



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Paul McLennan MSP,
Minister for Housing &
Patrick Harvie MSP,
Minister for Zero Carbon
Buildings, Active Travel
and Tenants' Rights
By email only

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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24 January 2024

Dear Paul and Patrick,

Housing to 2040

As you will be aware, the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee has agreed to undertake a short inquiry into Housing to 2040.

I wrote to you on 18 December 2023 asking questions to inform that session. I asked you for a response by 26 January.

Since I wrote to you the Scottish Government has published its draft budget.

The Committee has focussed its budget scrutiny this year on the local government budget. However, the Committee has noted the significant cuts to the housing budget, which have been highlighted by stakeholders.

We note that the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) budget is being reduced by 27% in real terms in 2024-25. It is unclear how this will affect the Scottish Government's commitment to complete 110,000 affordable homes by 2032 and to invest £3.5 billion in the AHSP this parliamentary term.

As part of its sessions on Housing to 2040 at its meetings on 20 and 27 February the Committee will explore the impact of this cut.

To inform that discussion the Committee would be grateful if you could set-out the justification for the cuts in the housing budget and the likely impact on the delivery of 110,000 homes by 2032.

I would be grateful for a response by **6 February 2024**.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess

Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee