



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Government,  
Housing and Planning Committee  
The Scottish Parliament  
Edinburgh  
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By email only

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### **UK Government's Renters (Reform) Bill: prohibition on 'No DSS/No children' blanket ban**

I am writing to seek your views on some specific provisions in the UK Government's Renters (Reform) Bill which will impact on Scotland, and which have been referred to the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee for our consideration.

The Bill was introduced in the House of Commons and is currently being considered by the House of Lords. Some aspects of the Bill fall within the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and trigger the need for a ['Legislative Consent Memorandum'](#) which the Scottish Government has lodged with the Scottish Parliament.

The Bill's purpose is to ensure that private renters in England and Wales have access to a secure and decent home and that landlords retain the confidence to repossess their properties where they have good reason to.

Amendments to the Bill (which can be found in the linked [Legislative Consent Memorandum](#)) will prohibit the letting of a property in England and Wales in such a way as to ban those who are benefit claimants or those with children from taking on the tenancy (known in short as "blanket bans"). The Scottish Government has requested that the Bill is also amended so that similar protections apply in Scotland.

**I would be grateful for your views on the proposed amendments, and whether you would support them or instead have concerns about their application in Scotland.**

The Scottish Government's memorandum highlights that the policy intent of the amendments align with its work on rented sector reform and will provide an important element of protection to these vulnerable groups in the private rented sector.

The Memorandum explains that whilst no specific consultation has been carried out about the amendments, there has been an active anti-'no DSS' campaign live for some years aimed at discouraging the ways in which properties are marketed to exclude these groups.

Given the timescales for the passage of the Bill through the UK Parliament the Committee will need to reach a view on the Legislative Consent Memorandum in the next few weeks. **I would therefore be very grateful if you were able to respond by the 28<sup>th</sup> May.**

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess  
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee