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Dear colleagues

Following the publication of the [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Strategic Framework](#), with many local authority areas moving from one protection level to another (in particular those areas moving in and out of Level 4) we are writing to reiterate the continued importance of the social housing sector as we seek to balance the various harms of this pandemic.

As we have stated in previous correspondence, services to tenants such as repairs, voids processing, allocations and lettings, dealing with anti-social behaviour, tenancy sustainment and homelessness prevention work are all essential services that should continue to take place throughout the pandemic. We are incredibly grateful for your efforts to ensure people across Scotland can find or remain in warm, safe housing during this difficult time.

In what has been an extremely challenging year, much has been learnt across all parts of the social housing sector that we will build on as we move into 2021. Nonetheless we know that we continue to operate in uncertain times. The roll out of a vaccine has brought an important glimpse of light at the end of this tunnel, but the impact of this virus – on health, our society and the economy - will be with us for some time to come. The impact of the imminent EU exit will doubtless bring fresh challenges.

The partnerships between Local Government, national Government, housing providers, and organisations that support tenants have strengthened through this year, and will continue to be vital as we move forwards. We will endeavour to work with the sector where updates to guidance are required, and please do regularly check <https://www.gov.scot/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance/> and <https://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus> for the latest National and local updates. The latest advice on EU Exit will be available at [www.prepareforbrexit.scot](http://www.prepareforbrexit.scot).

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Finally we want to express our deep gratitude to everyone working across the social housing sector. We know that many of you will continue working throughout the festive season, however we hope that you will be able to take a well-earned break in the coming weeks and to reflect on all you and your colleagues have achieved in this extraordinary year, in which homes and communities have been of central importance.



**KEVIN STEWART**



**COUNCILLOR ELENA WHITHAM**

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