



Diocese of Edinburgh

Scottish Episcopal Church

EDINBURGH DIOCESAN OFFICE ● 21A GROSVENOR CRESCENT EDINBURGH EH12 5EL

12 December 2023

TO ALL VESTRY SECRETARIES, RECTORS & PRIESTS IN CHARGE

Re: REGISTER OF PERSONS WITH A CONTROLLED INTEREST IN LAND

Dear Colleagues,

You may be aware of the requirement to register, by 31 March next, details of those responsible for ownership and/or control of land in Scotland, and I know that some of you have expressed concern that time is getting short, while no guidance has yet reached you.

The purpose of this message is threefold –

- First, to set your minds at rest. Diocesan Registrars have been in discussion with the Scottish Government about the effect on charity bodies, in an attempt to simplify the requirements of registration (but have unfortunately not obtained any form of exemption), and continue to be engaged in discussions with the Registers of Scotland in seeking a simpler set of forms for completion to provide the necessary information to comply with the legislation. I understand that the Registers officials understand our particular problems, and indeed that some simplification of requirements may be in the pipeline, but not available until mid-January.
- Second, to say that given the short timescale and the need to fulfil our legal requirements in time, it is proposed that the work will be done centrally in each Diocese.
- And so, third, all that will be required of you will be to provide some personal information on key office holders (this is likely to be the Rector, Treasurer and Secretary), and to confirm the address details of the property owned by each charge. Exactly whose details and what information, will be specified to you by letter. But it will be important for you when you get this letter, please, to respond very quickly.

Best wishes,

Godfrey Robson
Diocesan Secretary