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NEWS RELEASE

Registers of Scotland cuts information fees

Following public consultation Scottish Ministers will be bringing in reduced fees for a range of Registers of Scotland's (RoS) information services. The new charges will take effect from 1 June 2009.

The new fees will mean that access to property price information across Scotland will be free and that charges for a further ten information services will also be reduced.

Commenting on the new fees, Jim Mather, Minister for Enterprise, Energy and Tourism said:

"Registers of Scotland hold valuable information to help the public better understand the property market and get a realistic view of house and land prices.

"Property buyers are often supported by solicitors and specialist private search companies, who carry out the research required to ensure that property buyers make informed decisions about their purchases. The reduction of these fees at a difficult time for this market will help support these businesses and the jobs they provide.

"The Scottish Government is committed to providing the public with the best service for the best value and the actions we are taking from this fee review supports this."

Not all the fees are able to be reduced; the reports area of RoS's information services requires high levels of staff input but these fees will increase by no more than £1.50.

For further information, please contact: Communications, Registers of Scotland, tel: 0131 528 3808 or email: communications@ros.gov.uk.

Notes to editors:

1. Registers of Scotland records and protects rights. It is the Government Department responsible for registering a variety of legal documents in Scotland. The two main registers relate to ownership of, and rights over, land and property – the Land Register and General Register of Sasines. To find out more, go to: ros.gov.uk
2. As a Trading Fund, Registers of Scotland is required to be entirely self funding and raises its running costs through the fees it charges for its registration and information services.
3. To view the fee review consultation paper and Scottish Ministers' response go to: ros.gov.uk/consultations/

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