



# Government Legal Department

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The Sovereign Nation of Shetland  
[request-1223304-7d85f0dd@whatdotheyknow.com](mailto:request-1223304-7d85f0dd@whatdotheyknow.com)

Ref No: **FOI 25\_007**

5<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear The Sovereign Nation of Shetland,

Thank you for your email of 9 January 2025 which contained your request for information. The Government Legal Department ("GLD") have processed your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 ("the Act").

## Request

*We are having difficulty finding proof that Shetland is part of Scotland. According to The Laws of Scotland, Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia, Vol.18(42), "The Crown's sovereignty over Scotland and its dominium eminens, its ultimate tenurial superiority, are the same thing, are identical concepts".*

*At Volume 18(47) it states that "The dominium eminens or ultimate superiority of the Crown is allodial, because not held of a higher lord, except of God".*

*We want to know:*

- 1) Do you accept The Laws of Scotland, Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia as a binding authority in Scotland? And*
- 2) Are we correct in thinking that the Crown's sovereignty in Scotland is the same as its allodial ownership?*
- 3) Are we correct in thinking that, for the Crown to have sovereignty in Shetland, it must have allodial ownership of Shetland?*
- 4) If we are correct at 2) and 3) above, do you have proof that the Crown holds the allodial title of Shetland?*

## Response

Pursuant to Section 1(1)(a) of the Act, GLD informs you that it does **not hold the information** you have requested.

Subject to the Section 16 of the Act, GLD has an obligation to provide advice and assistance to applicants. GLD advises you to Office of the Advocate General for Scotland, who may hold the information

You can contact by email: [enquiries@advocategeneral.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@advocategeneral.gov.uk)  
Or by post:

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

## **Your Rights**

If you are dissatisfied with the handling of your request, you have the right to ask for an internal review. Internal review requests should be submitted within two months of the date of receipt of the response to your original correspondence. Please use the contact details provided at the top of this letter in order to request an internal review relating to your original request.

Please remember to quote the reference number above in any future communications.

If you are not content with the outcome of the internal review, you have the right to apply directly to the Information Commissioner for a decision. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office  
Wycliffe House  
Water Lane  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5AF  
[www.ICO.org.uk](http://www.ICO.org.uk)

Yours sincerely,

## **Freedom of Information Team**

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