

Local Government and Communities Committee**Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill****Submission from Glasgow City Council**

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. Glasgow City Council have considered the proposals in the bill.

Please find a response to your consultation questions below.

Do you agree that measures should be taken to influence the ONS to reclassify RSLs as private sector bodies; and if not, please explain why?

Glasgow City Council agrees that measures should be taken to influence the ONS to reclassify RSLs as private sector bodies. Glasgow City Council manages the Affordable Housing Supply Programme in the city following the Transfer of the Management of Development Funding in 2003. This provides development funding for the 68 registered social landlords in the city however this funding is dependent on the associations being able to contribute approximately 40% of the cost of the development through reserves or borrowing. The ONS reclassification has consequences for association's ability to access additional loan funding and therefore has an impact on Glasgow's ability to deliver its contribution to the Scottish Government's More Homes Target of 50,000 new housing units for Scotland by 2021. We support the Scottish Government's proposals to reclassify RSLs as private sector bodies to ensure the continuation of our Strategic Housing Investment Programme.

Do you have any views on the appropriateness of the measures proposed in this Bill to bring about this reclassification?

Any concerns that we have centre around wanting to ensure that RSLs continue to be well managed organisations to protect tenants and the public investment in them. Although the amendments will still require the regulator to intervene where the registered social landlord is failing or has failed, it does take away the right to intervene at an earlier stage. It is perhaps more important now to emphasis the benefits of other performance monitoring organisations such as the Scottish Housing Network and Housemark Scotland as a way of maintaining standards and identifying early issues without statutory intervention.

Do you have views on whether the aims of the Bill could be achieved by other means?

Glasgow City Council supports the measures proposed in the Bill.

Yours Sincerely

Patrick Flynn
Head of Housing and Regeneration Services