



Glasgow and West of Scotland
Forum of Housing Associations

Keep it Local!

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Jane Williams
Clerk to the Local Government and Communities Committee
T3.60 The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

5 December 2017

Dear Jane

Evidence session 29 November – Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill

Thank you for your letter of 4 December, and in particular for drawing attention to the report published by the Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee, which was referred to during the evidence session on 29 November.

GWSF notes the DPLR Committee's concerns over Sections 8 and 9 of the Bill, and its view that the enabling powers to use regulations to make further changes to the powers of the Scottish Housing Regulator are drawn too broadly.

GWSF has no anxieties that these enabling powers will be used for any other purpose than responding – if necessary – to any ONS decision that the SHR still exerts too much control over RSLs to justify a reclassification of RSLs back to the private sector. However, we recognise and understand the Committee's concern and so would be happy for the enabling powers to be limited in an appropriate way.

Whilst there may be a number of options for limiting the enabling powers, we believe that putting a timescale limit on the use of the enabling powers – for example three years from enactment of the Bill – may be the most straightforward. We would of course be happy for other options to be explored, but would hope that agreement on this can be reached quickly so as not to delay the Bill's passage.

With thanks and best wishes,

David Bookbinder
Director, GWSF