



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Government and Regeneration Committee

**Kevin Stewart MSP
Convener**

Maureen Watt MSP
Convener
Infrastructure and Capital Investment
Committee

Room T3.40
The Scottish Parliament
EDINBURGH
EH99 1SP

Direct Tel: (0131) 348 5217
(RNID Typetalk calls welcome)
Fax: (0131) 348 5600
(Central) Textphone: (0131) 348 5415
lgr.committee@scottish.parliament.uk

10 December 2013

Dear Maureen,

Housing (Scotland) Bill

I am writing to you in your capacity as Convener of the Infrastructure and Capital Investment (ICI) Committee and the lead on scrutiny of the Housing (Scotland) Bill.

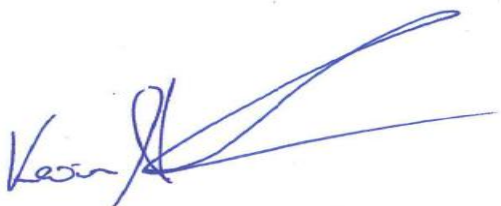
The Local Government and Regeneration Committee does have interests in this Bill. As you will already be aware, our current inquiry into the delivery of regeneration in Scotland has had a strong focus on better outcomes for communities. Housing is identified in the Scottish Governments 'Regeneration Strategy' as being a key contributor to the successful delivery of the Strategy in regenerating Scotland's communities, and we note in this regard that the aim of the Bill is to support delivery of these better outcomes for communities.

The Bill also has a number of specific implications for local authorities, such as Part 5 of the Bill, which makes provision for the licensing regime for mobile home sites with permanent residents, to be ran by local authorities; or Part 6 of the Bill that provides for local authorities to be granted powers to tackle poor housing conditions in the private sector.

The Local Government and Regeneration Committee recognise however that the Bill does not lend itself easily to subdivision, and that it concentrates primarily, if not exclusively, on housing policy. We therefore do not propose to conduct an inquiry ourselves into the Housing (Scotland) Bill as it is felt any investigation by us is unlikely to add any value to your work and scrutiny by us is more than likely to overlap and conflict with your efforts. What we would request however is that the ICI Committee give consideration to these issues when undertaking its stage 1 scrutiny.

Please feel free to contact myself or my Clerking Team should you want or require any detail on the issues we have identified.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin', followed by a large, stylized flourish that extends upwards and to the right.

Kevin Stewart MSP
Convener
Local Government and Regeneration Committee