



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Sally Thomas
Chief Executive
SFHA
By email only

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Email: localgov.committee@parliament.scot

28 June 2024

Dear Sally

Housing Emergency

The Scottish Parliament's Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee is currently considering the terms of an inquiry into the housing emergency, building on pre-existing work on the adequacy of the Scottish Government's Housing to 2040 strategy to respond to the housing challenges we face in Scotland.

In order to inform the terms of that inquiry, the Committee is writing to all local authorities seeking further information. In particular, the Committee is seeking the views of those authorities who have declared housing emergencies.

Further to that, the Committee is seeking information from you as well as COSLA, ALACHO and GWSFHA on the housing emergency.

In general terms, it would be helpful if you could offer your perspective on the thinking that is informing the declaring of housing emergencies and the strategies to respond to them.

It would also be helpful if you could provide your reflections on the quality of data on void or unlettable properties. While the number of void and unlettable properties is publicly available, it would be helpful if you could provide some more context on these figures, the trends you are seeing and the strategies you are seeing to get properties back into use.

It would also be helpful if you could share any information on the strategies you have seen for acquiring and buying back properties.

Please note the Committee is also writing to the Scottish Government seeking to understand the thinking which informed its decision to announce a housing emergency as well as an indication of its plans to respond to it.

I would be grateful for a response by **26 July 2024**.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess

Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee