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Dear Rhoda

Thank you for making contact with Mairi and myself, with respect to concerns of the Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT), on the prospective sale of Kinloch Castle.

I do understand the concerns set out by the community representatives on Rum, and that securing a sustainable future for Kinloch Castle will require community interests to be fully recognised in any agreement with the prospective buyer. The Castle plays a crucial role on the island, and NatureScot has been trying to secure a positive future for a number of years, including previous attempts to secure a community asset transfer via provisions in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

I remain hopeful that a workable solution can be found with the prospective buyer that meets the interests of the community, by upholding the highest standards when it comes to land reform and community empowerment. With this in mind, I am pleased that today the Scottish Land Commission have written to all three parties involved with further advice on next steps and ensuring a fair and responsible approach.

Despite reports in the media, 31 October is not a fixed deadline, and I will be meeting representatives of the Isle of Rum Community Trust (IRCT) next week to hear their concerns first hand. I will keep you up to date.

Kind regards



LORNA SLATER

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