

The existing homes alliance | scotland



13 February 2015

Minister for Housing and Welfare  
Margaret Burgess MSP  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh EH1 3DG

Dear Minister

### **Landlords Energy Saving Allowance**

We are writing to seek your support for an initiative calling on the UK Government to extend the Landlords Energy Saving Allowance (LESA) which is currently scheduled to end in April 2015. LESA was introduced by the UK Government in 2004, with the aim of encouraging landlords to improve the energy efficiency of let residential properties. Landlords can claim an allowance of up to £1,500 per dwelling for the costs of buying and installing cavity wall, loft, solid wall, floor and hot water system insulation and draught-proofing.

The Existing Homes Alliance Scotland, the Scottish Association of Landlords, and Scottish Land and Estates have joined with several UK-based organisations to produce a joint statement (attached) setting out the case for extending LESA. We believe that given adequate promotion and support, private landlords would take advantage of this tax incentive. This support will be vital in the coming years, given the planned Scottish Government consultation on regulation of energy efficiency in the private rented and owner/occupied sectors in spring 2015. We believe the regulations should be accompanied by a package of support to assist compliance, and LESA would play an important role in this regard.

Our colleagues have sent the joint statement to the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury, Priti Patel MP, and to the relevant parliamentary committees. We would appreciate any representation you could make to your UK counterparts to support the extension of LESA. This would send a strong message to landlords that support is available to undertake the simple, cost-effective measures that will help eradicate fuel poverty, improve the condition of their property, and help meet Scotland's ambitious climate change targets.

We will keep your officials informed of progress with the campaign. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the Existing Homes Alliance if you have any questions about this statement or the campaign more generally.

Sincerely yours,



Alan Ferguson  
Chair  
Existing Homes Alliance Scotland



John Blackwood  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Association of Landlords



Doug McAdam  
Chief Executive  
Scottish Land and Estates

Contact:

Elizabeth Leighton  
Secretariat  
Existing Homes Alliance Scotland  
[Elizabeth@leightonconsulting.co.uk](mailto:Elizabeth@leightonconsulting.co.uk)