Response to
Registers of Scotland
Completion of the Land Register
Public Consultation

by

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1. The pervasive smart phone and other mobile devices are providing citizens with the ability to directly record their evidence of land rights. Initiatives like MapMyRights (www.MapMyRights.com) and Open Tenure (http://flossola.org/group/open-tenure) are providing Fit-For-Purpose tools for citizens and communities to directly record their evidence of land rights by tracing their parcel boundaries on high-resolution satellite imagery, for example. This is called crowdsourcing – see report on "Crowdsourcing Support of Land Administration" (http://www.rics.org/uk/knowledge/research/research-reports/crowdsourcing-support-of-land-administration/).

2. Countries like Croatia are already using the power of the crowd to improve the quality of their cadastral records.

3. Registers of Scotland could provide a set of tools for holders of land rights in Scotland to directly record their evidence of land rights. This could then be made publically available on-line as a provisional layer in the Land Register. It would have no legal status, but would be indicative of land rights.

4. A similar process and set of tools have been provided by Registers of Scotland to support the completion of the Crofters Register for citizens.

5. This approach would have the following advantages:

    • A comprehensive view of land rights in Scotland could be quickly achieved to support policy decisions in the interim until the official Land Register is completed.
    • The quality would vary, but it would provide Registers of Scotland with a provisional version on which to improve – speeding up the official process.
    • Citizens would engage in land tenure issues and strengthen their relationship with land and the Registers of Scotland.
    • Analysis of recorded land rights would provide an early indication of any existing land conflicts to be resolved.
    • The approach fully supports the transparency agenda of open government.

6. This innovative approach would provide best practice for other Scottish Government agencies to engage more effectively with citizens.