Written submission from Comhairle nan Eilean Siar Council

Thank you for your letter dated 14 July 2017 in relation to the above matter.

The Comhairle is aware of the announcement by Paul Wheelhouse MSP (the Minister for Environment and Climate Change) on 23 May 2014 that along with his colleague (Enterprise Minister Fergus Ewing) he had asked Registers of Scotland to prepare to complete land registration within 10 years, with all public land registered within five years.

The Comhairle is not, however, aware of any legal requirement to register land in its ownership by 2019. As the Comhairle has title to a significant number of plots or areas of land evidenced by a large quantity of Sasines deeds it would be a colossal task to register these titles. Even if the Government provided extra resources to fund solicitors dedicated to this task together with sums to cover registration outlays it would be challenging for this to be achieved by 2019. As things stand however, without such extra resources it is evident that this will not be achieved by 2019.

Lesley McDonald
Head of Executive Office