

# Crofter's Fuel Poverty – Improving the existing housing stock



National Advice Hub  
T: 0300 323 0161  
E: advice@fas.scot  
W: www.fas.scot

The Croft House Grant (CHG) can help alleviate fuel poverty for some crofters. Fuel poverty rates are very high in the crofting counties, and many crofters may be unaware of the support available to improve their home and heating systems. These improvements will mean lower fuel bills and a more comfortable home.

## What is Fuel Poverty?

The Scottish Government defines fuel poverty as any household spending more than 10% of their income on energy – after housing costs have been deducted.

40% of households in Na h-Eileanan Siar and 33% of households in Highland are experiencing fuel poverty compared to the national average of 24%.

Some crofters will suffer from fuel poverty. This will include those people on low incomes and with higher-than-average energy consumptions, but also those living in remote rural areas where the housing stock may be of a lesser quality and be poorly insulated.

## Who is eligible for house improvements under the Croft House Grant (CHG)?

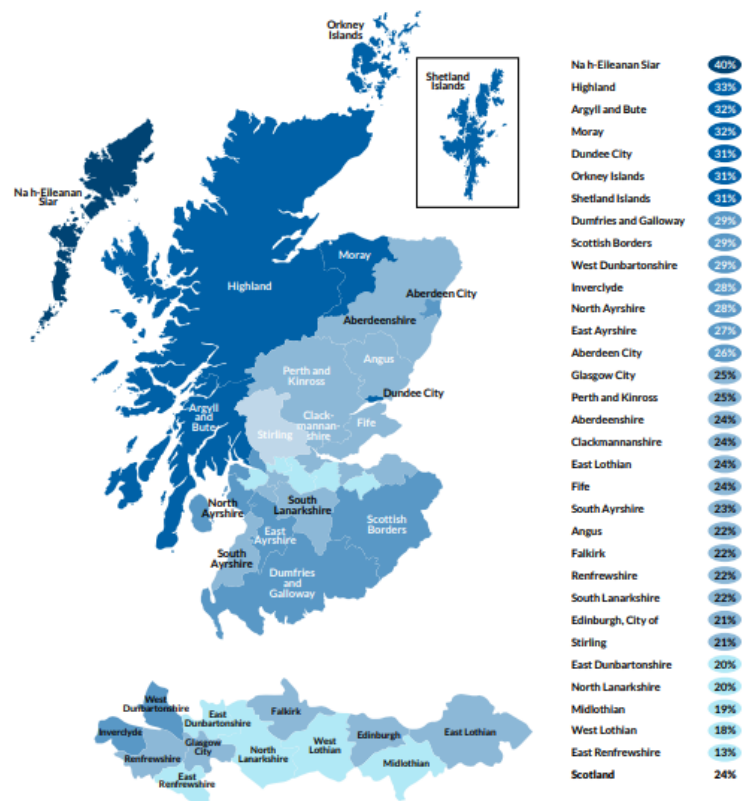
- a tenant crofter
- an owner-occupier crofter
- a cottar (in the case of cottar applicants, references to “croft” and “crofter” in this guidance should be read as references to cottars and holdings occupied by cottars)

The Crofters (Scotland) Act 1993 (as amended) defines the above and it does include the Kyles Crofters.

## Myth Busting

Many believe that if their house is decrofted they are barred from this grant support. This is no longer the case. Croft houses that have lost their historical link to the croft through the process of Decrofting, are still eligible to apply for grant support provided the occupier is the eligible crofter and continues to work the croft themselves.

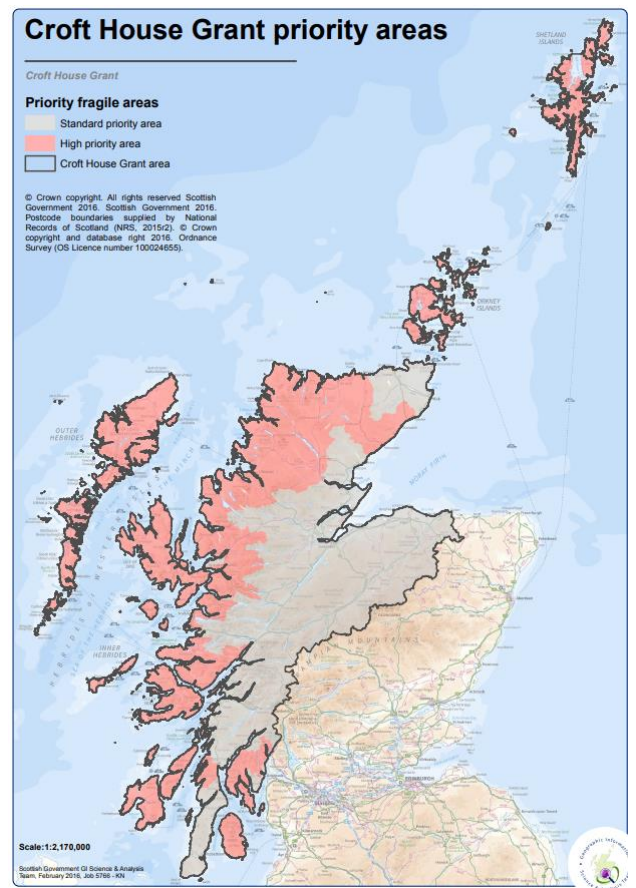
## FUEL POVERTY BY LOCAL AUTHORITY



Source: Scottish Government Scottish House Condition Survey 2019, Local Authority Analysis published December 2020.

## Level of Grant for Rebuilding and Improvements?

This depends on where in the country you are. See map to see if you are in a standard or high priority area.



High Priority	Standard Priority
40% of costs up to a maximum grant of £38,000	40% of costs up to a maximum grant of £28,000

NB Improvement works need to be a minimum of £8,000 to be considered for this grant.

## Heating Systems that the CHG supports

The grant can support central heating and hot water systems where they are an integral part of major improvement work, or to bring an existing croft house up to a tolerable standard.

The CHG cannot support renewable heat sources and appliances as standalone items, as these can be funded by other sources. However, the CHG may still be able to fund the radiators and pipes connected to a renewable heat source system. Please visit

<https://www.homeenergyscotland.org/find-funding-grants-and-loans/> for more information on funding for these items.

## Quotation Requirements

Two like-for-like quotations are needed for all existing house improvement building works.

## Rebuilding and Improvements – Items eligible for support

Improvements to the original building may include, but are not limited to

Major Works	Minor Works
replacement of roof covering	first time provision of modern fitted kitchens (not replacement, (not replacement, only where the existing facilities have been judged to be below tolerable standard, by the RPID buildings officer)
replacement of gutters and down pipes	first time provision of bathrooms, or replacement of new bathroom suites (where the existing facilities have been judged to be below tolerable standard, by the RPID buildings officer)
provision of, or modification and repairs to chimneys and flues	first time provision of storm porches with floor area not exceeding four square metres
repairs to cracks in walls (providing the movement has ceased, and the cracks are historic – in these cases a structural engineer’s report may be required)	first time provision of a central heating system, or replacement of elements of the system which have come unsafe or un-serviceable (where supported by a report by a competent person)
provision of chemical damp proof courses (DPCs)	rewiring where the existing wiring has become unsafe or un-serviceable (where supported by a report by a competent person)
provision of, or replacement of external rendering, where this is required to maintain water tightness	replacement of a roof covering and roof drainage which has reached the end of its useful life and cannot be economically repaired
replacement of decayed or undersized structural elements such as lintels	replacement of external doors and windows which have reached the end of their useful life and cannot be economically repaired
repairs to timber roof and floor structure where water ingress or infestation has led to decay	provision of external access ramps*
provision of, or modification to external walls, and internal partitions as required to create a functional dwelling house	provision of accessible bathroom fittings*
provision of thermal and sound insulation to external wall linings, internal partitions, floors, and roof spaces	

provision of, or replacement of floors, solums and under-floor ventilation	
lowering external ground levels and provision of external drainage where required to divert surface water from the building	
provision of ramps and other means of access	
replacement of doors and windows	
application of chemical treatment of woodworm and other infestation	

\* Special circumstances are considered on a case-by-case basis

### Where to get more information & Support

For full guidance visit

<https://www.ruralpayments.org/topics/all-schemes/croft-house-grant/croft-house-grant-full-guidance/#642755>

Application form (House Improvement) [chg\\_revised\\_house\\_improvements\\_application\\_3.docx \(live.com\)](#)

Please contact the RPID Tيرة office if you require more assistance on 0300 244 9999, or email: [chgs@gov.scot](mailto:chgs@gov.scot)

Support via the FAS advice line 0300 323 0161.