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Ariane Burgess MSP,
Convener
Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

By email to: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

14 November 2023

Dear Convener,

LEGISLATIVE CONSENT MEMORANDUM FOR THE UK RENTERS (REFORM) BILL

I am writing to let you know that the Scottish Government is considering the need to lodge a Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) in respect to the UK Government's Renters (Reform) Bill ("the Bill"), introduced on 17 May 2023.

Although the Bill was introduced last May, the UK Government has, at Committee stage today, brought forward a range of amendments, one of which proposes to prohibit landlords and letting agents from excluding tenants who are in receipt of benefits and those with children from renting properties. The UK Government has been working with the Welsh Government to extend application of such a measure to the Private Rented Sector in Wales via the Bill and we intend to move forward with their offer to also extend the provisions to Scotland. As the amendment is tabled for England, an announcement will be made tomorrow to confirm the intention to table a further amendment for Scotland at the subsequent Report Stage. This will ensure that an important legislative proposal to benefit renters can commence across the whole of the UK at once.

Scottish Parliament Standing Orders provide that an LCM should normally be lodged with the Scottish Parliament two working weeks after the introduction of a relevant Bill in Westminster. On this occasion, I expect Standing Orders to be engaged in relation to the tabling of a relevant amendment by the UK Government. I am therefore notifying the Committee, at the earliest possible opportunity, of my intention for an LCM to be lodged in relation to that amendment after it has been tabled at Report Stage.

My officials will keep in contact with the Committee regarding anticipated timescales for lodging the memorandum, which we are progressing with urgency.

I am copying this letter to Stuart McMillan MSP, Convenor, Delegated Powers and Law Reform Committee.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MCLENNAN
Minister for Housing