29 April 2019

Dear James

I am writing to you as Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee to inform you that the Scottish Government has launched a consultation paper on short-term lets. The consultation runs until 19 July 2019, and can be accessed via the following link: https://consult.gov.scot/housing-services-policy-unit/short-term-lets/

Our 2018-19 Programme for Government made a commitment to ensure that local authorities have appropriate regulatory powers to balance the needs and concerns of their communities with wider economic and tourism interests. To help us identify the best approach, we want to ask individuals, communities, landlords, local authorities and businesses across Scotland whether and what further powers local authorities need to manage short-term lets effectively. We will also be conducting further research to explore the direct effects of short-term lets on communities, neighbourhoods and housing supply across Scotland.

I know that this is a topic of interest to many members, not least in the context of provision now in the Planning (Scotland) Bill, and I would be happy to discuss this with you.

Kind regards

KEVIN STEWART