

Local Government and Communities Committee

Consideration of public petition PE1539 on housing associations to come under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Letter from the Local Government and Communities Committee to the Petitioner dated 8 September 2016

As you will be aware, your petition was considered by the Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee in Session 4 and remained outstanding at the end of the Session. As your petition now falls within the remit of the Session 5 Local Government and Communities Committee, it will be that Committee which considers your petition going forward.

You will recall that the Session 4 Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee agreed to defer your petition until the Scottish Government's consultation on extending the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to RSLs is launched. That consultation is expected to take place this autumn with the outcome not expected until 2017. As a result the Session 5 Committee, in noting that your petition remains outstanding, has written to the Scottish Government to seek confirmation when it proposes to consult this change to Freedom of Information legislation.

The clerks to the Committee will contact you again in due course to let you know when your petition will go on the Committee's agenda.

Letter from the Local Government and Communities Committee to the Petitioner dated 30 September 2016

Further to my letter of 8 September 2016, the Committee has received a response from the Scottish Government setting out when it intends to consult on whether Housing Associations should come under Freedom of Information.

In its response, the Scottish Government confirms that it anticipates consultation with the housing sector (to include registered social landlords, tenant organisations, representative bodies etc) to start in late autumn 2016. The consultation will run for the standard period of 12 weeks. Timescales after that will be dependent on the number of responses to the consultation and the range of substantive issues raised.

The Committee will consider your petition at a future meeting and at that time the Clerks will contact you again to let you know when your petition will go on the Committee's agenda.