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21 November 2023

Dear Convener,

**LAUNCH OF PROPOSALS FOR A HEAT IN BUILDINGS BILL – PRE-INTRODUCTION CONSULTATION and CONSULTATION ON A NEW SOCIAL HOUSING NET ZERO STANDARD**

I am writing to inform the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee of the Scottish Government's intention to launch a formal public consultation on 28 November on proposals for a Bill which would require changes to the heating and energy efficiency of most domestic and non-domestic properties across Scotland.

The Bute House Agreement committed the Scottish Government to introducing primary legislation during the current session of Parliament to provide powers to create regulations for Zero Direct Emissions (Clean) Heating Systems and energy efficiency standards across the building stock. A commitment to publish this consultation during 2023 was also made in the Programme for Government 2022-23.

The development of, and consultation on, proposals for primary legislation to prohibit the use of polluting heating systems in Scotland's existing built stock by 2045 will form a key part of efforts to eliminate greenhouse gas emissions associated with our buildings.

The Consultation follows several years of discussion across all sectors with an interest, and provides details on how we might legislate to drive the net zero agenda in the building sector. Given the nature of the proposals, it aims to provide a platform to hear views from as wide an audience as possible.

I am pleased to confirm that the Scottish Government will also launch a consultation, to invite views on proposals for a new Social Housing Net Zero Standard, on 28 November. This will replace the post-2020 Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing, or EESSH2.

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The Scottish Government has been working closely with the social housing sector in Scotland over the past year to review the old EESSH2 targets, and to develop proposals for a new standard. This work has sought to align a new standard with net zero targets, and provide much needed clarity for the social housing sector.

My officials are now putting into place a raft of consultation events and discussions across Scotland, to be held over the next 3 months.

I hope that you find this helpful, and will have my officials send on the relevant documentation in advance of the launch, following normal protocol.

Around the same time as these 2 formal consultations launch we will also publish a suite of supportive documents, which will include formal assessments, research findings and the results of expert panels whose work has helped inform the development of our proposals.

Kind regards,

**PATRICK HARVIE**

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