



Ministry of  
**JUSTICE**

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Dear Mike

### **HM Land Registry's Accelerated Transformation Programme Announcement**

I am writing to you about today's announcement by Land Registry of their final decisions on their future following consultation on a five-year programme of reorganisation and transformation.

As you will recall, Land Registry's original proposal was to close its Portsmouth office by 28 February 2011. However, following strong and vigorous representations made by you and Sarah McCarthy-Fry MP and others, Land Registry reconsidered its proposals. In recognition of the particular local circumstances that justify a longer transition period, Land Registry intends to maintain a reduced presence in Portsmouth until 31 March 2013 by co-locating with Portsmouth City Council.

Land Registry currently employs 205 staff at its Portsmouth office and expects the reduced presence to be for up to 50 staff. It also expects 7 staff to retire by 28 February 2011.

As you know, Land Registry are operationally independent of Ministers and I understand Marco Pierleoni, the Chief Executive and Chief Land Registrar will also be writing to you today setting out the full range of decisions in more detail.

Land Registry have also listened to representations that they needed to retain some presence in the South East, both to provide continuing access to certain services currently provided face-to-face and to mitigate the impact on Land Registry staff. They have therefore decided to keep open offices in Croydon and Peterborough.

RA/RO (clerical) staff in the Portsmouth office will be able to apply for posts at the remaining offices as part of an exercise to reduce RA/RO numbers. All other staff who wish to redeploy to Croydon or Peterborough offices, or other offices where there are vacancies (subject to some controls on staff structure at senior levels), will be supported in doing so with relocation assistance.

There will also be support for those who do not wish to do this. Those who wish to leave Land Registry before 31 March 2011 will, if they wish, have the protection of the transitional period of the old Civil Service Compensation Scheme or could alternatively leave under the terms of the new scheme. I should also add that there are a number of Land Registry staff who, given their reserved rights and the date they joined the Civil Service, will be entitled to a compensation payment of up to six times their final salary under the current scheme. As you will recognise this is a generous package.

Staff most affected by Land Registry's decisions will receive letters, support packs and compensation estimates within ten working days. HR support will be available to discuss options and answer questions and will be on-site in closing offices.

Taken together, Land Registry believes their decisions will mitigate significantly the impact on Land Registry's staff reducing the number of staff potentially compulsorily redundant by a third.

I appreciate that this news will not be welcome despite the fact that there have been significant changes from the original proposals and that it will not be an easy time for those constituents affected by the announcement. However, I hope that the steps that have been taken will reassure you that Land Registry are doing all they can to help the staff during this difficult time. Nevertheless, please do not hesitate to contact me if you feel I can be of any further assistance.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Wills". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font.

**MICHAEL WILLS MP**