

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE REGISTRATION SERVICES (FEES) AMENDMENT (SCOTLAND) REGULATIONS 2010 (SSI 2010/427)

1. The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 28A(4), 37(1), 38(2) and (3), 39D(1), 39E(3), 43(8), 47 and 54(1) of the Registration of Births, Deaths and Marriages (Scotland) Act 1965 (“the 1965 Act”), sections 38 and 39C of that Act as applied by sections 98 and 122(7) of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 (“the 2004 Act”), sections 122(4) and 134(2) of the 2004 Act and sections 55(6) and (9), 58(5) and (8) and 61(2)(a) of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”). The instrument is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

2. Registration service fees are set by the Registrar General for Scotland with the approval of the Scottish Ministers by regulations made under the 1965 Act, the Marriage (Scotland) Act 1977, the 2004 Act and the 2006 Act.

3. The level of fees is reviewed annually to ensure that the cost of providing chargeable services is fully recovered and to take account when fixing charges of any likely future increases in costs.

4. The purpose of this instrument is to:-

a) Increase the maximum length of an internet search session from 90 days to 1 year.

b) Increase the fees payable to the Registrar General and to District registrars for searches and extracts.

c) Change part of the current grounds for the remission of fees, for educational purposes, to encourage the use of the ScotlandsPeople Centre.

c) Amend the fee structure by removing the separate fee per block reservation of 10 places for a general search.

d) Introduce fees for 2 hour general search sessions after 16:30 on weekdays and full day general search sessions at weekends and on public holidays.

e) Introduce an express bulk particular search service.

Consultation

5. GROS consulted the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (CoSLA) and the Association of Registrars of Scotland) (AROS) on the new fees that will be charged by local registrars from 1 January 2011. Representatives of the customers of the ScotlandsPeople Centre were informed about the Centre fees that will apply from 1 April 2011.

Financial Effects

6. The costs associated will be borne by those who wish to use the genealogy services, purchase an extract or record a change of name.

General Register Office for Scotland
December 2010