

Deputy First Minister  
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Maureen Watt  
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The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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30 November 2013

Dear Maureen

### SCOTTISH WATER – EXEMPTION SCHEME FOR SMALL THIRD SECTOR ORGANISATIONS

I should like to notify your committee of a consultation that I have launched regarding the renewal of an exemption scheme that currently exempts a number of third sector organisations from the payment of water and sewerage charges.

As many members will appreciate, the current scheme needs to be reviewed to remove some of the inconsistencies that cause many organisations to be ineligible and to ensure that the new scheme correctly targets those small organisations for whom water and sewerage charges are a significant burden.

This consultation which is available on the Government's website at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Consultations/Current> will close on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. In the light of the responses made, I intend to confirm the rules for the new scheme as part of my wider decisions on investment and charging that will affect the water industry for the period 2015-21.

Best wishes  
Nicola

NICOLA STURGEON