

**Bob Doris MSP**  
**Convenor**  
**Local Government & Communities Committee**

14 November 2017

Dear Bob

### **Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill**

Thank you for meeting with me recently. I very much look forward to meeting with you and the rest of the Committee tomorrow to present our annual report and accounts and to explain more about our work.

I am also looking forward to the separate Committee session we have now arranged for the 29 November 2017 to discuss the Housing (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill. Ahead of this I wanted to give you more information on SHR's position.

We understand the need for the Bill, given the consequences of RSLs being classified to the public sector. We have been consulted by the Scottish Government during the development of the Bill's provisions.

We are a statutory body, and we act in accordance with the legislation that sets our objective, functions, powers and duties. As such, we will continue to act in accordance with any relevant legislation Parliament passes.

Our statutory objective and our functions will be unchanged by the proposals in the Bill. We will continue to work to safeguard and promote the interests of tenants, people who are homeless and others who use social landlords' services. We will use the powers given to us by Parliament to achieve that objective.

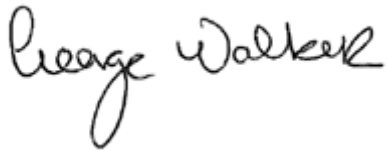
The Bill proposes a range of changes to our powers to appoint managers and to appoint and remove officers of registered social landlords. These proposed changes will limit the circumstances in which we can make such appointments. However, our view is that our current practice in relation to appointments and removals will continue to be consistent with the legislation after the amendments are made.

The proposed amendments to the provisions on consents will remove safeguards that can, and have, protected the interests of tenants, people who are homeless and others who use social landlords' services. The removal of consents will result in more risk within the social housing sector and may also result in the loss of advance regulatory intelligence. While we are confident that the vast majority of RSLs will use their new freedoms responsibly, and we will encourage others to continue to strengthen their decision-making, we will consider how we can best use the powers Parliament gives

us to help us to keep safeguarding the interests of tenants, people who are homeless and others who use social landlords' services. We will do this through the review of the regulatory framework we started earlier this year."

I hope this is useful in your consideration of the Bill, if you would like to clarify anything prior to the 29 November evidence session, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely



**George Walker**  
**Chair**  
Scottish Housing Regulator