



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Shona Robison MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Social
Justice, Housing and Local
Government
Scottish Government

Local Government, Housing and Planning
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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Via email only

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Dear Shona

Public petitions PE1743 and PE1778

In Session 5, the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee's predecessor (the Local Government and Communities Committee) considered two public petitions which it agreed to keep open pending further consideration of the issues by the Scottish Government.

I am therefore contacting you to seek an update on progress in regard to both petitions. The Committee will then consider whether any further action is necessary.

PE1743 on amending the law to protect the rights of pre-1989 Scottish Secure Tenants

This petition called on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to amend the Rent (Scotland) Act 1984 to prevent disproportionate rent increases being set for Scottish Secure Tenants. The Committee agreed with the petitioner that this matter should be addressed as a matter of fairness, by legislative amendment if necessary.

The Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning subsequently confirmed in a letter dated 20th January 2021 that the Government's view was that it was not

necessary to amend the Act, but that it would be examining further the extent of the issue and the implications for both tenants and landlords of changing the law.

Could you please provide an update on whether that work has since taken place and what conclusions the Scottish Government reached.

PE1778 on reviewing the Scottish Landlords Register scheme

This petition called on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to review the effectiveness of the Scottish Landlords Register Scheme. Following its consideration of the petition, the Local Government and Communities Committee agreed that the petition raised some questions about the process of landlord registration, and wrote to the Scottish Government seeking their views.

The Minister for Local Government, Planning and Housing responded that the Government did not agree that a full review of the policy is required and that appropriate engagement had been previously carried out with local authorities during the development of the Private Landlord Registration (information) (Scotland) Regulations 2019.

He advised though that the Scottish Government intended to return to this issue in 2021 and to then work with local authorities to assess the effectiveness of the current statutory guidance and to update it.

Could you please provide an update on what progress has been made since that time.

I would be grateful for a response by 30th November to enable the Committee to consider these petitions further.

Yours sincerely

Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee