons why you became a crofter and the work that you do.

Q1.1 What were your main reasons for becoming a crofter?
PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ I was brought up in a crofting family
- ☐ To live amongst a small community
- ☐ A family croft became available
- ☐ To live with family and/ or friends
- ☐ To live with spouse/ partner
- ☐ To provide a source of income
- ☐ Other PLEASE TICK ☐ AND WRITE IN BELOW

Q1.2 For how long have you been a registered crofter?
PLEASE TICK ☐ ONE BOX

- ☐ Less than one year
- ☐ 1 to less than 3 years
- ☐ 3 to less than 5 years
- ☐ 5 to less than 10 years
- ☐ 10 to less than 15 years
- ☐ 15 to less than 20 years
- ☐ 20 years or more

Q1.3 How many crofts do you currently operate as a tenant, owner-occupier crofter, as a landlord or sublet? PLEASE WRITE A NUMBER FOR EACH IN BELOW

- ☐ Number of crofts operated as tenant crofter
- ☐ Number of crofts operated as owner-occupier
- ☐ Number of crofts operated as landlord
- ☐ Number of crofts operated as sublet/ short term lease (please write in below how long each sublet/ short term lease is)

Q1.4 Which of the following crofting activities are performed and approximately what proportion of your time (in %) does each account for?
PLEASE WRITE IN PERCENT FOR EACH ACTIVITY PERFORMED

	% of time		% of time
Livestock (incl, poultry, pigs, horses)		Wood processing	
Crops		Renewable energy production	

Bed & Breakfast/ holiday let	☐	Peatland restoration	☐
Camping/ glamping	☐	Biodiversity activities	☐
Aquaculture	☐	Forestry/ woodland creation	☐
Other (please describe below)	☐	Leisure based crofting activities	☐

Q1.5 **If you have livestock, how many are…?**
PLEASE WRITE A NUMBER FOR EACH IN BELOW

Breeding Sheep	☐	Breeding Cattle	☐
Pigs	☐	Poultry	☐
Other (please describe below)	☐	Breeding Horses	☐

Section 2: About your crofting activities

This section asks about the income and costs relating to the running of your croft. The purpose of this section is to understand the financial issues that crofters face. The information provided will assist in developing Government policies on crofting and help address any issues that may exist.

Q2.1 **Before deducting costs, what was your approximate income over the last 12 months from:**
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

Crofting based activities ☐ **Grant money/support schemes** ☐

Q2.2 **How do you anticipate your income position changing over the next 12 months and why?**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ONE BOX AND WRITE IN BELOW

- ☐ Likely to increase significantly
- ☐ Likely to increase moderately
- ☐ Not likely to change
- ☐ Likely to decrease moderately
- ☐ Likely to decrease significantly

REASON (WRITE IN BELOW)

Q2.3 **Approximately, what were your business running costs related to your crofting-based activities (please see our definition of "crofting based activities") in the last 12 months. (*Please exclude land and housing rent or mortgage payments but include all crofting related expenditure except investments which will be asked about in Section 4 on page 7*)?**
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

Q2.4 **Approximately, what was your total household income from all non-crofting based activities in the last 12 months (please include all sources of paid employment, pensions, benefits and interest on bank deposits & investments)?**
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

Q2.5 **How do you anticipate this will change over the next 12 months and why?**
PLEASE TICK □ ONE BOX AND WRITE IN BELOW

- □ Likely to increase significantly
- □ Likely to increase moderately
- □ Not likely to change
- □ Likely to decrease moderately
- □ Likely to decrease significantly

REASON (WRITE IN BELOW)

Q2.6 **Which of the following apply to you?**
PLEASE TICK □ ALL THAT APPLY

- □ I have a mortgage on my croft house → **Go to Q2.7a**
- □ I have a mortgage on my croft land → **Go to Q2.7b**
- □ I pay annual rent as a tenant crofter → **Go to Q2.7c**
- □ There are no rental or mortgage costs on my croft land or house → **Go to section 3**

Q2.7 **Approximately, what were your rent/mortgage costs in the last 12 months for…?**
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

a) Mortgage on croft house → **Go to section 3**
b) Mortgage on croft land → **Go to section 3**
c) Annual rent as tenant crofter → **Go to Q2.8**

Q2.8 **How regularly is your rent reviewed?**
PLEASE TICK □ ONE ONLY

- □ Annually
- □ Every 1-2 years
- □ Every 3-5 years
- □ Every 5-10 years
- □ Less frequently
- □ Never been reviewed

Section 3: Investing in your croft

This section asks about investments that you have made in the last three years, such as fixed and moveable equipment, additional livestock, refurbishment of croft house or outbuildings, or a new croft house. Again, the purpose of this section is to understand the financial issues that crofters face.

Q3.1 **Have you invested in your croft during the 2019-2022 period?**
PLEASE TICK □ ONE BOX ONLY

☐ Yes → **Go to Q3.2**

☐ No → **Go to Q3.8**

Q3.2 Approximately how much in total was invested in your croft during the 2019-2022 period?
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

Own money ____ **Grant money/support schemes** ____

Q3.3 What was the money invested on? PLEASE TICK ☐ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Crops
- ☐ Bed and breakfast/holiday let
- ☐ Peatland restoration
- ☐ Forestry/ woodland creation
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Wood processing
- ☐ Renewable energy production
- ☐ Camping/glamping
- ☐ Biodiversity activities
- ☐ Leisure
- ☐ Other (please describe below)

Q3.4 If applicable, how much, if any, of the money invested was raised through a secured or unsecured loan?
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

Secured loan ____ **Unsecured loan** ____

Q3.5 How much, if any, additional income (excluding government assistance which is covered at Q3.2) have you received as a result of the investment made in your croft?
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

Q3.6 How do you anticipate this will change over the next 12 months
PLEASE TICK ☐ ONE BOX AND WRITE IN BELOW

- ☐ Likely to increase significantly
- ☐ Likely to increase moderately
- ☐ Not likely to change
- ☐ Likely to decrease moderately
- ☐ Likely to decrease significantly

REASON (WRITE IN BELOW)

Q3.7 Which of your activities produced additional income?
PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Crops
- ☐ Bed and breakfast/holiday let
- ☐ Peatland restoration
- ☐ Forestry/ woodland creation
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Wood processing
- ☐ Renewable energy production
- ☐ Camping/ glamping
- ☐ Biodiversity activities
- ☐ Leisure
- ☐ Other

Q3.8 **Approximately how much, if any, do you plan to invest in your croft in the 2023-26 period?**
PLEASE WRITE IN TO THE NEAREST £100

☐ **If investment planned, go to Q3.9**
If no investment planned, go to Q3.10

Q3.9 **Which of the following is the planned investment in your croft during the 2023-26 period related to?**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY

- ☐ Livestock
- ☐ Crops
- ☐ Bed and breakfast/holiday let
- ☐ Peatland restoration
- ☐ Forestry/ woodland creation
- ☐ Aquaculture
- ☐ Wood processing
- ☐ Renewable energy production
- ☐ Camping/ glamping
- ☐ Biodiversity activities
- ☐ Leisure
- ☐ Other

NOW GO TO Q3.11

Q3.10 **If you are not planning on investing in the period 2023-26 what are the main reasons?**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY AND WRITE IN ANY OTHER REASONS BELOW

- ☐ No desire to do so
- ☐ Financial outlay/ cost is too great
- ☐ Uncertain of the potential benefit of investing
- ☐ Lack of information on how to do this
- ☐ Lack of sources of funding to do this
- ☐ Application for funding declined
- ☐ Funding source removed (please describe below)
- ☐ Difficulty accessing finance
- ☐ No successors
- ☐ Another reason (please specify below)

Q3.11 **Have you looked for any advice/support on crofting activities in the last 12 months?**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ONE BOX

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Q3.12 **Which of the following sources of advice/support are you aware of and to which would you go for advice or support on crofting activities if needed?**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THOSE YOU ARE AWARE OF AND THOSE YOU WOULD USE

	Aware of	Would use
Crofting Commission, Commissioner or local CC Assessor	☐	☐
Scottish Rural Development Programme (SRDP) website	☐	☐
Rural Payments and Inspections Division Offices	☐	☐
Farm Advisory Service (FAS)	☐	☐
National Farmers Union Scotland (NFUS)	☐	☐
Scottish Crofting Federation	☐	☐
Croft House Grant scheme (CHG)	☐	☐
Crofting Agricultural Grant Scheme (CAGS)	☐	☐

Crofting Cattle Improvement Scheme (Bull hire scheme)	☐	☐
Government department (please state which below)	☐	☐
Royal Scottish Agricultural Benevolent Institution	☐	☐
Grazings clerk/constable or Committee	☐	☐
Crofting community	☐	☐
Banks/Financial Institutions	☐	☐
Citizens' Advice	☐	☐
Legal advice	☐	☐
Family and friends	☐	☐
Landlord of croft	☐	☐
Other (please specify which below)	☐	☐

Q3.13 The Farm Advisory Service (FAS) is developing its website. What would you like to see on this website in the future?

Podcasts	☐
Videos	☐
Advice Line	☐
Technical notes	☐
Other (please state which below)	☐
I am unlikely to look at this website	☐

Q3.14 **To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements about crofting?**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ONE BOX ONLY FOR EACH STATEMENT

		Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
a)	The Scottish Government is committed to protecting the future of crofting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
b)	Diversification from agricultural-based crofting activities is the only way to secure the economic future of crofting	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
c)	Crofting is not economically viable without household members supplementing income from work outside of crofting activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
d)	I know where to find information on economic or financial help for crofting activities	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
e)	Income from, for example, wind farm developments on the common grazing should benefit the whole community and not just those crofters with shares in the common grazings	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
f)	I believe crofting in its present form has a sustainable future	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

Section 4: Peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry/ woodland creation

This section asks about peatland restoration, biodiversity activities and forestry/ woodland creation on your croft or common grazing. The purpose of this section is to understand if you are undertaking any of these activities or if you plan to carry out any of these activities and any obstacles you face in doing so. This will help the Scottish Government to develop policies on crofting and to address any issues that may exist.

Q4.1 **Have you carried out, or begun to carry out, any of the following on your croft or common grazing in the last 3 years between 2019 and 2022 or do you plan to carry out any of these in the 2023-2026 period?**

PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY

	2019-2022		2023-2026	
	Croft	**Common grazing**	**Croft**	**Common grazing**
Peatland restoration	☐	☐	☐	☐
Biodiversity activities	☐	☐	☐	☐
Forestry/ woodland creation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Carbon Trading	☐	☐	☐	☐
None	☐	☐	☐	☐

Q4.2 **Please provide the name of the scheme, if any, you used to restore peatland and/or biodiversity or create forestry or woodland?**

PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY

Forestry Grant Scheme	☐
Small Woodlands Loan Scheme	☐
Croft Woodlands Project	☐
Peatland ACTION Fund	☐
Agri-Environment Climate Scheme	☐
Nature Restoration Fund	☐
Not known	☐
Not used any schemes	☐
Other (please explain below)	☐

Q4.3 **Whether or not you are planning peatland restoration, biodiversity, forestry/ woodland creation on your croft or common grazing, are there any obstacles to you undertaking these activities on your croft or common grazing?**

PLEASE TICK ☐ ALL THAT APPLY

Lack of sources of funding	☐
Lack of information on how to do this	☐
Schemes do not fit with your existing activities	☐
Uncertain of the potential benefit of the activities	☐
The administrative hassle of available schemes	☐
There is no grazing committee	☐
Other (please explain below)	☐

Q4.4 **The Scottish Government would like to learn more about any peatland restoration, biodiversity, forestry/ woodland creation on your croft or common grazing. Would you be interested in answering further questions?** PLEASE TICK ALL THAT APPLY AND WRITE IN BELOW

Yes	☐
No	☐
Please provide me with more details first	☐

Please provide your preferred contact details below. These will be shared with the Scottish Government in order that they can get in touch with you about this research:

Section 5: About your crofting household

This final section asks about the people within your household so we can understand the views and experiences of different households, e.g. how different age groups perceive the challenges currently facing crofters. It also asks about the work undertaken by people in your household with respect to crofting & elsewhere. This information will not be used to identify you and will only be analysed collectively with other responses.

Q5.1 **What is your sex?**
PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q5.2 **What is your age?**
PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

☐ 16-24	☐ 45-54
☐ 25-34	☐ 55-64
☐ 35-44	☐ 65+

Q5.3 **Including yourself, how many people live in your household?** PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- ☐ One (Single occupancy household)
- ☐ Two people
- ☐ Three people
- ☐ Four people
- ☐ Five or more people (Please write in number below)

Q5.4 **Of the adults (aged 16 years and over) who live in your household, how many were involved in the following activities in the last 12 months?**
PLEASE WRITE IN A NUMBER FOR EACH (IF NONE, WRITE IN ‘0’)

Actively worked on your croft	
Worked in paid employment outside of crofting	

Received income from non-crofting self-employment	
Attended full-time education	
Attended part-time education	
Have served on the Grazing Committee	

Q5.5 In the last 12 months, approximately how many hours on an average week does each adult (aged 16 and over) work on the following?
PLEASE WRITE IN NUMBERS FOR EACH (IF NONE, WRITE IN 'X')

	Crofting	Paid non-crofting work
Adult 1		
Adult 2		
Adult 3		
Adult 4		

Q5.6 Do you have a succession plan in place for when you pass on your croft or tenancy agreement?
PLEASE TICK □ ONE BOX

- □ Yes → **Go to Q5.7 Go to Q5.8**
- □ No → **Go to Q5.8 Go to Q5.7**

Q5.7 What is the main reason for not having a succession plan in place?
PLEASE TICK □ ONE BOX

- □ No potential successor
- □ Children/successor not interested in crofting
- □ Other (please specify)
- □ No interest in making succession plan
- □ Legislation preventing succession to more than one successor

Q5.8 If you would like to make any further comments regarding your croft or the future of crofting in Scotland please write these in below:

Section 6: Optional Equalities information

The Scottish Government is required to collect equality evidence to meet requirements of The Equality Act 2010 (Specific Duties) (Scotland) Regulations 2012. These additional questions are voluntary and aggregate responses will be used for statistical and research purposes only.

Q6.1 Do you have a physical or mental health condition or illness lasting or expected to last 12 months or more?
PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- ☐ Yes → **Go to Q6.2**
- ☐ No → **Go to Q6.3**
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q6.2 If 'Yes', does your condition or illness reduce your ability to carry-out day-to-day activities?
PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- ☐ Yes, a lot
- ☐ Yes, a little
- ☐ Not at all

Q6.3 What is your religion?
PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- ☐ None
- ☐ Church of Scotland
- ☐ Roman Catholic
- ☐ Other Christian
- ☐ Muslim
- ☐ Buddhist
- ☐ Sikh
- ☐ Jewish
- ☐ Hindu
- ☐ Pagan
- ☐ Another religion (please write in)
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q6.4 Which of the following options best describes how you think of yourself?
PLEASE TICK ONE BOX ONLY

- ☐ Heterosexual/ Straight
- ☐ Gay/ Lesbian
- ☐ Bisexual
- ☐ Other
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q6.5 **What is your ethnic group? Choose ONE section from A-F, then tick ONE box which best describes your ethnic group or background.**
PLEASE TICK ☐ ONE BOX ONLY

A. WHITE

- ☐ Scottish
- ☐ Other British
- ☐ Irish
- ☐ Polish
- ☐ Gypsy/ Traveller
- ☐ Roma
- ☐ Showman/ Showwoman
- ☐ Other white ethnic group, please write in

B. MIXED OR MULTIPLE ETHNIC GROUPS

- ☐ Any mixed or multiple ethnic groups, please write in

C. ASIAN, SCOTTISH ASIAN OR BRITISH ASIAN

- ☐ Pakistani, Scottish Pakistani or British Pakistani
- ☐ Indian, Scottish Indian or British Indian
- ☐ Bangladeshi, Scottish Bangladeshi or British Bangladeshi
- ☐ Chinese, Scottish Chinese or British Chinese
- ☐ Other, please write in

D. AFRICAN, SCOTTISH AFRICAN OR BRITISH AFRICAN

- ☐ Please write in (for example, NIGERIAN OR SOMALI)

E. CARIBBEAN OR BLACK

- ☐ Please write in, for example SCOTTISH CARIBBEAN, BLACK SCOTTISH

F. OTHER ETHNIC GROUP

- ☐ Arab, Scottish Arab or British Arab
- ☐ Other, please write in (for example, SIKH, JEWISH
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Q6.6 **Would you like to receive a summary of the survey results?**
PLEASE TICK ☐

Yes	☐
No	☐

If yes, please provide your contact details below:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS. PLEASE NOW RETURN THE COMPLETED QUESTIONNAIRE IN THE REPLY PAID ENVELOPE PROVIDED

Annex 2: Interpreting results

The results of the research are based upon a sample survey, therefore all figures quoted are estimates rather than precise percentages. We have included analysis by all Local Authorities, but the numbers are very small for some so not statistically significant. This is the case for Orkney and Argyll and Bute, but these are included for completeness. The reader should interpret the local authority data with statistical significance in mind.

All tables have a descriptive and numerical base, showing the population examined in it.

All proportions produced in a survey have a degree of error associated with them because they are generated from a sample of the population rather than the population as a whole. Any proportion measured in the survey has an associated confidence interval (within which the 'true' proportion of the whole population is likely to lie), usually expressed as ±x%. It is possible with any survey that the sample achieved produces estimates that are outside this range. The number of times out of 100 surveys when the result achieved would lie within the confidence interval is also quoted; conventionally the level set is 95 out of 100, or 95%. Technically, all results should be quoted in this way. However, it is less cumbersome to simply report the percentage as a single percentage, the convention adopted in this report.

		Sub-group Size									
		50	75	100	150	200	250	300	400	500	942
Sample Estimate (lookup to nearest multiple of 5%)	5%	6.0	4.9	4.3	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.3
	10%	8.3	6.8	5.9	4.8	4.1	3.7	3.4	2.9	2.6	1.8
	15%	9.9	8.1	7.0	5.7	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.2
	20%	11.1	9.0	7.8	6.4	5.5	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.4	2.5
	25%	12.0	9.8	8.5	6.9	6.0	5.3	4.8	4.2	3.7	2.7
	30%	12.7	10.3	9.0	7.3	6.3	5.6	5.1	4.4	3.9	2.8
	35%	13.2	10.8	9.3	7.6	6.6	5.9	5.3	4.6	4.1	2.9
	40%	13.6	11.1	9.6	7.8	6.7	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.2	3.0
	45%	13.8	11.2	9.7	7.9	6.8	6.1	5.6	4.8	4.3	3.1
	50%	13.8	11.3	9.8	8.0	6.9	6.1	5.6	4.8	4.3	3.1
	55%	13.8	11.2	9.7	7.9	6.8	6.1	5.6	4.8	4.3	3.1
	60%	13.6	11.1	9.6	7.8	6.7	6.0	5.5	4.7	4.2	3.0
	65%	13.2	10.8	9.3	7.6	6.6	5.9	5.3	4.6	4.1	2.9
	70%	12.7	10.3	8.9	7.3	6.3	5.6	5.1	4.4	3.9	2.8
	75%	12.0	9.8	8.5	6.9	6.0	5.3	4.8	4.2	3.7	2.7
	80%	11.1	9.0	7.8	6.4	5.5	4.9	4.5	3.9	3.4	2.5
	85%	9.9	8.1	7.0	5.7	4.9	4.4	4.0	3.4	3.1	2.2
	90%	8.3	6.8	5.9	4.8	4.1	3.7	3.4	2.9	2.6	1.8
	95%	6.0	4.9	4.3	3.5	3.0	2.7	2.4	2.1	1.9	1.3

Above is a worked example that explains how to interpret results presented in the analysis of the survey.

The percentage of respondents who said their rent was reviewed was 76%, with a base of 442.

Using the statistical significance table above to find the 95% confidence intervals for each value, we can see that a base of 500 the lower limit of the 95% confidence interval is (75%-4.2%) 70.8% and the upper limit is (75%+4.2%) 79.2%.

How to access background or source data

The data collected for this social research publication:

☐ are available in more detail through Scottish Neighbourhood Statistics

☐ are available via an alternative route

☒ may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact socialresearch@scotland.gsi.gov.uk for further information.

☐ cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

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