



News Release

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April 7, 2005

REGISTERS OF SCOTLAND RELOCATION

As part of the Scottish Executive's programme of relocation reviews, Registers of Scotland, the Executive Agency responsible for land and property registration, has been examining alternative options for its location.

Following Ministers' consideration of the first stage of the review, Registers of Scotland is now examining the following shortlist of areas, for a partial and phased move of some of its Edinburgh-based operations.

- Fife
- Glasgow City
- North Ayrshire
- North Lanarkshire
- South Lanarkshire
- West Lothian

Additionally, Registers of Scotland has been asked to examine the potential for creating small satellite centres in a small number of locations as part of the Small Units Initiative.

Registers of Scotland will now examine each of the options in further detail with a view to recommending location options to Ministers in the summer.

The report on the first stage of the review is available on the Agency's website www.ros.gov.uk/aboutus .

NOTES FOR NEWS EDITORS

- Registers of Scotland is responsible for land and property registration, and for the maintenance of certain Crown and judicial registers. It is a separate Department within the Scottish Administration, headed by the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland, and was established as an Executive Agency in 1990. It has a financial status equivalent to that of a Trading Fund. Registers of Scotland operates on a commercial basis, funding its work from its fees and charges.



- Registers of Scotland currently employs over 1,400 staff at four locations in central Scotland. It is currently engaged in a major change programme which will see staff numbers reduced by more than 30% over the next ten years. Registers of Scotland main accommodation is at Meadowbank House in Edinburgh, which is a Crown owned building. In Glasgow the Agency has leased premises at 150 St Vincent Street. In addition, the Agency has two further leases for Customer Service Centres at Erskine House, Queen Street, Edinburgh, and George Square, Glasgow.
- The Executive's policy on relocation has been in operation since 1999. When a new unit or Agency is established, or if an existing unit is merged or otherwise reorganised, the policy requires that a location review is undertaken to ascertain where the body will be located. The presumption is that it will be located outside Edinburgh. For existing bodies, where a significant property breakpoint is reached, for example the termination of a lease, a relocation review should be undertaken and options - including Edinburgh - should be considered. Registers of Scotland was included in the programme of relocation reviews in 2000 with its review scheduled for 2004.

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