

Date: 11 February 2025

Our Ref: CW – 2025 – 030

Dear Lord P Macilroy

Freedom Of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Thank you for your email dated 17 January requesting information held by Registers of Scotland (RoS). Your request has been considered under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

You asked for:

- a) copy of the royal warrants countersigned and registered by the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland (or authorised substitute signatory) for each of the current Sheriff Principles.
- b) evidence of authorisation for substitute signatory's to countersign said warrants if applicable.

Please advise where copies are kept if not in RoS possession.

Then further clarified:

For clarity, one is not looking for a list of sheriff officers.

Could you please confirm that copies of the warrants requested are what are available

Response to your request

Enclosed is a copy of some of the information you requested in the PDF attachment, and some further explanation is provided below.

- a. copy of the royal warrants countersigned and registered by the Keeper of the Registers of Scotland (or authorised substitute signatory) for each of the current Sheriff Principles.

Registers of Scotland currently hold one Royal Warrant for the Sheriff Principal of North Strathclyde appointed on 28 December 2022 and registered in the Register of Sheriffs' Commissions on 11 Dec 2024 (this is provided in the attachment). The Royal Warrants for the other five sheriffdoms in Scotland have not been registered in the Register of Sheriffs' Commissions. Registers of Scotland do not therefore hold these.

- b. evidence of authorisation for substitute signatory's to countersign said warrants if applicable.

The Keeper countersigns a royal warrant appointing a new Sheriff Principal under her power as Deputy Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland. As to the general question of evidence of the authorisation of the Keeper to appoint substitute signatories to countersign (where applicable), this comes from a Deed of Appointment by the First Minister appointing the Keeper as Deputy Keeper of the Great Seal of Scotland, which deed also gives the Keeper the power to appoint a substitute or substitutes for discharging her appointed duties in her necessary absence or indisposition.

Review

Freedom of Information

If you are unhappy with the Freedom of Information part of our response you have the right to request an internal review. Please send your review request, explaining your reason, to: FOI.Requests@ros.gov.uk.

Your review request must be made within 40 working days of receipt of this response. We will respond within 20 working days of receipt of your review request. The review will be undertaken by a member of staff who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

If you are unhappy with our review, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner.

- www.foi.scot/appeal

Yours faithfully,

Information Governance Team
FOI.Requests@ros.gov.uk