



News release

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LEAP IN COMMERCIAL DECREES INDICATES TOUGH TIMES AHEAD FOR BUSINESSES

The number of decrees against businesses in Scotland reached 1,598 in the first three months of 2009, according to figures released today (May 28 2009) by Registry Trust, the not for profit company which maintains judgment and decree information in the public interest throughout the British Isles.

This is an increase of 96 percent compared with the same period last year. Of the total number of business decrees, 780 were against companies, while 818 were against unincorporated businesses.

There was a similar sharp increase in the number of consumer decrees, which rose by 40 percent year-on-year, to 7,708.

Matching the rise in decrees against both people and businesses was a surge in public interest in the content of the register. The number of searches of the register carried out in the first quarter of 2009 reached a record 1,250, more than twice as many as the first quarter of 2008. A major contributor to the increase was the launch of Registry Trust's new website at the end of 2008, www.trustonline.org.uk, which now accounts for 73 percent of all searches.

According to Registry Trust's chairman, Malcolm Hurlston, decree information is now more important than ever.

"The upward trend in decrees against businesses shows that 2009 has been a tough year for businesses. I expect to see this trend continue well into 2010,

with decree information playing an increasingly important role in this tough economic climate.

“It is always advisable to check a person or company out with trustonline before doing business with them. Trustonline makes this easier than ever before.”

Table 1: Scottish decree numbers

Quarter	Consumer	Commercial		Total	Quarter Change (%)
		Corporate	Non-Corporate		
Q1 2008	5,493	399	415	6,307	-4.4%
Q2 2008	7,002	628	659	8,289	31.4%
Q3 2008	7,806	781	692	9,279	11.9%
Q4 2008	8,294	802	803	9,899	6.7%
Q1 2009	7,708	780	818	9,306	-6.0%

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Notes to editors:

Registry Trust is a non-profit company established in 1986. It maintains public records of judgment and decree information for nearly all jurisdictions in the British Isles and Ireland. These records are an important factor in avoiding debt and in supporting responsible lending decisions, which in turn underpin a modern and stable economy.

Anyone may search for entries against a named person or business at a stated address or a corporate body in the United Kingdom or Ireland by submitting a request either via Registry Trust's website www.trustonline.org.uk or by post to Registry Trust, 173-175 Cleveland Street, London W1T 6QR.