FINANCE COMMITTEE CALL FOR EVIDENCE
COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT (SCOTLAND) BILL;
FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM SUBMISSION FROM
OFFICE OF THE SCOTTISH CHARITY REGULATOR

Consultation
Did you take part in any consultation exercise preceding the Bill and, if so, did you comment on the financial assumptions made?
1. OSCR took part in a number of informal discussions with Scottish Government colleague’s specifically on the extension of right to buy. This was carried out at the very early stages of its consideration, and these did not concern financial implications.

If applicable, do you believe your comments on the financial assumptions have been accurately reflected in the FM?
2. N/A

Did you have sufficient time to contribute to the consultation exercise?
3. Yes

Costs
If the Bill has any financial implications for your organisation, do you believe that they have been accurately reflected in the FM? If not, please provide details.
4. Reviewing the Financial Memorandum it is difficult to identify any net costs to OSCR. The cost of developing a specific Scottish Charitable Incorporated Origination (SCIO) model constitution for community bodies is rightly highlighted, but the cost here as stated will be for Scottish Government. Previous experience suggests that the model is likely to be developed by relevant stakeholders, and this is sometimes on the basis of public funding.

Do you consider that the estimated costs and savings set out in the FM are reasonable and accurate?
5. N/A

If applicable, are you content that your organisation can meet any financial costs that it might incur as a result of the Bill? If not, how do you think these costs should be met?
6. The extension to SCIO will not in itself involve any additional cost to OSCR. The extension to urban areas of right to buy and the inclusion of public land will likely increase the number of community bodies and therefore the number applying to OSCR for charitable status, however it has not been possible to quantify this effect and our thinking is it that we would be able to meet this from existing resources.
Does the FM accurately reflect the margins of uncertainty associated with the Bill’s estimated costs and with the timescales over which they would be expected to arise?
7. N/A

Wider Issues
Do you believe that the FM reasonably captures any costs associated with the Bill? If not, which other costs might be incurred and by whom?
8. See responses above.

Do you believe that there may be future costs associated with the Bill, for example through subordinate legislation? If so, is it possible to quantify these costs?
9. N/A