

**PE1638/F**

Scottish Government submission of 14 August 2017

Thank you for your letter following your committee's consideration on 29 June, seeking further information about the Scottish Government's approach to the introduction of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates in the calculation of housing support for those in the social rented sector. I hope the following information will be helpful to the committee, and apologise for the delay in my reply.

I would reiterate that the Scottish Government shares many of the concerns of landlords, tenants and campaign groups about the potential impact of these policies. I can confirm that officials have been engaged in an ongoing dialogue with the DWP on these issues to seek additional detail on the DWP's plans. Angela Constance MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities met with David Gauke MP, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on 12 July. At this meeting the Cabinet Secretary highlighted the general importance of cooperation around housing issues. We expect more detailed engagement at a ministerial level over the summer and early autumn, and with further information the Scottish Government will be able to make a considered response to this policy and determine the best way forward. We also expect that, once they have the necessary information, Scottish Ministers will wish to write to their counterparts to set out the Scottish Government's position.

Wherever possible we will keep Parliament up to date on the progress of our discussions.