

Tracey Burke
Director General – Education and Public Services
Group
Welsh Government

29 October 2019

Dear Tracey

Inquiry into the Regulatory Oversight of Housing Associations

Thank you for your letter of 3 October which the Public Accounts Committee considered on 21 October. The Committee was pleased to note that all the recommendations contained in its report have been completed.

As you will recall, during the evidence gathering of this inquiry, we were concerned about the skills/capacity within the Welsh Government's regulatory team. The recent Regulatory Board report appears to reiterate those concerns. The Minister for Local Government and Housing response to the Report makes clear that staffing matters are for the Permanent Secretary. The Committee wishes to receive clarification on how the question of skills/capacity is being addressed in the short-term notwithstanding that other developments in regulatory arrangements may have implications for resourcing downstream.

The response also notes that the review of affordable housing supply discusses the concept of domain regulation and the Committee is pleased to note that the Minister has committed to a review of the scope of regulation in relation to tenant services.

Finally, we welcomed the statement in the Minister's response to the Board Report that 'a social housing tenant is a social housing tenant, irrespective of whether their landlord is an RSL or a local authority and should expect similarly high-quality, good value services and they can share similar issues in holding their landlords to account'.



I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Nick Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

