



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sally Loudon
Chief Executive
COSLA

By email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)

Tel: 0131 348 5240

ecclr.committee@parliament.scot

24 November 2017

Dear Ms Loudon

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

Given the Committee's land reform remit, it is currently doing a piece of work in relation to whether public sector bodies are able to meet the Scottish Government's request to register all their properties on the Land Register of Scotland by 2019.

The Committee has written to all 32 local authorities and NHS Scotland to ask whether they were:

- aware of the requirement to register their property on the Land Register of Scotland by 2019;
- currently taking steps to register its property; and
- confident of completing its registration by 2019.

The Committee received responses from 25 of the 32 local authorities as well as from NHS Scotland. The full text of the responses can be found here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/CurrentCommittees/106728.aspx>

All local authorities who responded said that they were unlikely to make the 2019 deadline. The primary reasons given for this were:

- insufficient financial and staffing resources, particularly in relation to the need for dedicated solicitors to carry out the work and the registration fees for each application;
- even if resources were made available, the 2019 deadline would likely prove too much of a challenge given the number of titles which would need to be added to the register; and
- while the Scottish Government has requested public land be registered by 2019, this is not a legal requirement.

Some of the responses made reference to COSLA having given consideration to how deliverable the 2019 target is. At its meeting on 21 November, the Committee therefore agreed to write to you to ask if you could provide an update on your work in this area including any discussions you have had with Registers of Scotland and any other relevant agencies.

I would be grateful for a response to these points by **Monday 15 January 2018**.

The Committee is also writing to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, the Minister for Local Government and Housing and the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland on this issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Dey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graeme Dey MSP
Convener
Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee