

Chamber Comment

Here at Caithness Chamber we are starting the year off with a bang with the launch of a brand new contract to host Scotland's only Europe Direct Information

Centre. The aim of this Centre is to provide

information to businesses and the general public about EU matters, and to enable them to make their voices heard on any areas of EU activity that are of concern to them.

The bidding process for this contract was highly competitive, and we were one of just 12 successful bids out of a total of 35 from organisations across the UK, so this is a real coup for the North Highlands, being the only one awarded in Scotland.

The new contract for EDICs runs from 2018 – 2020, but with the date of Brexit set as 29 March 2019, the contract is likely not to run beyond this. Therefore for this period we will be hosting the only and in fact the last EDIC in Scotland, so a historic first.

As with our colleagues throughout the Scottish Chambers network, the Chamber remains neutral on the ongoing debates around Brexit and the EU, which makes us well-placed to ensure that businesses and individuals in the North Highlands and Islands have access to factual, unbiased information.

The Brexit process has already brought up a number of complex issues which remain under discussion, and it is important that local citizens, businesses and organisations are able to have their key questions answered as soon as the information becomes available.

We are excited to take on this new challenge, and we look forward to working hard over the coming year to ensure that everyone in the North Highlands and Northern Isles has the information they need to make informed decisions about Europe

### Trudy Morris

Chief Executive,
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### PREMIER PARTNERS











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Stacks Bistro supports Action Against Hunger

Here at Stacks Coffee House & Bistro in John o' Groats we are proud to be supporting Action Against Hunger. By offering a voluntary 50p charity donation on every bill, we aim to raise over  $\pounds$ 5000 throughout 2018 and with luck, every year thereafter.

Without access to fresh ingredients, food supplies and even clean water, we would have no business to speak of. More important than that, a lower quality of life.

Shockingly, with all the food wasted in this country there are still millions living with starvation worldwide. Action Against Hunger works in nearly 50 countries – including here at home. Thanks to a recent campaign, the

British government will now match every 50p raised through UK Aid. These donations make a real difference and work to fulfil the basic human right of food and water to everyone across the globe.

Working with AAH is incredibly easy, just give them a ring, or drop them an email and say you want to help. Registered restaurants can join a campaign called "Love food, Give food" to give others the gift of a good meal, not just for special occasions, but for life.









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