Dear Derek

Thank you for your letter of 18 December 2017 in regard to the Committee’s request in its annual report for a consolidation of the Regulations that set out the Council Tax Reduction (CTR) scheme.¹ The Committee considered your letter at its meeting on 16 January 2018.

The Committee notes your acknowledgement that it would be ‘desirable’ to consolidate these Regulations but that you do not consider it ‘essential’ for the various reasons as detailed in your letter. The Committee is disappointed that you are unable to provide a timetable for the consolidation of the CTR Regulations until after your consideration of potential changes to the CTR scheme in late summer.

The Committee wishes to reiterate its view that consolidation of these regulations is indeed essential. The Committee recognises your argument that those groups who use the Regulations on a ‘day to day’ basis are skilled in their ability to use complex and changing Regulations. However, the CTR scheme has now been amended 12 times. The Committee’s objective is to ensure that the law is clear and accessible to all those who use the legislation. We remain of the view that the CTR scheme is now becoming increasingly complex and that the number and frequency of the changes to the legislation is likely to be a barrier to those who require to use the law, whether or not they are skilled in reading and interpreting legislation.

¹ Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, 41st Report, 2017 (Session 5) SP Paper 202, paragraphs 110 to 115)
The Committee would be grateful if you would consider a more imminent timetable for consolidating the Regulations that set out the CTR scheme.

Yours,

Convener of the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee