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Jim Eadie MSP, Convenor
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Committee
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

Dear Convenor

Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Bill

In the recent Infrastructure and Capital Investment committee meeting held on the 11 November 2015 Shelter Scotland was mentioned by Mr Jonathan Gordon from Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors in Scotland in relation to student lets. I would be very grateful if the committee could be notified that our views were not accurately reflected by Mr Gordon.

According to the written report Mr Gordon said:

.....It is not a clever idea to include students, and I do not understand why the student lets sector was included in the first place. Nobody has asked for it. **Shelter has not asked for it** and none of the organisations that I am aware of has asked for it, other than, perhaps, the National Union of Students. Students are living in rooms for the term and then leaving, and to consider them among normal working people or people who are renting a home is not right, because the situation is totally different.....

This does not accurately represent Shelter Scotland’s view on this issue. Shelter Scotland does support security of tenure for students recognising the diversity of this particular group of private tenants.

Yours sincerely

Adam Lang
Head of Communications and Policy, Shelter Scotland