

2 March 2010

Press Release

TFFC Skills Group Launched at Scottish Tourism Week 4 March 2010 8am – 10am, Hilton Hotel, Glasgow

STF in association with People 1st are delighted to announce the launch of the TFFC Skills Group. The breakfast meeting will provide you with an overview of the progress made by the group far and provide you with an outline of the key challenges required to be addressed by both the public and the private sector. Iain Herbert, CE, STF will open the meeting followed by Peter Lederer, and David Allen, People 1st.

Reflected within the Enterprise, Energy and Tourism enquiry findings published in 2008 and the Scottish Government Tourism Task Group findings in 2009, there is a growing consensus and understanding that the skills needs of the Scottish hospitality sector will be serviced better through the guidance and direction of an industry driven skills group. Working under the banner of the Tourism Framework for Change (TFFC), People 1st and STF have been working in partnership with Institute of Hospitality, VisitScotland, Skills Development Scotland, Springboard and HIT Scotland to form a new industry led Skills Group, positioned as the authoritative industry voice which will represent the current and future skills needs of the sector.

The aims of the TFFC Skills Group are:

- to provide a focus on the skills issues that currently restrict the long term growth of the sector;
- To identify who is responsible for these issues and work with them to ensure definable actions and in place that are measurable.
- To create a clear rationale for ensuring that limited public resources are directed to only those initiatives and interventions that support the needs of the industry.
- To encourage employers and individuals to re-connect with the skills agenda, providing unity and ownership for how it should move forward.

Iain Herbert, CE, Scottish Tourism Forum commented *“Scottish Tourism Week demonstrates the successes and profile of the sector and with the launch of the Tourism Framework for Change Skills Group 2010 is set to see a real change in point and pulling together of both Government and public partners and new ways of working and moving forward. This week will engage with over 640 tourism businesses brought together by the forum to work to a common agenda.”*

To register for the TFFC Skills Group Launch email Lorraine.birrell@people1st.co.uk

Scottish Tourism Week was initiated in 2006 by Scottish Tourism Forum to raise awareness of Scottish tourism's contribution to the Scottish economy. Tourism in Scotland contributes £4.2b to the Scottish economy and employs over 210,000 people in over 20,000 businesses.

Full details the events, agenda and speakers can be found on STF website www.stforum.co.uk/scottishtourismweek/stw2010.aspx

2 March	Industry Dinner	George Hotel, Edinburgh
3 March	STW Conference 'Delivering for Scotland' 9.45-4.00	Murrayfield, Edinburgh
3 March	MPS Reception (6pm-8pm)	Scottish Parliament
4 March	TFFC Skills Group Launch (8am – 10am)	Hilton Hotel, Glasgow
5 March	Seminar: "The Rural Question" (9.30 – 1pm)	Easterbrook Hall Hotel, Dumfries
8 March	Seminar: "The Highland Question" (1pm – 5pm)	Drumossie Hotel, Inverness
8 March	Highland Reception (5.30 – 7.30)	Drumossie Hotel , Inverness

The Scottish Tourism Forum (STF) is an independent trade body which represents the interests of Scottish tourism businesses. STF has members across all sectors of the industry both small and large operators, associations and area business groups. STF provides the national voice of the industry and is involved in industry advisory groups and grants awards panels and lobbies on behalf of the tourism and hospitality sector.

STF is grateful to our sponsors for supporting Scottish Tourism Week: VisitScotland, The Caravan Club, British Holiday and Home Park Association, VisitBritain, Tartan Ink, Tomatin Distillery and The George Hotel.

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