POLICY NOTE

THE SCOTTISH REGISTER OF TARTANS FEES ORDER 2025

SSI 2025/334

The above instrument was made in exercise of the powers conferred by section 14(1) and (4)(b) of the Scottish Register of Tartans Act 2008 and all other powers enabling them to do so. The instrument is subject to negative procedure.

Summary Box

This Order updates the fees payable for services provided by the Keeper of the Scottish Register of Tartans and revokes the Scottish Register of Tartans Fees Order 2009 (SSI 2009/6).

Policy Objectives

In 2008 the Scottish Parliament passed legislation establishing the Scottish Register of Tartans (the Register), which preserves and promotes information about tartan for current and future generations.

The policy purpose of this SSI is to ensure that the Keeper of the Scottish Register of Tartans (the Keeper) recovers the full costs of the services associated with the Register. The fees have not been updated since they were introduced more than 15 years ago. National Records of Scotland (NRS) supports the Keeper in delivering the service.

As a non-ministerial department of the devolved Scottish Administration, NRS is obliged to adhere to the Scottish Public Finance Manual (SPFM). A key principle of the SPFM is that public bodies should seek full cost recovery where fees are charged. This Order will enable NRS to recover the costs of services associated with the Register.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024 Compatibility

In accordance with section 23(2) of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Incorporation) (Scotland) Act 2024, the Scottish Ministers certify that, in their view, the Scottish Register of Tartans Fees Order 2025 is compatible with the UNCRC requirements as defined by section 1(2) of the Act.

EU Alignment Consideration

This instrument is not relevant to the Scottish Government’s policy to maintain alignment with the EU.

Consultation

NRS launched a consultation on the fees associated with the Register on 7 April 2025. The consultation closed on 29 June 2025. A total of 30 responses were received: five from organisations and 25 from individuals. Respondents were largely supportive of the proposals.

As a result of that consultation, the Keeper recommended that Scottish Ministers should increase the fees associated with the Register by approximately 115 per cent, following analysis of the costs of delivering the related services.

A full list of those consulted and who agreed to the release of this information is attached to the consultation report published on the Scottish Government consultations website.[1]

Impact Assessments

A Child Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment has been completed noting that there are no impacts on children's rights in accordance with the UNCRC requirements which are mentioned above.

A Data Protection Impact Assessment has also been completed.

As the Order increases existing fees, full impact assessments on the following topics have not been completed:

- Equality
- Strategic Environmental Assessment
- Fairer Scotland Duty
- Island Communities

Financial Effects

A Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment has been completed. Other than an increase in fees, the Order will have no additional impact on business.

National Records of Scotland
28 October 2025

[1] https://consult.gov.scot/national-records-of-scotland/the-scottish-register-of-tartans-fees-review/