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To Heads of Scottish Planning
Authorities

4 September 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Current Consultation on Housing and the Scottish Planning Policy

It has been drawn to my attention that some authorities may be viewing the current consultation on proposed changes to the Scottish Planning Policy as a direction from Ministers which may be given significant weight in current planning decisions.

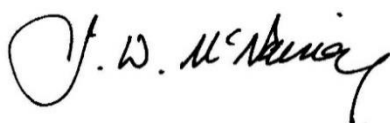
Based on this feedback, I feel that it is important to clarify that no final decisions have been made on a change to existing policy. Any such change will be informed by the consultation and we encourage all stakeholders to respond. Until then the existing policy remains in place.

I would also like to make it clear to all authorities that none of the changes proposed in the consultation aim to undermine or contradict Ministers' stated commitments to delivering good quality development, including housing and renewable energy projects.

We have now adjusted the introductory wording introducing the consultation paper online to bring clarity to this position. The consultation closes on 9 October and we expect to reach a final policy position as soon as practicable thereafter.

I trust this clarifies our position in the meantime.

Yours faithfully



John McNairney
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