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Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener Local Government, Housing and
Planning Committee

*CC Collette Steveson MSP, Convener Social
Justice and Social Security Committee*

10 June 2025

Dear Ariane

I want to put on record my thanks to you and the members of both the Social Justice and Social Security (SJSS) Committee and the Local Government Housing and Planning (LGHP) Committee for their work on the Housing (Scotland) Bill to date.

The Bill's first Stage 2 meeting on 20 March before the SJSS Committee and its last Stage 2 meeting before the LGHP Committee on 3 June were both critical points in the legislative journey of the Bill. The meetings during this time covered a wide range of issues which are central to the successful implementation of this Bill.

I have valued the close working with opposition parties and the constructive cross-party spirit demonstrated throughout Stage 2. I have clearly set out Scottish Government positions throughout Committee meetings and in most cases these positions have been supported.

It is clear further work is required in some areas, and I would welcome working with members of the Committee, and other members, to progress these issues. It may be that we can find solutions together which can be proposed at Stage 3 and other areas which are best dealt with outside of the Bill process.

Below I have set out examples of the topic, aspects of which, I am keen to progress during the summer. I offered to work with members of the Committee and other members, and I will aim to engage early with these members on these matters:

- Homelessness prevention measures
- Student tenancies
- Data collection
- Rent control exemptions and use of modified rent cap
- Evictions

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- Repairs and standards
- Keeping pets and making changes to let property
- Mobile homes
- Cooperatives

My office will be in touch directly with Committee Members and MSP colleagues in the coming weeks to set up further meetings, including before Summer Recess.

Finally, I wanted to update you on the ongoing rent control consultation which concludes on 18 July. It seeks views on exemptions for certain types of properties from rent control and circumstances where rents could be increased above the level of any introduced rent cap. There is agreement across parties on the importance of progressing this work and bringing forward the associated Regulations as soon as possible. Work is already underway to ensure that analysis of consultation responses can be made available for consideration at the earliest possible opportunity. I will be delighted to share this with the committee when it is available, in the months following the end of the consultation period.

I look forward to our continued partnership to ensure this legislation is robust and free from unintended consequences and will effectively support homelessness prevention measures, and strengthen tenants' rights and protections, so people have a safe and warm home.

SHIRLEY-ANNE SOMERVILLE

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