

Searching for a record

Once you have selected a record type you can now search for records.

On the search forms you can input surname, forename, gender, mother's maiden name, a year range, and location (registration district).

Please note, you do not have to fill out every field in the search forms. We recommend starting with a wide search.

It is important to note that a mother's maiden name may not always be indexed. By selecting the option 'include unrecorded mother's maiden surname' you can navigate around this issue.

Search Tools

Search Tools are available when searching records on Scotland's People. These allow you to search a variety of spellings.

Exact Names: Ensuring precise results without variations or misspellings.

Fuzzy Matching: Allowing for slight variations or common misspellings in names or terms.

Wildcards: Use special characters (e.g. *) in your search input to represent unknown or variable characters.

Names that begin with: Useful for finding entries with common prefixes or partial names.

Phonetic Matching: Capturing variations in spelling that share the same or similar pronunciation.

Navigating indexes

After completing a search, the results are known as indexes. The indexes will include the surname, forename, mother's maiden name (if indexed), gender, year, and finally the registration district (RD) and/or parish.

By default, results are sorted alphabetically by surname. To sort results in a different way, select the title of a column to sort results by that field.

Filtering search results and 'Refine Search'

You can access the search fields and filters by selecting the 'Refine search' box above the search results.

You can filter the results of a search by adding more information to the search or selecting filters to limit results. After adding filters or more information, select 'Update results' to display the updated results.

Digital images and Certificates

Search results include links to view an image or order certificate. The digital images are scans of the original register pages and are not official copies of the records.

If you need a certificate for an official purpose (like applying for a passport) select 'Order a Certificate'. For more information on costs and processing time please go to the Order a Certificate page on Scotland's People.

Modern Records

Please note that birth records under 100 years old, marriage records under 75 years old, and death records under 50 years old are restricted to view on Scotland's People website from home. This is in accordance with the National Records of Scotland's policy of protecting the privacy of individuals.