



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sheenagh Adams
Keeper of the Registers of Scotland
Registers of Scotland

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
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By email only

(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)

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23 November 2017

Dear Sheenagh

Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform Committee

You may remember I wrote to you in July to update you on the Committee's interest in whether public sector bodies were meeting the Scottish Government's request to register all their properties on the Land Register of Scotland by 2019.

The Committee has since 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.

At its meeting on 21 November, the Committee agreed to write to you to ask, given the challenges that local authorities and other public bodies are facing in registering their land, what work you are doing to help support public bodies in this regard? For example, the Committee was interested to read in some of the responses of the positive work being done through your Keeper Induced Registration programme. Is this programme being rolled out to all public bodies and might you expect this to significantly decrease their registration burden?

Also, do the responses received by the Committee give you any concerns, above and beyond what you already know through your own discussions with public bodies, of meeting the 2024 deadline for all land in Scotland to be on the Register?

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 Chief Executive of COSLA 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