



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Ariane Burgess
Convener
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

19 June 2025

Dear Convener,

Local authority housing emergencies

I am writing to you regarding some issues which were raised during our evidence session on local authority housing emergencies on 12 June which fall within the remit of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee. The Official Report of the meeting can be accessed [here](#).

The Committee heard evidence about some strategies that could be or have been adopted to ensure that the maximum number of social housing is available.

The City of Edinburgh Council has declared a housing emergency, and as a result has temporarily widened its policy on the acquisition of tenanted properties. It might be worth exploring the extent to which social landlords are using acquisitions of tenanted properties to help address housing needs in their areas.

There are some areas of Scotland where there are a relatively large number of social housing properties which have remained unused for a long period of time. It would be worth exploring the reasons for these properties not being brought back into use.

Planning obligations under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997, legal agreements between a developer and planning authority used to overcome obstacles to the granting of planning permission and a mechanism used to secure sites for affordable housing, are not always being implemented. It would be worth exploring the reasons a lack of implementation.

Yours sincerely,

Collette Stevenson MSP
Convener
Social Justice and Social Security Committee

Contact: Social Justice and Social Security Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email SJSS.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.