

PE2150/A: Amend the Scottish Housing Regulator's mandate or create a body to protect owners of ex-council properties

Scottish Government written submission, 8 May 2025

Thank you to the Committee for the opportunity to provide an initial view on petition PE2150 to amend the Scottish Housing Regulator's mandate or create a body to protect owners of ex-council properties.

The Scottish Housing Regulator was created by the 2010 Housing (Scotland) Act to be the independent regulator of all social landlords (i.e. local authorities and registered social landlords – RSLs). It has one clear and unambiguous single statutory objective: to safeguard and promote the interests of current and future tenants of social landlords and other users of social landlords services. Its main duties are to regulate the performance of housing services by all social landlords, particularly landlords' achievement of the standards and outcomes that the Government set for social landlords in the Scottish Social Housing Charter. It also regulates the financial health and governance of RSLs.

Its remit does not extend beyond the regulation of social landlords, and the Scottish Government has no plans to amend its statutory objective.

Where homes were sold under Right to Buy, there are no further responsibilities the local authority would have for the maintenance of that property. Local authorities already have a duty to ensure the housing in their areas meets the relevant standards and where a homeowner requires advice and information then this would be provided through the Scheme of Assistance.

Where a homeowner feels there are issues with the buying/selling process they need to seek their own independent legal advice.