

Fairer Scotland Duty

Assessment not required declaration

Policy title	The Register of Scotland (Digital Registration, etc.) Regulations 2022
Directorate:	Registers of Scotland
Division:	Policy & Legal
Team:	Policy Unit
Policy lead responsible for taking the decision	Harry Murray

Rationale for decision

Measures to place digital submission on a permanent statutory footing will be taken forward as part of a wider bill related to recovery from the Covid pandemic. These regulations are designed to work in tandem with the permanent provisions, by making digital submission of applications in the Land Register and Register of Sasines compulsory subject to limited exceptions.

This will affect existing customers who submit applications to the three affected registers, and in particular, the conveyancing profession. All of RoS's existing customers have successfully transitioned to the digital submission service, and its popularity is evidenced by the strong support received through the public consultation. Not only does the service provide operational resilience for RoS, but it allows the conveyancing profession flexibility in choosing where they work from.

Whilst the digital submission service will become the default method of submission to RoS, processes will be in place to support the very small number of applications that still require to be submitted on paper. Such applications may be required because the applicant has no access to RoS online services (for example, because they are a citizen carrying out their own conveyancing), or where the applicant is unable to use online services for accessibility reasons.

Consequently, these proposals will largely see the Keeper maintain the existing practice and policy. In addition, the decision to maintain this position and to create the possibility of registering full electronic documents in the Books of Council & Session has no relevance on socio-economic inequalities with measures to allow the electronic submission and registration in these registers having no impact on groups with protected characteristics.

I confirm that the decision to not carry out a Fairer Scotland assessment has been authorised by:

Jennifer Henderson Keeper and Chief Executive of the Registers of Scotland	Date authorisation given
Jennifer Henderson	13 December 2021