

ANGUS COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

28 FEBRUARY 2017

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON STATUTORY GUIDANCE FOR LOCAL
AUTHORITIES – LANDLORD REGISTRATION

1. Introduction

The Scottish Government is currently developing new statutory guidance for Local Authorities on Landlord Registration, in accordance with section 99A of the Antisocial Behaviour etc. (Scotland) Act 2004. Angus Council welcomed the opportunity to comment on this guidance.

2. Background

The private rented sector plays a strategic and important role in Scotland's housing system, having doubled in size in the 10 years since landlord registration was introduced in 2006. The sector must meet the needs of all households renting from private landlords. Existing legislation sets the framework but it must be used effectively to drive a more professional sector where there's no room for landlords who do not meet their legal requirements.

3. Overview

The aim of the guidance is to encourage local authorities to consider how good practice can be shared, and applied locally to help drive further improvements in the private rented sector and tackle the behaviour of the worst performing landlords. It moves away from the detailed process driven guidance that was developed when Landlord Registration was in its infancy.

4. Conclusions

The response submitted on behalf of Angus Council confirms that the proposal strengthens guidance to Local Authorities and reflects many of the current practices used in Angus. The guidance is less prescriptive in terms of how advice should be given; however it is still robust. It is considered to provide greater regulation in this sector.