



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Paul McLennan MSP,
Minister for Housing &
Patrick Harvie MSP,
Minister for Zero Carbon
Buildings, Active Travel
and Tenants' Rights
By email only

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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28 June 2023

Dear Paul and Patrick,

Tracker report of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

One of the key priorities of this Committee is to keep track of the work it undertakes and to re-visit its recommendations on an annual basis to see what progress has been made. The Committee produces an annual tracker report reflecting on that progress.

The Committee expects to consider that report shortly after summer recess.

In order to inform that report the Committee would welcome your reflections on progress made over the last year on the issues we've considered falling within your responsibility.

In particular, we'd welcome your reflections on progress made in the following areas:

- **Retrofitting of housing for net-zero**
 - As you will be aware, the Committee reflected last year in its tracker report on progress being made in relation to retrofitting housing for net-zero. In that report the Committee expressed concern about the lack of urgency in the retrofitting programme and the lack of funding to support the programme particularly in the context of competing challenges around building new housing stock and maintaining existing housing stock. The Committee would welcome an update on progress made over the intervening year, in particular as we approach scrutiny of the climate change plan.

- **Affordable housing supply programme**
 - In its report last year the Committee expressed concern about the financial viability of the affordable housing programme. The Committee also expressed concern about whether the targets for building affordable homes were conducive to building homes that met Scotland's housing needs. The Committee will be continuing to explore this issue. In the meantime, the Committee would be grateful if you could provide it with an update on progress toward meeting the targets for affordable homes along with an update on the work of the innovative finance steering group.

- **Cladding**
 - Over the last two years the Committee has taken evidence from stakeholders and the Government on progress being made in the remediation of homes with potentially flammable cladding systems. The Committee welcomed the progress being made this year toward a safer buildings accord and would be grateful if it could be kept updated on progress. However, in the Committee's last session with stakeholders the enormity of the task of remediation ahead and the lack of funds and skills to deliver on it was stressed. You committed to providing greater leadership on this issue and the Committee would welcome an indication of how you intend to provide that leadership. More specifically, the Committee would welcome further information on the proposed cladding bill and how it will contribute to the expedition of the remediation process. The Committee would also welcome more information on timescales for the completion of the remediation process and milestones in that process.

We have written to you separately on issues in relation to short-term lets and damp and mould in the rental sector.

I would be grateful of a response by 21 July.

I look forward to your responses and to continuing to work with you on these issues for the remainder of this session.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee