



The Scottish Parliament  
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

### MINUTES

9th Meeting, 2021 (Session 5)

Wednesday 24 February 2021

Present:

|                                |                  |
|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Sarah Boyack (Deputy Convener) | Keith Brown      |
| James Dornan (Convener)        | Gordon MacDonald |
| Alexander Stewart              | Annie Wells      |
| Andy Wightman                  |                  |

Also present: Pauline McNeill (Member in charge of the Fair Rents (Scotland) Bill) and Aileen Campbell, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

The meeting opened at 9.00 am.

1. **Decision on taking business in private:** The Committee agreed to take item 5 in private.
2. **Fair Rents (Scotland) Bill:** The Committee took evidence on the Bill at Stage 1 from—

John Blackwood, Chief Executive, Scottish Association of Landlords;

Tony Cain, Policy Manager, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers;

Gordon Maloney, National Committee Member, Living Rent;

Nina Ballantyne, Strategic Lead, Social Justice, Citizen's Advice Scotland;

Professor Douglas Robertson, Consultant & Housing researcher, Stirling University - retired.

Sarah Boyack declared that she was previously employed as Head of Public Affairs for the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations.

3. **European Charter of Local Self-Government (Incorporation) (Scotland)**

**Bill:** The Committee considered the Bill at Stage 2 (Day 1).

The following amendments were agreed to without division: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 19, 13A, 13 (as amended), 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 were agreed to as amended.

Sections 8, 9, 10 and 11 were agreed to without amendment.

The long title was agreed to without amendment.

The Committee completed Stage 2 consideration of the Bill.

4. **Subordinate legislation:** The Committee considered the following negative instruments—

Non-Domestic Rating (Valuation of Utilities) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2021 (SSI 2021/59);

Non-Domestic Rate (Scotland) Order 2021 (SSI 2021/63);

Non-Domestic Rates (District Heating Relief and Renewable Energy Generation Relief) (Scotland) Amendment Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/64);

Non-Domestic Rates (Levying and Miscellaneous Amendments) (Scotland) Regulations 2021 (SSI 2021/65).

The Committee agreed to make no recommendations in relation to these instruments.

5. **Fair Rents (Scotland) Bill (in private):** The Committee considered the evidence heard earlier in the meeting.

The meeting closed at 12.41 pm.

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