

**PE1539/E**

Scottish Government Letter of 16 January 2015

**RESPONSE TO PETITION ON EXTENDING COVERAGE OF FOI TO RSLs**

16 January 2015

Dear Mr Sharratt

**CONSIDERATION OF PETITION PE1539**

Thank you for your letter of 10 December seeking the views of the Scottish Government with regard to Petition PE1539 and seeking further information on the timetable for the proposed consultation on extension of coverage of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 (FOISA).

At present we propose to go out to consultation on extension of coverage in the Spring once we have had a chance to consider the Scottish Information Commissioner's special report on extending coverage (expected to be laid in Parliament imminently). Following this, we would hope to be able to lay a further order extending the coverage of FOISA in Parliament this autumn. The Committee's views on this petition, along with the comments received from the other stakeholders you are consulting, will be helpful to us in considering further the issue of whether or not some or all housing associations should be subject to the requirements of FOISA.

I hope this information is helpful. We are grateful for the opportunity to consider this petition and the opportunities it provides us to consider the position of housing associations in relation to FOISA.

Yours sincerely,

Karen Lindsay  
Freedom of Information Unit  
Scottish Government