

A letter from Paul Sweeney MSP and Evelyn Tweed MSP on the Takeover of Reidvale Housing Association and Role of Scottish Housing Regulator, 28 June 2023

Dear Ariane,

Takeover of Reidvale Housing Association and Role of Scottish Housing Regulator

You will be aware of concerns raised by colleagues in relation to the proposed takeover of Reidvale Housing Association based in Dennistoun, Glasgow by the Scottish arm of English-based Place for People Group, Places for People Scotland.

Reidvale Housing Association is one Scotland's oldest community-based housing associations and has been rooted in its community since 1975. In sharp contrast, the Places for People Group own over 230,000 properties across the UK and are in no way connected to Glasgow or the West of Scotland.

We write today to encourage the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee to consider instigating a review of the Scottish Housing Regulator and its role in asset transfers of community-controlled housing associations to large national housing groups that have taken place in recent years, including that of Reidvale with Places for People Scotland. Whilst we recognise that the Committee already has a full work programme, we would encourage the Committee to consider the potential ramifications of these transfers and how scenarios like that facing Reidvale can be avoided in the future.

Our concerns about the actions of the Scottish Housing Regulator are varied and we would be happy to meet with you and with members of the Committee should you think it useful.

Fundamentally we have a desire to see local community-controlled housing associations thrive in an environment where autonomy and local accountability is paramount. We have grave concerns that this is not the case with Reidvale and that the proposed transfer runs contrary to the Scottish Government's community wealth building approach, with which we both agree.

Co-signatory to this letter, Evelyn Tweed, will be writing to you separately regarding wider concerns. We look forward to your response and would welcome the opportunity to discuss our concerns further.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Sweeney MSP

Evelyn Tweed MSP