

Peter Peacock
Scottish Labour Regional MSP for the Highlands and Islands

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North MSP Raises Funding Concern Regarding Ross-Shire Waste Action Network

Peter Peacock, Regional Labour MSP for the Highlands and Islands has written to the Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs the Environment regarding government funding support for Ross-shire Waste Action Network.

Mr Peacock said, "RoWAN is a waste awareness charity based in Dingwall and receives funding from the Scottish Government through the Increase III Programme.

"The group had applied for further funding to continue and expand their work, however, the submission date for applications was changed from 30 May until 4 July, (just four days before 30 May).

"The panel which assess applications will not meet now until early September with the decisions on funding coming later that month. RoWAN would like an early decision date but are also concerned of slippage on the funding package.

"I have written to the Minister seeking an assurance that the funding decision for RoWAN will not be delayed and suggesting an even earlier decision than currently proposed

"RoWAN's work is increasingly important to the community as we all try and recycle more and as our landfill sites fill up across the country."

Mr Peacock added," It is important that the issue of recycling is to the fore and groups such as RoWAN have an important role in heightening awareness. It is essential that they have a robust funding package in place."

The INCREASE III Programme is a £7.5 million Scottish Government Investment Programme being delivered through a partnership between the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and the Community Recycling Network for Scotland (CRNS).

The aim of the INCREASE Programme is to help not-for-profit, community based organisations develop projects that will increase the reduction, reuse and recycling of waste in line with the move towards a 'Zero Waste Scotland'.

The INCREASE III programme has four distinct funding strands depending on what type of investment is sought:

- Prevention (£5,000 - £300,000) – for project proposals relating to the prevention of waste.
- Enterprise (£5,000 - £300,000) – for commercially viable project proposals which aim to recycle, reuse or compost household, commercial and industrial waste.
- Capacity – for project proposals relating to the employment of key staff to enhance the management capacity of community waste/recycling companies in order to support organisational or activity development.
- Small Projects (< £5,000) - for project proposals relating to the purchase of plant and machinery, H&S equipment, provision of licenses and permits and training (limited to community waste/recycling organisations which have a turnover of less than £100,000).

ends

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