



Immediate release

22 July 2004

08/04

MINISTER GIVES 'GREEN LIGHT' TO E-CONVEYANCING

Land Registry's latest plans for the development and delivery of its electronic conveyancing services have been approved and endorsed by David Lammy, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

David Lammy said:

"When it comes to the delivery of public services, e-conveyancing is one of the Government's highest priorities. These proposals present a clear and coherent framework for the future direction of the programme and I have agreed that Land Registry should continue to lead the development of e-conveyancing in England and Wales."

The key proposals are:

- Land Registry will develop and operate the central e-conveyancing service which will link all participants in a conveyancing transaction, co-ordinating key milestones of exchange and completion, and updating the Land Register.
- Access to the service will be via public and private channels. Land Registry will develop and implement its own basic channel access and will encourage the development of added value commercial channels alongside this to offer customer choice.
- An Electronic Funds Transfer Service, to be supplied by an 'agency bank', will be linked to the central service facilitating all money movements associated with property transactions.

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Peter Collis, Land Registry Chief Executive and Chief Land Registrar added:

"The e-conveyancing team have worked closely with stakeholders and suppliers to find solutions that are practical and acceptable to all. We believe these proposals will deliver the reform of the property buying and selling process that was a strong theme of our 2002 public consultation. "



CUSTOMER SERVICE EXCELLENCE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Land Registry aim to pilot the e-conveyancing service during the spring of 2006 and begin an incremental process of national rollout during 2007.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

1. Ministerial approval for the development of Land Registry's plans for electronic conveyancing was announced on Friday 16 July by Written Statement in both Houses of Parliament. The proposals build on the extensive consultation exercise conducted in Summer 2002 and reflect extensive research and investigation with stakeholders and suppliers during 2003.
2. *Defining the Service*, laid before Parliament on 16 July, describes how e-conveyancing will work in practice and can be downloaded from Land Registry's website www.landregistry.gov.uk
3. Baroness Scotland, Parliamentary Secretary at the then Lord Chancellor's Department, endorsed Land Registry's mandate to lead the introduction of e-conveyancing on 17 March 2003 (see press notice 12/03 issued 17.3.03).
4. With the world's largest online transactional property database, today's Land Registry underpins the economy by guaranteeing ownership of many billions of pounds worth of property. Around £1 million worth of property is processed every minute in England and Wales.
5. Land Registry is a Government Department, Executive Agency and Trading Fund, reporting to the Secretary of State for Constitutional Affairs and Lord Chancellor. Land Registry keeps and maintains a register of interests in land for England and Wales. There are 24 local offices in England and Wales, each providing land registration services for different counties and unitary authorities. For more information about Land Registry, visit its website at www.landregistry.gov.uk

Contact

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