On behalf of SOLACE Scotland, I write in respect of the call for views on building regulations in Scotland. SOLACE Scotland recognises and supports the submission made by Local Authority Building Standards Scotland (LABSS).

Verification is an important aspect of construction in Scotland. Clearly there can be different approaches taken to how this is carried out within the UK, but the system in Scotland to date has been based on local authority, independent verification, of the construction industry.

SOLACE Scotland has contributed to earlier consultations on private verification and would suggest that these comments remain pertinent. In particular, we would:

a) Urge the minister to recognise the results of the public consultation to have confidence in the current successful sole local authority verification model and;

b) Also seek confirmation that if any changes to verification are to be made, that the normal business and regulatory impact assessment is carried out with details submitted to local authorities for further consultation.

The context for continuing this stance is related to the ongoing issues facing the construction industry following a long period of austerity, the need to ensure proper approaches to construction, and - whilst not directly related to the recent report produced on the situation in the Edinburgh Schools recently - independent publically accountable verification is an important part of the process of quality assurance within the wider building standards system and construction industry in Scotland.

I trust the above comments are of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Stevenson
On behalf of SOLACE Scotland