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MEDIA RELEASE

Registers of Scotland launches consultation on information fees and services

Registers of Scotland today (Friday 28 March) issued a consultation paper seeking views on options to review the fee structure for information services and how information services are provided to customers.

The consultation invites views on the following topics:

- guiding principles of how Registers of Scotland provides its information services from the registers (including Land Register of Scotland and General Register of Sasines)
- options for the delivery of information
- whether there should be a charging system and how it should operate
- likely demand for citizens' portal access to information services.

The consultation runs until Monday 23 June 2008.

A copy of the consultation document is available on the Registers of Scotland website at www.ros.gov.uk/consultations

Alternatively, to obtain copies of the consultation, please email grant.hall@ros.gov.uk or telephone 0131 528 3802 or write to Grant Hall, Registers of Scotland, Meadowbank House, 153 London Road, Edinburgh, EH8 7AU.

A summary of the responses will be published on the Registers of Scotland website by 18 July 2008.

All responses will be considered to inform the future policy on fees.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

1. In November 2007, Registers of Scotland set up an Information Fee Working Group to consider the strategic principles and policies for setting fees. The Working Group includes the following key stakeholders: Law Society of Scotland, Council of Mortgage Lenders, Scottish Consumer Council, Society of Scottish Searchers and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers.

2. Registers of Scotland is the non Ministerial Government Department responsible for registering a variety of legal documents in Scotland. Registers of Scotland compiles and maintains 16 public registers. The two main registers relate to rights over land and property – the Land Register of Scotland and the General Register of Sasines. To find out more about the registers, go to: <http://www.ros.gov.uk>
3. In 1996, Registers of Scotland was established as a Trading Fund, self-financing from fees.
4. Registers of Scotland undertakes regular reviews of its information fees and services. The fees charged for information services were previously amended in November 2005.
5. Registers of Scotland substantially reduced and simplified registration fees in 2007 to reduce income by 26% overall. The next review of registration fees is due to take place in 2008-2009.

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