



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

MINUTES

9th Meeting, 2020 (Session 5)

Wednesday 11 March 2020

Present:

Jeremy Balfour
James Dornan (Convener)
Kenneth Gibson

Sarah Boyack (Deputy Convener)
Annabelle Ewing
Graham Simpson

Also present: Pauline McNeill

Apologies were received from Andy Wightman.

The meeting opened at 9.45 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 4 in private. The Committee also agreed to hold the meeting on Wednesday 18 March in private.

2. **First Tier Housing Tribunal:** The Committee took evidence from—

Martin McKenna, Director of Tribunals Operations, Scottish Courts and Tribunal Service;

Anne Hastie, Member of Administrative Justice Committee, Law Society of Scotland;

Gordon Maloney, Organiser, Living Rent;

Caroline Elgar, Policy Manager, Scottish Association of Landlords;

Gordon MacRae, Assistant Director (Communications and Policy), Shelter Scotland;

David Reid, Managing Director of James Gibb Residential Factors and President, Property Managers Association Scotland.

Kenneth Gibson and Annabelle Ewing both declared they own flats they rent out. Graham Simpson indicated that he rents a flat managed by James Gibb Residential Factors.

3. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

Local Governance (Scotland) Act 2004 (Remuneration) Amendment Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/26)
Non-Domestic Rates (Reverse Vending Machine Relief) (Scotland) Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/36)
Non-Domestic Rates (Enterprise Areas) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/38)
Non-Domestic Rates (Relief for New and Improved Properties) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/40)
Non-Domestic Rates (Telecommunication Installations) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/41)
Non-Domestic Rates (Transitional Relief) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/42)
Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2020 (S5M-2020/43)
Non-Domestic Rating (Valuation of Utilities) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2020 (S5M-2020/44)

The Committee agreed to make no recommendation in relation to the instruments. The Committee also agreed to write to the Scottish Government to seek further information regarding SSI 2020/38.

4. **First Tier Housing Tribunal:** The Committee considered the evidence heard earlier in the meeting, and agreed to discuss further work on this matter as part of the work programme discussion scheduled for 18 March 2020.

The meeting closed at 11.35 pm.

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