

Minister for Housing
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Ariane Burgess MSP
Convener
Local Government Housing and
Planning Committee

By email:
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27 November 2024

Dear Convener,

Thank you for your letter dated 12th November regarding Scottish Parliament's scrutiny of Revised National Outcomes and the Committee's summary of stakeholder views on how the new Housing Outcome could be measured.

It is clear that there is wide ranging support for the new Housing Outcome: "We live in safe, high quality and affordable homes that meet our needs". As this Outcome encompasses several aspects of housing, we envisage that it will be underpinned by several new Housing National Indicators, which could be used to measure and monitor progress.

There may be scope to utilise some of the indicators already contained within the [Housing and Regeneration Outcomes Framework](#), which covers the following themes:

- A Well-Functioning Housing System
- High Quality, Sustainable Homes
- Homes that Meet Peoples Needs
- People Live in Sustainable Communities

Please note that the indicators within this Framework have not been updated since November 2022, as Officials plan to update the list of indicators following the review of National Outcomes.

The Chief Statistician's Office and analysts in the Communities Analysis Division and Central Analysis Division have been considering a list of new National Indicators to support the new Housing National Outcome. This has taken account of some stakeholder views expressed during the consultation on National Outcomes.

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The choice of indicators need to be relevant to the National Outcome and meet minimum data quality levels. In practice, data for indicators needs to be readily available, as there may be limited scope to invest in new data collections.

An initial list of 10 indicators was shared with members of the Housing to 2040 Strategic Board on 12th November for comment (copy of letter attached in Annex A). We are also considering sharing this list with other stakeholders not represented on this Board.

Our plan is to gather views before Christmas and make any further changes to the list of indicators by mid-January, before seeking views from members of the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee by the end of January.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MCLENNAN

Annex A – Letter to Housing to 2040 Strategic Board Members on Housing Outcomes & Indicators (12th November from Sean Neill, Director for Housing, Scottish Government)

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12 November 2024

Dear Board Members,

National Performance Framework (NPF)
Housing Outcome & Indicators

Background

On 1st May 2024, Scottish Ministers laid before Parliament the following report containing proposals on changes in NPF National Outcomes : [Consultation with Parliament in connection with the Review of National Outcomes](#).

This includes a new National Outcome on Housing, described below:

Housing: We live in safe, high-quality and affordable homes that meet our needs

We ensure that everyone has housing that is safe, secure, accessible and affordable. Homelessness and the causes of homelessness are addressed. There is availability of housing of all tenures, including social housing, in our urban and rural areas.

We plan our communities sustainably to ensure there is suitable, good quality housing for all types of households and access to local services. Housing is sustainable, energy efficient, resilient and well maintained.

Housing meets everyone's needs, throughout all stages of life. We are supported to live independently within our communities.

Work on the specific National Indicators to support this new Housing Outcome is on-going, but will not be able to be completed until Parliament has agreed the new set of National Outcomes.

National Indicators

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The Chief Statistician's Office and analysts in Communities Analysis Division and Central Analysis Division have been considering a list of National Indicators to support the proposed new Housing Outcome.

The choice of indicators need to be relevant to the National Outcome and meet minimum data quality levels. In practice, data for indicators needs to be readily available, as there may be limited scope to invest in new data collections.

There are 9 housing indicators that are currently being considered, which have been set out below, under different elements of the proposed housing outcome:

Housing: We live in safe, high-quality and affordable homes that meet our needs

We ensure that everyone has housing that is safe, secure, accessible and affordable. Homelessness and the causes of homelessness are addressed. There is availability of housing of all tenures, including social housing, in our urban and rural areas.

1. New housing supply - this includes new house building, conversions and rehabilitations.

Data Source: SG Annual Housing Statistics

Note: This was a previous NPF National Indicator & is a current Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicator

2. Number of households assessed as unintentionally homeless/threatened with homelessness.

Data Source: SG Bi-Annual Homelessness Statistics

3. Number of households in temporary accommodation

Data Source: SG Bi-Annual Homelessness Statistics

4. Housing cost/affordability indicator – still to be determined, could include the following options:

- a metric which measures median housing cost to income ratios across all tenures

Data Source: Annual Family Resources Survey

Note: This is a current Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicator

- a more subjective measure, like the following one from the Scottish Household Survey:

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In the last 12 months, have you had any difficulties in paying your mortgage/rent? Options: Yes/No/Don't Know

Data Source: Annual Scottish Household Survey

We plan our communities sustainably to ensure there is suitable, good quality housing for all types of households and access to local services. Housing is sustainable, energy efficient, resilient and well maintained

5. Percentage of dwellings across all tenures meeting the Scottish Housing Quality Standard (SHQS)

Data Source: Annual Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)

Note: Although the SHQS only applies to the social rented housing, corresponding data on this standard is also collected in the SHCS for homes in the private rented sector and owner occupation.

Note: SHR also collect data on LA/RSL housing stock meeting the SHQS

6. Percentage of domestic properties achieving a good level of energy efficiency (equivalent to Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) C or better)

Data Source: Annual Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)

Note: That data is also available from the EPC Register, but this data source does not capture all dwellings and is unlikely to be fully representative of all housing in Scotland.

Note: There is a current corresponding Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicator based on median SAP ratings (which could be changed to the indicator above)

7. Number of domestic properties currently with clean heating systems (heat pumps, other electric) / biomass heating

Data Source: Annual Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)

Note: That this indicator is also relevant to the newly proposed Climate Action National Outcome

8. Percentage of households in Fuel Poverty

Data Source: Annual Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS)

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Note: This is a current Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicator

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9. The percentage of households who report being either "very satisfied" or "fairly satisfied" with their house or flat.

Data Source: SG Annual Scottish Household Survey

Note: This was a current NPF National Indicator

The following indicator is also being considered from a Health perspective

10. Proportion of last 6 months of life spent at home or in a community setting.

Data Source: Public Health Scotland (PHS)

Sean Neill
Director, Housing

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