

**Regional Networks**  
**Meeting held on Thursday 22 June 2023**  
**at 11.00**

**Present:**

Colin Stewart	CS	R1	Chair	Aberdeen City
Eric Spence	ES	R1	Committee Member	Argyll & Bute
Liz Richardson	LR	R1	Vice Chair	Highlands
Jackie Bugden	JB	R1	Committee Member	Highlands
Linda Lennie	LL	R1	Committee Member	Orkney Islands
Kath Fennell	KF	R1	Committee Member	Orkney Islands
Gordon Saunders	GS	R2	Chair	Borders
Irina Lazarenko	IL	R2	Vice Chair	City of Edinburgh
Bill Campbell	BCa	R2	Committee Member	Fife
Alan Dalby	AD	R2	Committee Member	Fife
Bruce Cuthbertson	BCu	R3	Vice Chair	East Ayrshire
Margaret Dymond	MD	R3	Committee Member	Renfrewshire
Shona Gorman	SG	R4	Chair	Falkirk
John Duffy	JD	R4	Committee Member	North Lanarkshire
Frances McGonagle	FMcG	R4	Committee Member	West Dunbartonshire
June Todd	JT	R4	Committee Member	West Dunbartonshire

**In attendance:**

Carolynne Watson	CW		Scottish Government	
Michael Boal	MB		Scottish Government	
Lesley Baird	LB		Consultancy	

**Apologies / Absent:**

Isabella Vint	IV	R2	Committee Member	Apologies
Anne Cameron	AC	R3	Chair	Apologies
Norma Ferguson	NF	R3	Committee Member	Apologies
June Anderson	JAn	R4	Committee Member	Apologies
Jeanette Arneil	JAr	R4	Committee Member	Apologies
Donna Murray	DM	R4	Committee Member	Apologies
William Derrick	WD	R4	Committee Member	Apologies

	Time	MAIN ROOM ITEMS	ACTION
1	11:00	<p><b>Welcome, Apologies and Declarations of interest</b></p> <p>SG welcomed everyone to the meeting. Under Declarations of Interest, CS noted his role as a Board member of the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR).</p> <p>SG noted apologies as per the above.</p>	
2	11:05	<p><b>Business Matters</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Correspondence</u>: None.</li> <li>• <u>Chairs Update</u>: Nothing discussed which is not already on the agenda for today's meeting.</li> <li>• <u>Minutes of 19 April Main Room Discussion</u>: Corrections to the attendance and apologies/absence lists were noted. LR noted corrections to the minute of 19 April under the Scottish Government Accessible Housing and Independent Living group, regarding the topics of focus for the group. The minutes were proposed by MD and seconded by LR</li> <li>• <u>Finance report</u>: The finance report sits as per the AGM on 3 June.</li> </ul> <p>Bank account opening balance on 1 April = £267.61  Income of £5,000.00  Expenditure of £311.70  Giving a closing balance on the account on 31-May of £4955.91.  Cash in Hand remains at £16.33  Total Region 1 Funds = £4972.24 as at 31 May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Matters Arising</u>: None.</li> </ul>	

	Time	MAIN ROOM ITEMS	ACTION
3	11:30	<p><b>Sub Group Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>RN Accessibility Group &amp; Scottish Government Accessible Housing &amp; Independent Living group</u>:</li> </ul> <p>CW updated on the May meeting of the Regional Networks Accessibility group, highlighting that the group spent this session honing in on the topics they are keen to explore further as a group. The group have identified 4 key topics for further consideration at this time, including the moving in process, Occupational Therapy (OT) assessment/ Aids and adaptations, Design and homes for life and Advice and Support. CW noted that the group's discussions will feed into the broader Scottish</p>	

Government Accessible Housing & Independent Living group, of which LR and CS are members. This input will support LR and CS in their roles in representing tenants' lived experience on the SG group.

LR noted that the next meeting of the SG stakeholder group is set to take place on 29 June, although an agenda is still to be received for this meeting. LR also noted that recent ONS research shows that 1 in 4 disabled people rent social housing, a statistic which highlights the importance of people with lived experience in relation to housing and disability being directly involved in policy-making.

- Rent focus group:

The survey and focus groups are now complete, and the next phase of the work of the group will be reporting of outcomes. Lesley Baird is supporting the group with this work, and has begun development of a report which will draw together the outcomes and conclusions of the group's work over the last 2 years. Lesley will be sharing progress with the report with the group and with Scottish Government as this progresses.

- SHR Liaison group:

SG updated on the SHR Liaison group's meeting with representatives from SHR on 25 April. This meeting was attended by the SHR's Chief Executive Michael Cameron and Chair George Walker as well as SHR tenant Board members Colin Stewart and Helen Trouten Torres. A range of topics were discussed including tenant involvement in SHR's Regulatory Framework review, homelessness, the cost of living crisis and damp and mould. In terms of damp and mould, the group noted they are keen to see indicators on this included in the Annual Return on the Charter (ARC), given the implications for tenant safety. The group also highlighted the importance of effective tenant participation, and requested SHR give further consideration to the possibility of a thematic study with a focus on TP. SHR's Tenant Advisors are currently doing fieldwork on TP and outcomes from this work are awaited.

MB highlighted SHR's recent publication of a discussion paper on the regulation of social housing which was published on 9 June. Regional Network members will be invited to share their views on the discussion paper, and MB will facilitate a meeting for members prior to the next

**MB**

		<p>SHR Liaison group pre-meeting on 25 July. MB will arrange this session with members directly.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Housing to 2040/ Strategic Board:</u></li> </ul> <p>CS noted that the next meeting of the Housing to 2040 Strategic Board will be on 29 June.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>Regional Network Communications sub-group:</u></li> </ul> <p>The Communications sub-group will be meeting on Monday 26 June, with the main focus of this session to consider options for progressing the website. Members agreed that this year they are keen for the Comms group to be involved with a restructure and ultimately, a re-branding of the Regional Networks given the changes of the past few years.</p>	
4	11:50	<p><b>Update on Regional Networks meeting with Minister for Housing</b></p> <p>CW noted that Mr McLennan's Private Office have proposed a date of 27 September for a virtual meeting between the Minister and representatives of the Regional Networks. On that basis, CW noted that a pre-meeting would normally be held for those attending around 4 weeks ahead of the meeting with the Minister in order to hone in on the points Network members are keen to raise. CW will be in contact with attendees to confirm a date for this session. In the meantime, Chairs will liaise with committee members in order to identify attendees for this meeting.</p>	<b>CW/ Chairs</b>
5	12:00	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSION:</b> Looking to the future: Interactive Session with Lesley Baird</p>	
6	13:45	<p><b>INDIVIDUAL COMMITTEE BUSINESS</b></p>	
7	14:15	<p><b>BREAKOUT SESSION:</b> Building a Team: Interactive Session with Lesley Baird</p>	
8	15:00	<p><b>A.O.C.B.</b></p> <p>Members raised the view that the proposed restructure and rebranding cannot wait, and should be progressed immediately. CW noted that it will be important to take time to get this process right and to put in place a structure which works for the Networks as they stand now. Network members remain keen to begin this work as soon as possible, and discussed whether a working group should be established to support this work. The Communications sub-group will discuss the support they can</p>	

		<p>give to this work at their upcoming meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June, but agreed in the first instance they would like to know more about how similar projects have been carried out in the past.</p> <p>SG thanked all attendees for their time and contribution today, and wished everyone a safe journey home.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>15:05</b>	<p><b>Date and Time of Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wednesday 16 August, via Zoom.</li> </ul>	

Date	16-Aug-23
Proposed	LR
Seconded	GS