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Ms Helen Moore

By Email:

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Our ref: 201900006476

26 November 2019

Dear Ms Moore

Thank you for your letter of 11 November, addressed to Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP, First Minister of Scotland. I am responding as affordable housing falls within my portfolio as Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government.

Firstly, it was a pleasure to address your organisation's Annual Conference 2019 – "Supporting our Communities to flourish" – on 15 November. Thank you again for inviting me and I hope that the whole day was a great success.

Thank you also for acknowledging within your correspondence our current ambitious affordable homes target and the key role your members play in helping to deliver those homes. Please be assured that the delivery of affordable housing in communities across Scotland, and in particular social housing, is and will remain a priority for this Government.

We recognise the momentum that the current 50,000 affordable homes target has built up, and we don't wish to be faced with a cliff edge scenario. That is why in last year's Programme for Government, we committed to work on a vision for how our homes and communities should look and feel by 2040 and the options and choices to get there, and this year we reaffirmed that commitment.

As part of the Housing to 2040 discussion, we absolutely recognise the importance of providing ongoing support for affordable housing. We will engage widely as we carefully consider the best balance of future housing priorities, and the best ways to ensure supply across all tenures and build on our More Homes Scotland approach.

We do need to think carefully about our approach, considering not just how to deliver new homes, but also how to maintain, look after, and improve the ones we've got. The Scottish Government recognises the challenges in keeping existing stock in good repair, particularly

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pre 1919 tenements. That investment in tenement stock is already possible where a Local Authority identifies it as a priority.

I know that your conference included a workshop so that your members could contribute their views on housing and the wider support for their communities as part of our 'Housing to 2040' discussions. I want to thank you for your contributions to date on this and look forward to hearing the further feedback from the discussion at your conference workshop.

Housing is a key component of Scotland's infrastructure, but no future plans can be decided until the UK government's budget has been published. The Scottish Government's aim is to publish a new Infrastructure Investment Plan and the Capital Spending Review by June 2020.

I hope the above reassures you that the provision of affordable homes and, in particular, homes for social rent, continues to be a priority for the Scottish Government. The contribution that your members make in helping to deliver affordable homes and creating successful communities, and the contribution that makes to the Scottish Government's key strategic priorities, is very much recognised and appreciated.

Kind regards



**AILEEN CAMPBELL**

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