



Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Richard Leonard MSP
Convener
Public Audit Committee

21 May 2025

Dear Richard,

Auditor General for Scotland's draft work programme

Thank you for your letter of 12 May, seeking feedback on the AGS' draft work programme.

The Scottish Housing Regulator is accountable to the Scottish Parliament, and each year it appears before the Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee to discuss its annual report and performance.

Due to the Committee receiving a number of representations from stakeholders and MSPs, during our last round of scrutiny we held a more in-depth inquiry which included a written call for views and oral evidence sessions with a number of stakeholders in the housing sector. As a result of that inquiry the Committee has a number of concerns about the culture within the SHR which has affected its performance and its relations with housing providers. We have written to both the SHR and the Scottish Government with our conclusions, and I attach a copy of our letter to the SHR for information.

The Committee has considered how scrutiny of the SHR might in future be made more robust and discussed whether the Auditor General might have a role. Audit Scotland audits the SHR's annual accounts. The Committee wishes to bring to the

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.

AGS' attention the conclusions of our annual scrutiny of the SHR and the concerns which we have with the serious nature of the issues raised with us by witnesses.

This will remain a key interest of the Committee throughout the remainder of this session, and we will take opportunity in our Legacy Report to highlight our concerns with our successor Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ariane Burgess', is positioned above the printed name.

Ariane Burgess
Convener, Local Government, Housing and Planning Committee

Enc: Copy [letter from Convener to the Scottish Housing Regulator](#), 18 March 2025