Dear Mr Walker,

Evidence session with the Scottish Housing Regulator

On behalf of the Local Government and Communities Committee, I would like to thank you and Chief Executive Michael Cameron for attending our Committee meeting on 30 January 2019 to provide evidence on the Scottish Housing Regulator's Annual Report and Accounts 2017-18.

As you will recall, Members discussed with you the Scottish Housing Regulator's statutory intervention powers under the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010. This included the role of statutory managers and the transparency of the costs involved in this form of statutory action.

I note that since the evidence session, Mr Cameron wrote to me providing more information on the skills and experience the Regulator looks for in a potential statutory manager. The letter also clarified what information the Regulator considers it can and cannot publish about financial costs associated with statutory managers. Thank you for this additional information.

One of the issues discussed during the evidence session was the visibility of the information about statutory managers on the Regulator’s website. At the meeting, you agreed to consider how the Regulator could make this information more accessible to people with an interest in the appointment process and role of statutory managers. The Committee would welcome more information on this.

The Committee also noted that the Regulator intends to run an open selection process for its list of statutory managers during 2019/20. We would welcome further information about this process, including the skills and experience you consider
necessary or desirable for this role and how it may differ from the requirements currently in place for the appointment of statutory managers.

Finally, the Committee noted your evidence that statutory managers are often appointed from elsewhere in the UK due to a perceived lack of qualified candidates within Scotland, and that this may significantly increase the cost of statutory action for individual housing associations. The Committee therefore agreed to ask the Regulator what action, if any, the SHR have undertaken to draw this skills gap to the attention of relevant organisations who have a role in identifying and working to secure the skills needs for Scotland’s workforce.

We look forward to receiving your reply in due course.

Yours sincerely

James Dornan MSP
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee