



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Margaret Burgess
Minister for Housing and Welfare
By email

Equal Opportunities Committee
Email: equal.opportunities@scottish.parliament.uk

27 June 2013

Dear Margaret,

Equal Opportunities Committee inquiry – Where Gypsy/Travellers Live

I refer to your recent response to our report on *Where Gypsy/Travellers Live*, which the Equal Opportunities Committee discussed at our meeting on 20 June.

Whilst we appreciate that the response expresses an agreement with the report's recommendations, we are extremely disappointed by the apparent lack of commitment from the Scottish Government to either act upon the recommendations or take responsibility for areas where COSLA has taken no steps towards change.

I draw your attention to the third recommendation in the report, which states that “we would expect the Government to agree with all those involved a firm time scale for any action plan and provide regular progress updates”—we see little evidence of this in the response. We were also particularly unimpressed by the comments on the recommendation at paragraph 20 of your response, which is no more than an affirmation of our recommendation.

We expect to debate the outcomes of this inquiry in the Chamber in September, and hope that, by then, the Scottish Government will be able to demonstrate a more tangible action plan than this response would suggest.

I invite you to reflect on these points.

Yours sincerely

Mary Fee MSP
Convener, Equal Opportunities Committee