

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

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

By email to
ecclr.committee@parliament.scot

10 January 2018

Dear Graeme

Thank you for your letter of 24 November regarding the addition of local authority owned property to the land register.

Progress is being made by local authorities and by other public sector bodies to meet the Scottish Government's ambition of registering their land by 2019. We recognise that the target is challenging, and we remain committed to working with local authorities on the matter.

As part of that commitment, in June 2015, Scottish Ministers introduced a 25 per cent reduction in fees for voluntary registration, which reduced the costs of registration for local authorities.

A number of local authorities have voluntarily registered land assets, and Registers of Scotland has established a team of advisers who are dedicated specifically to supporting the public sector in this task.

Registers of Scotland has also extended its Keeper-induced registration programme to include publicly owned land. That means that the majority of local authority housing stock will be entered in the land register by Registers of Scotland with no cost or resource implications for local authorities. This will mean that the majority, if not all, local authority housing stock will be entered onto the land register by Registers of Scotland, with no cost or resource implications for local authorities.

Registers of Scotland is monitoring progress by public bodies, including local authorities, on registering their land holdings.

I note you have also written to the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport and I am copying this reply to her. I am also copying this reply to Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Land Reform, to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Jobs and Fair Work, who

is responsible for the land register of Scotland, and to the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland.

Kind regards

KEVIN STEWART