



Registered Paralegal Scheme



In association with the
Scottish Paralegal Association





The Registered Paralegal

Until the launch of the Law Society of Scotland's Registered Paralegal Scheme in association with the Scottish Paralegal Association, what it meant to be a paralegal had never been truly defined in Scotland. This is despite the 10,000 people estimated to be working as paralegals across the Scottish legal sector today, from high-street practices to large commercial firms, government bodies and financial institutions.

As with many professions, paralegals come from a wide range of backgrounds. Traditionally, they rose from the ranks of legal secretaries. Today, many paralegals will have gained qualifications which are unique to their work, usually from colleges or universities.

With more and more people gaining such qualifications and looking for a career as a paralegal, it is natural that calls for a registered status and defined career path have become louder over the past few years.

It is important that those dealing with transactions are competent, able and fit to do so. It was with this in mind that the Registered Paralegal scheme was launched in August 2010. The scheme seeks to define and credit the important role of the paralegal in Scotland and sets a new, high standard for paralegals to attain. Those paralegals who meet the standard will have a formally recognised and assessed qualification relevant to, and considerable experience in, their area of legal practice.

The Registered Paralegals scheme brings clear benefits to all, including:

- A defined professional status and a career path for paralegals.
- The ability for solicitors to employ staff from a high quality pool of paralegals and to rely on the standard of the Registered Paralegal in the course of individual transactions.
- The creation of an identifiable quality standard the public can trust and know that the person selling their house or drafting their will is competent to do so.

For further details visit the website:

www.lawscot.org.uk/paralegals or email us at: registeredparalegals@lawscot.org.uk