



FALKIRK COUNCIL
Housing Headquarters
DennyTown House, 23 Glasgow Road, Denny FK6 5DL.
Telephone: 01324 504000
Fax: 01324 504001

Enquiries to: Mr D Dunbar
Housing & Social Work Services

Date: 20 June 2002

Tony Cain
Housing Improvement Task Force
Scottish Executive Development Department
Housing Division 2
Victoria Quay
EDINBURGH
EH6 6QQ

Dear Tony,

Housing Improvement Task Force — First Report

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the first report of the Housing Improvement Task Force, *Issues in Improving Quality in Private Sector Housing*.

The establishment and remit of the Task Force is welcome, as is the Executive's commitment to an open and consultative process.

I have no detailed comments to make on the key conclusions outlined in the report, which essentially demonstrate the need for change.

Some clarification from the Executive would be appreciated on how it proposes to integrate the work of the Task Group with other related issues. For example, I understand it is the Executive's intention to introduce the changes to the Repair and Improvement Grant system within the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 from Autumn 2002, prior to the recommendations of the Task Force being formed. Having regard to the Task Force's remit to consider financial assistance available to owner occupiers and the powers available to local authorities to compel owners to invest in their properties, could there be scope for contradictions to arise? The results of the current House Condition Survey and forthcoming Local Housing Strategies being prepared by local authorities would also seem to be worth considering in this context.

The second report, incorporating recommendations, will obviously be of greater interest as will the Executive's position on funding their implementation.

Yours sincerely

Colin Gray
HEAD OF RESOURCES, NEEDS AND PLANNING

Director: Janet Birks
Brockville, Falkirk FK1 5RW
LP 3 Falkirk-2.
Telephone: 01324 506400
Fax: 01324506401

www.falkirk.gov.uk