

Biography

Alistair Danter - Skye

Background

Based in Portree, Alistair Danter holds the position of Regional Development Officer for Skye.

Alistair's early training was in rural land management; he spent three years managing estates in southern England before qualifying as a Chartered Surveyor. He then moved to Swaziland in southern Africa where he managed a social forestry programme as a partner with the Swaziland Ministry of Agriculture. After a short spell back in the UK Alistair then worked with Actionaid (an international NGO) in Burundi and Mozambique for a period of 10 years. There he held a number of positions involving project management of food security, micro enterprise development, adult literacy and the provision of social infrastructure such as schools, health posts and water systems.

Setting up in business

Alistair moved to Skye in 1998 and embarked on a two year period of self employment. During this time he converted two stone byres on his croft into holiday cottages and managed an additional three chalet complex as a self catering business.

The role of Regional Development Officer

Prior to joining Business Gateway, Alistair spent seven years in business advisory roles in the Highlands, working with private and community sector businesses. When he heard about the Business Gateway Regional Development Officer post in 2009 Alistair felt that this was a logical career move, as he had plenty of relevant experience and was, by then, a key member of the local business community in Skye.

Areas of expertise

Alistair has a wealth of economic and business development experience, both in the UK and abroad. He speaks five languages (three fluently) and is currently undertaking a post graduate degree in Financial Services Risks and Operations at Glasgow Caledonian University. He is also qualified as a Premier Adviser (ILM Diploma in Business Advice & Counselling).

Alistair is particularly adept at giving advice relating to business planning, tourism, land management, financial services, project management, community enterprise and fundraising.

Alistair's top business resource

Alistair says that, *"there are lots of jokes about the importance of size but the majority of issues regarding business development are as relevant to a small seasonal enterprise as they are to a large business employing hundreds of staff. It's a question of technical application and scale that varies – the key resource is the right question at the right time asked in the right way"*.