



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

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**Local Government and Communities  
Committee**

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4 April 2017

Dear Minister

**Committee consideration of Petition PE1539 – Housing Associations and Freedom of Information.**

The Committee considered the above petition at its meeting on 29 March 2017. You can read the Official Report of the Committee's consideration here:

<http://www.parliament.scot/parliamentarybusiness/report.aspx?r=10878>

The Petition calls on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make an Order under Section 5 of the Freedom of Information Act (Scotland) 2002 to make all housing associations subject to the provisions of that Act.

When you last wrote to the Committee in December, you confirmed that the Scottish Government had just launched a consultation on extending coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 to registered social landlords.

During consideration of the petition, the Committee noted that the consultation had closed and that responses had been published. The Committee agreed to request an update from the Scottish Government requesting an indicative timeline for when the Scottish Government might be able to respond to the consultation. Should the Scottish Government proceed with proposals to extend Freedom of Information to Registered Social Landlords, it would also be helpful if you could provide an indicative timeline of when a Section 5 Order may be brought forward.

Not only would the Committee be able to provide an update to the petitioner, it would also help the Committee with forward work planning given that, should an order be brought forward, it would likely fall within the remit of this Committee.

The Committee would welcome a response by the 25 April. Should you or your officials have any queries about this, please contact a member of the clerking staff to the Committee using the contact details above.

Kind regards,

Bob Doris MSP  
Convener of the Local Government and Communities Committee