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Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener
Local Government, Housing and Planning
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

5 July 2024

Dear Convener,

SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITY REMUNERATION COMMITTEE – SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

As you are aware the Scottish Local Authority Remuneration Committee reported in February this year and made a number of recommendations in relation to councillor salaries, expenses and local authority bandings.

The Scottish Government has today published its response to the report and it can be found at <https://www.gov.scot/isbn/9781836014898>. I have also answered a Government Inspired Question to ensure all MSP colleagues are aware of the publication of the response.

The response outlines that I am content to accept SLARC's recommendations on salary levels and banding related changes and we will introduce regulations early in 2025 to bring these into effect from 1 April 2025. I have also accepted in principle or in part some recommendations, such as those on expenses or around public statements. Others I consider are better for local government to lead on or give further consideration to, given the knowledge and expertise it has in these areas. The Scottish Government is happy to support as appropriate.

I have asked my officials to continue to liaise with COSLA officers going forward, particularly around seeking input on the draft regulations to be laid to bring the recommendations into effect.

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I am aware that my officials are in touch with the Clerk to re-schedule my attendance at Committee for after summer recess and I am happy to discuss the response further at that time.

I have today written to Councillor Shona Morrison, COSLA President in similar terms.

Yours Sincerely,

SHONA ROBISON

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