Asset Transfer Request Reporting Template 2024/25 for Relevant Authorities

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

Section One – Relevant Authority Information

Organisation: Highlands and Islands Enterprise	Address: An Lòchran, 10 Inverness Campus, Inverness, IV2 5NA
Completed by: Sandra Holmes	Role: Head of Community Assets
Email: sandra.holmes@hient.co.uk	Telephone: 01463 383309
Date of completion: 24 June 2025	
Are you the Asset Transfer Lead Contact for the organisation: Yes	
If not please provide the name, job title and email address for the lead contact for any queries:	

Section 2: Asset Transfer Data in 2024/25

2.1 Please complete the following table for the 2024/25 reporting period:

Total Applications Received	Number of successful applications determined	Number of unsuccessful applications determined	Number received and yet to be determined	Number received prior to 2024/25 and yet to be determined

2	0	1	0	0

2.2 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests received which resulted in transfer of ownership, lease, or rights from your relevant authority to a community transfer body in 2024/25:

None

2.3 Please provide details of Asset Transfer Requests that went to a relevant authority appeal or review which were concluded in 2024/25:

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

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

- We received an Asset Transfer Request from Invergordon Naval Museum and Heritage Centre on 4 December 2024, for 69-71 Castle Road in Invergordon. The request was not validated as we did not consider the applicant to meet the requirements for an asset transfer body.

- We received an Asset Transfer Request from Dunvegan Community Trust on 6 January 2025, for Cruachan Woodland and Cnoc nan Croabh which form part of Orbost Estate in Skye.

  Dunvegan Community Trust withdrew their request on 17 March 2025.

Section Three – Promotion and Equality

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

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

https://www.hie.co.uk/support/support-for-community-organisations/community-assets/ten-steps-to-community-ownership/

Details of our asset transfer process and asset register can be found here: https://www.hie.co.uk/support/browse-all-support-services/community-empowerment-act/

We also make groups aware of the asset transfer via our property marketing details. Further, we promote the support available to communities via the Community Ownership Support Service (COSS).

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

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

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

Section Four – Additional Information

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

– Dunvegan Community Trust (see 2.1 and 2.4) remains interested in the purchase of Cruachan Wood and Bluebell Hill. They are now also exploring the purchase of Orbost Farmhouse. These assets all form part of Orbost Estate in Skye. We continue to hold these assets from the market to allow the community to consider its options.

- The Pairc Trust have had a long-standing interest in acquiring light industrial units and associated land at Habost in Lewis. On 13 May 2025, they informed us they did not wish to pursue this interest.

– Broadford and Strath Community Trust is interested in purchasing forest land from HIE which neighbours their community owned forest in Broadford. They have not fully decided on whether they will progress an Asset Transfer Request or approach HIE for a negotiated sale.

- Duthchas Growing wishes to provide land for growing, including allotments, and is interested in the purchase of Site 1, Sandbank Industrial Estate in Dunoon. In August 2024 the organisation informed us that they had taken a decision to wind up the organisation so would not be progressing their interest.

- Upper Achintore Residents Association remain interested in purchasing land in Upper Achintore, Fort William, from HIE for to develop a community centre/hub. They have undertaken some feasibility work and have yet to confirmed whether they will progress an Asset Transfer Request or approach HIE for a negotiated sale.

- We have, for another 12 months, continued to withhold a development plot at Portree Industrial Estate from normal disposal procedures while Skye & Lochalsh Micro Abattoir investigate the viability of a community purchase.

- We are in discussions with Moray Waste Busters regarding their interest in acquiring Strathcona House in Forres. We anticipate receiving an asset transfer request shortly.