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Ariane Burges MSP
Convener
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
By Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

30 August 2024

Dear Ariane,

When I appeared before the Committee on the 25 June 2024 to discuss short-term let licensing, I agreed to inform you when 1) The Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Short-term Lets) Amendment Order 2024 would take effect and 2) we would publish an update on the implementation of short-term lets licensing.

I am pleased to confirm that, following the Amendment Order being passed by Parliament on 26 June, I signed the Amendment Order yesterday and it will take effect from today. Hosts and operators can now benefit from pro-business measures included in the Order such as new provisional licences for short-term let accommodation being built and the ability to transfer licenses. The number of temporary exemptions permitted per year has also been increased from one to three.

In addition, today, we also published the Short-term Let Licensing Implementation Update Report. This report is further to my update to the Committee in June 2023, and provides information on initial short-term let licence application levels across Scotland, considers current operational processes and identifies operational improvements, including Scottish Government actions where appropriate. It reflects feedback we have received through extensive engagement with licensing authorities, industry bodies and relevant stakeholder groups.

It is important to note that we are providing this update part way through the transitional period for existing hosts. The available data is therefore provisional and partial, and subject to upward revision as licence applications continue to be determined. The sector is adjusting to the new requirements and any action to make improvements must be taken forward in a measured way to support licensing to embed during and beyond this transitional period, providing certainty for guests, hosts and communities.

I hope this information assures you that we continue to engage openly with relevant stakeholders and remain responsive through ongoing monitoring of implementation.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MCLENNAN

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