

Local Government, Housing & Planning Committee
localgov.committee@parliament.scot

6 February 2026

Dear Convener,

I am writing to advise you that following attendance at the National Farmers Union annual conference today, the First Minister will make clear his intention to develop a Rural and Island Housing Grant Scheme, with an indicative budget of up to £20 million over four years.

The Scheme will enable people to access affordable owner occupation and support young people and families to put down roots in rural and island communities.

The Scheme will provide modest capital grants to help meet the cost of securing a home and support more properties to be used as permanent residencies.

The development of this new grant scheme will be taken forward with rural and housing partners and will form part of a wider package of work to support the development of the new housing agency, More Homes Scotland.

Yours sincerely,

Màiri McAllan
Cabinet Secretary for Housing