Dear Kevin

Thank you for copying the Committee into your letter of 15 June to Local Authority Chief Executives seeking information on the number of high rises in their area, their construction and details of any remedial works carried out. I, like you, was very saddened by the tragic loss of life caused by the fire at Grenfell Tower, a sentiment shared by the whole Committee. The Government’s proactive approach to establishing the safety of similar buildings in Scotland is to be welcomed, along with the Cabinet Secretary’s establishment of a short-term working group on Regulations in Scotland.

I am writing to inform you that the Local Government and Communities Committee will also take a proactive approach to scrutiny in the wake of the incident, given its responsibility in relation to housing matters and its ongoing scrutiny of building regulations in Scotland. The Committee has therefore agreed to widen its ongoing inquiry to include the safety aspect of these regulations. In doing so, it intends to hold some further evidence sessions to look at the safety angle, and, in order to open the debate to wider parliamentary colleagues, the Committee intends to request some chamber time following the Summer Recess. It would also intend to invite you in to discuss the matter in the concluding parts of it work.

I will keep you informed of any developments throughout the course of the Committee’s scrutiny and the Clerks will contact you in due course to discuss future dates. If you or your officials have any queries about this in the meantime, then please contact a member of the clerking staff to the Committee using the details noted above.
Kind regards,

Bob Doris MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee