

EXECUTIVE NOTE

THE BOOK OF SCOTTISH CONNECTIONS REGULATIONS 2008 (SSI 2008/386)

The above instrument is made in exercise of the powers conferred by sections 54(6)(b) and (c), 55(2), (6) and (9) and 61(2)(a) of the Local Electoral Administration and Registration Services (Scotland) Act 2006 (“the 2006 Act”). It is subject to negative resolution procedure.

Policy Objectives

The purpose of this instrument is to prescribe the application forms, the forms of entry and the fees associated with a new public record – the Book of Scottish Connections (“BSC”). Under the provisions contained in sections 54 and 55 of the 2006 Act, for the first time, people all over the world with a Scots connection will be able to apply for a birth (including still-birth), death marriage or civil partnership abroad (including the rest of the UK), to be recorded in the BSC held by the Registrar General in Edinburgh (provided that the event has already been registered with the civil registration authorities of the country in question). The successful applicant, having satisfied the qualification criteria contained in these sections, will receive a copy of the entry establishing their link to Scotland as part of the application process.

Any entry registered in the BSC will then be publicly available via an electronic index, and copies of entries will be obtainable by any person at any time subsequently. However, to maintain an appropriate level of privacy, viewing BSC entries via the internet will be subject to existing restrictions that apply to the statutory registers of births, death and marriages etc.. This means that birth entries will be closed for 100 years, marriage and civil partnership entries for 75 years and death entries for 50 years.

The fees for the service contained in Schedules 9 and 10 of the regulations have been set on a cost recovery basis.

Consultation

Full consultation was undertaken in 2000 and 2005 in relation to the 2006 Act. A further consultation with potential customers of the new BSC service was undertaken in 2007 via the GROS website and the ScotlandsPeople website, both of which are used extensively by genealogists worldwide.

Financial Effects

The instrument has no financial effects on the Scottish Government, local government or on business.

General Register Office for Scotland
November 2008