



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Kevin Stewart MSP
Minister for Local Government and
Housing

By email only

c/o Clerk to the Committee
Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)

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24 November 2017

Dear Kevin,

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 submissions also made reference to COSLA having given consideration to how deliverable the 2019 target is.

At its meeting on 21 November, the Committee agreed to write to you to ask, based on the responses received by the Committee along with what you already know on this issue, whether you are confident that local authorities will meet the Scottish Government's ambition for registering their land by 2019? In addition, what support, advice and guidance is the Scottish Government providing for local authorities on this work and are you monitoring progress?

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 Keeper of the Registers of Scotland and the Chief Executive of COSLA on this issue. I am also copying this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform for information.

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