

Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Mairi McAllan MSP Cabinet Secretary for Housing Scottish Government

14 November 2025

Dear Mairi,

Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)

The Committee <u>wrote to the then Minister for Housing</u> on the 25 March with the conclusions of its annual scrutiny of the SHR, which included exploration of concerns raised by stakeholders about a number of issues.

That letter noted that under the Scottish Regulators' Strategic Code of Practice, Regulators must 'Develop effective relationships with those they regulate and have clear two-way communication in place'. They must also 'Pursue continuous improvement in regulatory practice based on the principles of better regulation'. The Committee requested details about the Code's implementation and how the Government monitors regulators' adherence to it.

The Minister's <u>response of the 23 April</u> noted that this is a voluntary Code of Practice, setting out how Scottish regulators should apply regulatory principles and build good practice when setting regulations, and that there is no central monitoring of compliance by individual Regulators against the Code of Practice by the Scottish Government.

The Committee would however wish to reiterate its position that such monitoring would be beneficial. The Committee also discussed whether the Code of Practice still meets the needs of regulators and those they regulate. I would also be grateful for details of any plans the Scottish Government has to review the Code of Practice and timescales for doing so.

Yours sincerely,

Ariane Burgess MSP

Convener

Contact: Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP. Email localgov.committee@parliament.scot. We welcome calls through Relay UK and in BSL through Contact Scotland BSL.