Dear Minister

At its meeting on 13 September the Committee heard evidence on building regulations and fire safety from the Fire Brigade Union, Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland (RICS), and the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations. The Official report of that meeting will be available on Friday 15 September at 5.00 pm.

At that meeting the Committee discussed the work underway by the Ministerial Work Group on building and fire safety to compile a list of all the high rises in Scotland. The Committee would welcome clarification as to whether that list will include the types of cladding used on each high rise and the associated fire resistance of that cladding.

The Committee also discussed testing of building products for fire resistance. The Committee heard that much of this testing may be carried out by the manufacturers of the building product in question who seek independent testing in order to have their product approved. The Committee would welcome further information from the Scottish Government on building product testing, who undertakes it, how it is funded and how public bodies reassure themselves that such testing is robust, rigorous and independent. We would welcome clarification of whether there is an approved list of building products which have met the necessary standards to be used in construction.

Finally the Committee has sought further written evidence from RICS on concerns they expressed that some building products originally tested and classed as non-combustible have subsequently been retested and identified as being of a different class. We would welcome clarification from you as to whether this has been
identified as a potential issue for consideration within the Ministerial Working Group work streams.

In view of your attendance at the meeting on 27 September, please could you provide a response to the above queries by Tuesday 21 September 2017. If you have any queries regarding this, please do not hesitate to contact Jane Williams, the Clerk to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Bob Doris MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee