



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Paul McLennan MSP,  
Minister for Housing

By email only

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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4 June 2024

Dear Paul,

### **Housing to 2040 and Building Safety**

Thank you for giving evidence to the Committee in April on Housing to 2040 and building safety. The Committee has now had an opportunity to reflect on the evidence you gave.

Since your appearance there has also been the announcement of a housing emergency.

With that in mind, before the Committee decides on its next steps in relation to its scrutiny of the Housing to 2040 strategy, the Committee would welcome more detail from you on your plans to respond to the housing emergency.

I would be grateful if you could respond to me on this by **12 July 2024**.

In addition, the Committee notes your commitment to revert to the Committee on the following issues in relation to Housing to 2040:

- The review of the affordable homes target brought forward from 2026-27 to this year. You committed to come back to the Committee to discuss this.
- You also committed to coming back to the Committee on the indicators for the National Performance Framework.
- Housing to 2040 contains a commitment to a single set of standards for housing quality and accessibility. You noted that a consultation will be issued shortly and that you will write to the Committee on this.

- You highlighted the importance of the housing investment taskforce in setting out new ways to get investment into the housing sector in Scotland. You committed to coming back to the Committee with confirmation of the membership and remit of the taskforce.
- You noted that the Scottish Government is working with those local authorities who have declared housing emergencies to develop approaches to the specific challenges they are facing. In this context you stressed the importance of meeting the challenges presented by empty homes, voids and allocations in responding to homelessness and highlighted work on this issue with ALACHO and COSLA. You committed to coming back to the Committee on this work shortly.
- In considering the concept of affordable housing specifically, you highlighted the work of Professor Ken Gibb on the definition of affordability and noted that that you would come back to the Committee to share this definition.
- In terms of retrofitting, you highlighted the expected report of the Green Heat Finance Taskforce. The Committee would be grateful for an update on timescales for this report.

The Committee looks forward to hearing from you in relation to these matters in due course.

Likewise, the Committee notes your commitment to revert to the Committee on the following issue in relation to building safety:

- You committed to come back to the Committee with further reflections on the idea of a buildings database and building MOTs.
- You committed to keeping the Committee updated on the Scottish Law Commission's work on building maintenance.
- You committed to coming back to the Committee on the guidance on damp and mould.
- In relation to RAAC, you committed to revert to the Committee about the outcomes of options appraisals being undertaken by Aberdeen and Clackmannanshire Councils.
- In terms of interlinked fire alarms, you gave a commitment to come back to the Committee on figures for their instalment as drawn from the Scottish Household Survey.
- Finally, you committed to come back to the Committee on concerns about the quality of the data informing the Scottish House Condition Survey.

Again, the Committee looks forward to hearing from you in relation to these matters in due course.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess

Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee