

Carlisle City Council becomes latest local authority to join central Local Land Charges Register

From today (Tuesday 21 April) anyone requiring Local Land Charges (LLC1) searches in the local authority area of Carlisle City Council will need to get them from HM Land Registry rather than going directly to the council.

Karina Singh, Director of Transformation at HM Land Registry, said:

Everyone will now have instant, online access to local land charges search results in Carlisle, meaning it will be quicker and simpler to buy and sell property across the area. It is even more important at this current time that public services can be accessed digitally and instantly where possible and we are pleased to be able to contribute to that through the central Local Land Charges Register.

Councillor Gareth Ellis, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Resources at Carlisle City Council, said:

We are pleased to have worked with HM Land Registry to transform our paper-based LLC1 records – made up of tens of thousands of charges, including 51 charges affecting Hadrian's Wall alone – into a single, digital service. Once again, Carlisle is leading the way and striving to enhance the services we offer to the people we serve within our district and beyond. By updating, transforming and migrating our local land charges data to the central register, we have ensured that all those buying or selling, leasing or remortgaging property across Carlisle have instant access to our local land charges data. Our aim throughout has been, and continues to be, helping our residents and businesses to conduct their property transactions smoothly and efficiently.

Local land charges searches are normally required in the property-buying process. Most local land charges are restrictions or prohibitions on the use of the property such as planning permissions or listed buildings. The local land charges search will reveal whether a property is subject to a charge which then informs a buyer's decision to buy a property or parcel of land.

HM Land Registry is working in partnership with a number of local authorities in England to migrate their Local Land Charges data to a central, digital register as part of a phased approach. Once migrated, anyone will be able to get instant online search results using the [Search for Local Land Charges](#) service.

HM Land Registry's business customers can use their existing portal and Business Gateway channels or their usual search providers to access Local Land Charges data for those local authorities which have migrated.

Customers will need to continue to submit CON29 enquiries to the local authority.

For an overview of the service, watch [our short video](#).

For more information, read about the [Local Land Charges Programme](#).

Letter to front line staff providing essential banking services

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home)
- If you go out, stay 2 metres (6ft) away from other people at all times
- Wash your hands as soon as you get home

Do not meet others, even friends or family.

You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.

AAIB Special Bulletin: Biocide treatment of aircraft fuel

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Vulnerable groups set to benefit from improved legal aid support



- immediate access to individual support for debt, discrimination and special educational needs cases to be restored
- greater access to legal aid for domestic abuse survivors
- government delivers on Legal Aid Support Action plan commitments

Changes made by the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) include expanding evidence requirements needed to qualify for legal aid for domestic abuse victims, to make this process easier, and reinstating immediate access to individual help for debt, discrimination and special educational needs (SEN) cases – initially via video link, then face to face when social distancing measures are no longer in place.

The Legal Aid Agency (LAA) will also be given the power to backdate payments for applications of legal help for inquests to the time at which the application was made, rather than when the application was granted.

Justice Minister, Alex Chalk MP said:

We are improving support for some of the most vulnerable people in the justice system – something that is particularly important during these challenging times.

This is the latest step in delivering our vision of a system that focuses on individuals and enables them to resolve legal problems quickly and easily.

MOJ is delivering on key government commitments made last year to broaden access to civil legal aid by reviewing legal aid means testing.

Alongside these measures, additional support is available to protect victims of domestic abuse during the coronavirus outbreak. The government recently published guidance on applying for domestic abuse injunctions remotely and we are boosting domestic abuse helplines and online support with an additional £2 million.

This statutory instrument has been laid in Parliament today (21 April 2020) and the changes will come into effect from 15 May 2020.

Notes to editors

- This statutory instrument will make several important changes:
 - The removal of the mandatory requirement to contact the Civil Legal Aid Telephone Gateway for those seeking legal aid in discrimination, debt, and special educational needs cases, delivering on our Legal Support Action Plan commitment.
 - The removal of the mandatory requirement that an application for legal aid for Family Mediation must always attend the mediator's premises to make an application.
 - Changes to the evidence requirements that need to be satisfied in order to qualify for legal aid as a victim of domestic abuse. This is achieved by allowing the Independent domestic violence advisor (IDVA) and the independent sexual violence advisor (ISVA) to accept past support, and broaden the areas that evidence are accepted from England and Wales to the entire United Kingdom.
 - Legal aid firms are now able to carry out work at risk whilst waiting for an LAA decision. If approved they will receive payment from the date that they make the application on behalf of families, rather than the date the decision was made to award funding.
- MOJ announced these legislative changes in February 2019 in the Legal Support Action Plan, with a commitment to deliver them by spring 2020.
- [Guidance on how to apply for a domestic abuse injunction](#) is available on GOV.UK.

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[York flood scheme continues in line with Covid-19 guidelines](#)

The organisation has, however, said in light of the Coronavirus situation and Government advice it is cancelling all public meetings until it is safe to hold them again.

Ben Hughes, project director of the scheme, said:

We are doing all we can to ensure work continues as much as is

feasible, and that delays caused by the knock-on effects of this pandemic are kept to an absolute minimum.

Our priority in these difficult times is the health, safety and wellbeing of residents and staff, so we have closed our drop-in hub on Wellington Row and we will not be holding any public engagement events.

As an organisation we are doing everything we can to support our community, our government and the NHS by abiding by these measures.

The Agency recently completed work to raise the height of the North Street flood defence, which successfully handled its first test when the city suffered flooding earlier this year.

The work saw new flood gates installed, including a new wider gate to allow better flow for pedestrians into North Street gardens.

Mr Hughes said:

This February was the wettest since records began, with peak river levels at the Viking recorder reaching 4.47m. During this time the gates and wall did their job.

To complete this flood cell and increase the level of protection to properties in this area we still need to replace the floodgate under Lendal arch which is programmed for this September.

Work is also due to continue on raising the embankment between Water End bridge and Scarborough Bridge, behind St Peter's School.

Two of the flood 'cells' that make up the wider York flood alleviation scheme – Clementhorpe and the Foss flood storage area – are due to be heard by the local authority planning committees next month.

The Clementhorpe scheme, which will better protect 135 homes, is due to be heard by City of York Council planning committee on 9 April.

Plans include a floodgate at the junction of Clementhorpe and Terry Avenue, as well as flood defence walls at Waterfront House and Lower Ebor Street.

There will also be additional flood defences built behind Rowntree Park and the adjoining caravan park.

The Foss flood storage area would be built north of Strensall on the River Foss. It would hold back water and slow the flow back into the city in times of heavy rainfall.

Along with the upgraded Foss Barrier, this would better protect more than 1,000 properties along the Foss corridor, such as Huntington Road.

Due to the flood storage area straddling two local authorities, the planning application will be heard by both Ryedale District Council and City of York Council.

A planning application has also been submitted for flood defence work at Bishopthorpe, but due to bird nesting season we may not be able to start work until September.

Mr Hughes added that his team is currently going through a period of readjustment to widespread home working, and we are putting systems in place to support this.

He said they will continue to monitor the York flood alleviation scheme mailbox (yorkfloodplan@environment-agency.gov.uk) and respond to correspondence when and where possible.

If you want to find out about flood risk in your area, up-to-date information can be found [by clicking here](#) or you can call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.