From **1 July 2023** the Office of the Public Guardian in Scotland will only issue certificates of registration with the crest watermark.

* This means that the certificate with the red seal will not be issued after 1 July 2023.
* Certificates with the red seal already in circulation and presented after 1 July 2023 should continue to be accepted as they remain valid forms of legal authority.
* Special measures implemented from March 2020 to manage critical business during the Coronavirus pandemic have now been implemented as regular business as usual processes. Certificates issued under special measures continue to be valid forms of legal authority and should continue to be accepted after 1 July 2023.

**Summary of changes**

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| **Process** | **Changes to Certificates** |
| **Powers of attorney submitted electronically via EPOAR** | No significant change, however the certificate number has been removed from the certificate and documentation.  The crest will appear on the certificate and all pages of the power of attorney (PoA) deed. The Public Guardian’s reference and page number will be printed on each page. All pages of the PoA will have a statement to be certified by either granter, solicitor, stockbroker.  NB These PoAs are submitted electronically by the user via our EPOAR facility. Our staff check submitted deeds to ensure they meet statutory validity requirements.  Please note that the certifying statement is automatically populated on all pages of a PoA registered via the EPOAR facility. |
| **Powers of Attorney submitted by post** | Registered powers of attorney will be issued with the crest watermark certificate.  The crest will appear on the certificate and all pages of the PoA. All pages will be numbered. A note will be added to the certificate to state that it does not require an embossed or adhesive seal and does not require to be certified.  NB PoAs sent to us via the postal service do not require to be certified as we have seen the original deed and have a scanned image on file. |
| **Access to funds scheme** | The crest watermark certificate will be issued.  The crest will appear on the certificate and all pages of the instruction to the fundholder. All pages will be numbered. A note will be added to the certificate to state that it does not require an embossed or adhesive seal and does not require to be certified. |
| **Guardianship Orders, Intervention Orders, Guardianship ancillary processes** | The crest watermark certificate will be issued.  The crest will appear on the certificate and all pages of the sheriff court’s interlocutor / court order or Public Guardian’s instruction. All pages will be numbered.  A note will be added to the certificate to state that it does not require an embossed or adhesive seal and does not require to be certified. |