Crofting legislation has become too complicated, confusing and at times, contradictory.

Before any reform is undertaken, there must be a vision or plan as to what is required to promote, develop and sustain the crofting system.

Once that has been established, then simplified legislation should be formed, which will enable crofters and administrators to apply the laws for the benefit of crofting.

All of the existing crofting legislation should be closely examined and any sections that are relevant to the agreed vision could be retained.

Very careful scrutiny of the evolving legislation is essential so that the confusing mess that is evident in recent crofting acts does not recur.

Since the thoughtful use of land resources should be an important factor for consideration, any proposed developments on croftland should referred by planners to the Crofting Commission before decisions are taken on any planning application.

For their part, the Commission must not abdicate responsibility, as they have done in recent years, with regard to their scrutiny of each and every planning application.

The stewardship of croft land that can be cultivated must be carried out with due diligence for the benefit of current and future generations.

Above are just a few thoughts for consideration of the REC.

Uilleam Smith
25 November 2016