Comments are as follows:-

- I am aware of the requirement for all public land to be registered by 2019. Following an in-depth study of this requirement and meetings among Council staff (including solicitors, surveyors, cartographers and accountants), North Lanarkshire Council responded to the Public Consultation on Completion of the Land Register in July 2014. Since then there have been a number of meetings between ROS and Council representatives at which this requirement has been discussed.

- Steps are being taken on an occasional basis where a voluntary registration or the registration of a Notice of Title is, given the circumstances of a transaction, of benefit to that transaction. Other than this, as advised in our response to the 2014 Consultation, as insufficient account has been taken of the resources available to local authorities to take forward a general registration of their titles, no additional work can currently be undertaken.

- I am not confident that the Council can complete registration of its titles by 2019. The Council does not have the necessary resources to employ the solicitors, cartographers and surveyors who would be required to carry out this task. While a full audit of the Council’s titles has not been carried out, it is estimated that the number of unregistered titles is in the region of 15,000. The cost of employing additional staff and meeting voluntary registration dues would extend to several million pounds and in a climate of budget cuts and efficiency savings, registration within this timescale is unrealistic.

I trust the foregoing answers your enquiry but should you require any more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Fiona Ekinli
Legal Manager
Legal & Democratic Solutions
North Lanarkshire Council