

Minister for Housing and Welfare  
Margaret Burgess MSP

T: 0300 244 4000  
E: [scottish.ministers@gov.scot](mailto:scottish.ministers@gov.scot)



Nigel Don MSP  
Convener  
Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee

[DPLR.Committee@scottish.parliament.uk](mailto:DPLR.Committee@scottish.parliament.uk)

10 March 2016

Dear Nigel

Thank you for your letter of 8 March 2016 regarding the amendment made to the Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Bill at Stage 2, which means that regulations which themselves revoke or amend regulations that designate a rent pressure zone will be subject to the negative procedure rather than the affirmative procedure.

Having considered this further, I have decided to amend the Bill so that section 30 will be subject to the affirmative procedure. As you are aware, this will normally mean a period of 40 sitting days for Parliament to consider this, but could be shorter in certain circumstances. This will provide the Parliament with the fullest possible scrutiny and I hope this receives the Committee's approval.

The Minister for Parliamentary Business agrees this is the appropriate procedural approach on this matter. However, he has also noted his intention to reflect further on the circumstances in which the use of provisional affirmative procedure may be justified. He has emphasised that his consideration will be taken in the wider context of the Government's preference not to add unnecessarily to the standard procedures which are set out in the Interpretation and Legislative Reform (Scotland) Act 2010.

Kind regards

Margaret Burgess

**MARGARET BURGESS**