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Your ref: 20221102 Cov to Minister re Mobile Homes
Our ref: 20221102

14 November 2022

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter of 2 November regarding the review of mobile home site licencing and other non-fixed housing. As requested, I will keep you updated on the review of mobile home licencing as it progresses.

Uprating of Mobile Home Pitch Fees

Since I last wrote, there has been a development in relation to the uprating of pitch fees. The basis for uprating pitch fees is set out at Paragraph 23 of Schedule 1 of the Mobile Homes Act 1983. There is a presumption that the pitch fee will increase or decrease by a percentage which is no more than any percentage increase or decrease in the retail prices index, since the last review date, unless this would be unreasonable. We recognise the financial challenges that the cost of living crisis is placing on renters in different types of accommodation, including those who rent a pitch for their mobile home. We have heard concerns from residents that the gap between Retail Prices Index (RPI) and Consumer Prices Index (CPI) is growing, and that pitch fees are growing faster than pension income. As a result, alongside the recent the Cost of Living (Protection of Tenants) (Scotland) Act, we committed to consulting on pitch fee uprating with a view to changing the basis from RPI to CPI. This would slow the rate of pitch fee increase in the future. I will update you when the consultation issues.

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Non-fixed Accommodation

In response to your query, I can confirm that house boats are licenced on Scotland's canals by way of a residential mooring agreement and Navigation Licence per the British Waterways Act 1971 and Transport Act 1962. In addition each boat is required to hold a valid Boat Safety Certificate. Information is available on the [Scottish Canals website](#).

There are other forms of accommodation which are not fixed, e.g. campervans, used by residents with varying degrees of permanence but we do not have current plans in relation to licencing schemes.

Yours sincerely,

PATRICK HARVIE

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