



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Graham Hope
Chief Executive
West Lothian Council
By email only

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

28 June 2024

Dear Graham,

Housing Emergency

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee is currently considering the terms of an inquiry into the housing emergency, building on pre-existing work on the adequacy of the Scottish Government's Housing to 2040 strategy to respond to the housing challenges we face in Scotland.

In order to inform the terms of that inquiry, the Committee is writing to all local authorities who have declared a housing emergency. It would be very helpful if you could set out for us the basis on which you declared that emergency. It would also be helpful if you could set out some of the measures you are considering to respond to it.

Please note we are also writing to the Scottish Government for its response on why it declared a housing emergency and what it is doing to respond.

It would also be helpful if you could provide more information on the void or unlettable properties that exist in your area. While the number of void and unlettable properties is publicly available, it would be helpful if you could provide some more context on these figures and what you are doing to get properties back into use. It would also be helpful if you could share any information in terms strategies for acquiring and buying back properties.

Please note we are seeking this information from all local authorities.

I would be grateful for a response by **26 July 2024**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ariane Burgess". The signature is written in a dark ink and is centered below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Ariane Burgess
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee