Scotland’s Land Information Service (ScotLIS) is a map-based service that enables people to look up information on land and property.

The service has two offerings: one for the public and an enhanced service aimed at land and property professionals. Prior to ScotLIS, Registers of Scotland (RoS) provided only business access to data, with enquiries from all other groups being handled via the telephone.

ScotLIS was driven from RoS’s ambition to deliver improved digital services and increase the transparency of, and access to, its data. Improving digital services for the public was formally set out in the Scottish Government’s Digital First agenda which called for innovative services that were ‘high-quality, continually improving and responsive to citizens’ needs’. Interest in the transparency of data was also growing within the EU – this became evident through the introduction of the INSPIRE Directive.

Public users can now visit ScotLIS to find out when a property was last sold, historic property prices, whether a property is on the Land Register, its title number and an indication of property boundaries. Land and property professionals can search the Land Register, Sasine Register and Judicial registers and have the ability to purchase title sheets, title plans and search sheets. ScotLIS has been developed through close collaboration with customers. An early example was workshops held with a wide range of stakeholders including local authorities, searchers, utilities, GIS specialists and solicitors to share knowledge and ideas around what they would need from the service. Customer collaboration continued throughout the development lifecycle, with different iterations of the service shared with customers and then continually refined based on their feedback.

After launch, customers can continue to give feedback through a variety of channels so that improvements can be continually made based on their needs. In 2019 there are bold plans to make data available through an API, and to refresh the public experience around common tasks users wish to undertake, such as finding out ownership information.