

To:-

20 July 2005

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you for your information request dated 4 July 2005.

I should begin by stating that the statutory functions of the Keeper of the Records of Scotland (neither the National Archives of Scotland nor the Scottish Records Office, as we were previously known, is named in the legislation) are actually quite narrow, though for historic reasons successive Keepers have taken a fairly broad definition of their role and, for example, collected private archives of national importance.

The National Archives of Scotland (NAS) works with a range of other government departments, agencies and non departmental public bodies in partnership. The most significant are:

- working with the General Register Office for Scotland on the Scottish Family History Service and ScotlandsPeople project (details of which can be found on the GROS's website: www.gro-scotland.gov.uk/abotgros/scottish-family-history-service-developments/index.html; and the ScotlandsPeople website: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk);
- proposed working with the Registers of Scotland on the Registers Archive Conversion project, to create an electronic index to the Register of Sasines and to digitise a critical mass of pages from the Register itself.

In addition, the NAS has in the past co-operated with Historic Scotland in mounting archive exhibitions:

- in Stirling Castle in 2001 to commemorate the Treaty of Perpetual Peace between James IV of Scotland and Henry VII of England signed 500 years before
- in Edinburgh Castle in 2003 to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the Union of the Crowns.

We are currently working with the Scottish Parliament on another exhibition, to mark the 700th anniversary of the death of William Wallace.

The NAS led the Scottish Archive Network (SCAN) project in co-operation with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Genealogical Society of Utah (GSU) and with the participation of 51 archives across Scotland, public and private. The project was managed by a company limited by guarantee, the Scottish Archive Network Ltd. In 2005 NAS took over from SCAN responsibility for internet access to Scottish wills, 1500-1901, which had been digitised as part of the project, and these were amalgamated into the ScotlandsPeople website. Images are available for consultation free of charge in the NAS search rooms.

The NAS continues to work with the GSU on digitising Scottish church records. The project is approximately one third complete and is expected to run until 2007. Images are available for consultation free in the NAS search rooms and there are plans to add these to ScotlandsPeople in due course, though a major indexing task is required to be undertaken first.

The NAS is also currently working with the Getty Conservation Institute and Heriot Watt University to design and construct a new case to store and exhibit the Declaration of Arbroath of 1320, our most important documentary treasure. This will feature in the exhibition *For Freedom Alone* in the Scottish Parliament from 15 August to 9 September 2005.

The NAS also contribute to the funding of the surveying officer of the Business Archives Council of Scotland, who traces, lists and disseminates information regarding business records in private hands, both in general and through the National Register of Archives for Scotland, which forms part of the Private Records Branch of the NAS.

Partnership with academic and scholarly institutions include, or have included:

- the Scottish Architects Papers Preservation Project (with the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments in Scotland);
- the Scottish Parliament Project (with the University of St Andrews);
- the Scottish Archives for Schools Project (with Learning Teaching Scotland and the Scottish Executive Education Department);
- the Resources for Learning in Scotland (with the National Library of Scotland and SCRAN).

Further details can be found about many of these, and further projects which the NAS has been involved with, through our publication scheme, which is available on our website:

<http://www.nas.gov.uk/miniframe/foi/PDF/NAS%20FOI%20publication%20scheme%20June%202005.pdf>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require more information. If you have any complaints, please write in the first instance to me, as the FOI Officer, at the above address. If this fails to resolve the matter to your complete satisfaction, you have the right to apply to the Scottish Information Commissioner for a decision.

Yours Faithfully

Morag Fyfe
Freedom of Information Officer

The National Archives of Scotland
HM General Register House
Princes Street
Edinburgh
EH1 3YY

E-mail: Morag.Fyfe@nas.gov.uk

Website: <http://www.nas.gov.uk>

Direct line: 0131 535 1371

Fax: 0131 535 1360