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Your ref: Conv to CabSec re Mobile Homes
Our ref: 20220726
10 August 2022

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your enquiry 26th July highlighting the interest of the Committee in the licencing system for mobile home sites and other issues affecting residents. I am replying as I have portfolio responsibility for the issues you raise.

As are probably aware, [The Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2014](#) established the framework for the new, robust, licencing system for mobile home sites with permanent residents. The [regulations](#) for the new system, were commenced on 1 May 2017 and apply to new site owners. Existing site owners had until May 2019 to apply for a new licence and we published guidance and information on the new system for residents, local authorities, and site owners to support the implementation. The licencing scheme gives local authorities a range of tools to make sure sites meet modern standards, including the behaviour by site owners:

- to issue, manage, and revoke site licences;
- a requirement that a site licence holder (and anyone directly managing a site) is a fit and proper person;
- introduced a 5 year licence period;
- created an effective process for site owners and site licence applicants to appeal against decisions by the local authority.

In response to the recommendation of the Local Government and Communities Committee, as part of the consultation on our Rented Sector Strategy – A New Deal for Tenants, we announced our intention to carry out a post implementation review of the Residential Mobile Homes Site Licencing scheme, before the end of this Parliament.

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As we do not have good up to date evidence of how legislation to improve protections for renters have impacted on those who rent mobile homes as their main residence, the New Deal for Tenants consultation also asked a question about this, to identify potential gaps in protections and inform future policy. The consultation closed 31st March 2022 and responses are currently being considered.

The review of the Mobile Homes Licencing Scheme is currently at the planning stage. Officials have reviewed the responses to the Local Government and Communities Committee in Spring 2021 in response to their call for evidence to identify key themes. They have undertaken some initial information gathering and desk research and engaged with residents to hear more about their concerns. Officials are planning to collect information from Councils on progress in the implementation of the Licencing Scheme to inform the review and the degree to which the different features of the scheme have been used.

The Scottish Government is committed to making sure that those living in mobile homes on sites licensed for permanent residents have appropriate rights and protections and I will be happy to keep the Committee updated as plans for the review develop.

Yours sincerely,

PATRICK HARVIE

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