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Bob Doris MSP
Convener of the Local Government and
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Dear Bob,

Thank you for your letter of 4 April requesting an update and indicative timeline of when the Scottish Government plans to respond to the consultation on extending coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA) to Registered Social Landlords (RSLs).

As you note, responses to the consultation have been published and can be found via the Scottish Government consultation webpages at: <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/>.

Consultation responses raised a number of complex issues around the functions of RSLs, the scope and timing of an order, as well as the administrative and financial implications of extending coverage on RSLs – and potentially their tenants.

I anticipate publishing an interim report later in the spring containing a summary of the key responses and highlighting the central issues highlighted in the consultation. Given the issues raised, I consider it necessary to undertake further analysis and stakeholder engagement before formally responding to the consultation.

Following further engagement and consideration of the key issues, I anticipate a formal consultation response in the autumn, then I will be able to provide the committee with indicative timelines and how we intend to proceed.

I hope you find this helpful and I will of course keep Committee informed of any developments.

Yours for Scotland,

JOE FITZPATRICK