

Dear

Annual Rent Consultation

We are writing to ask you to take part in this year's rent consultation. We're setting out three options in the enclosed leaflet and asking for your feedback by **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**. With the current economic crisis, it is even more important that you let us know your views.

You've probably heard that between now and the end of March 2023, all rents – for social housing tenants and for private tenants – have been frozen by the Scottish Government because of the cost-of-living crisis. This hasn't affected your rent yet, as we only set rents once a year, every April.

The Scottish Government will confirm by 14 January 2023 whether housing associations are allowed to raise rents in April 2023. However, both the Scottish Government and Scottish Housing Regulator have said that housing associations should still carry out normal consultations with tenants on rents for next year. We will contact you again once we know what the Scottish Government has decided.

How will we set your rent for next year?

As you may know, we are a charity that exists to provide good quality homes at affordable rents. We will always do our best to keep your rents as low as possible.

The cost-of-living crisis affecting our tenants, and the many inflationary pressures which the association has been facing, make it especially important that our consultation with you finds the right balance between rent affordability and the need to maintain our services and continue investing in our homes. This includes things like replacing kitchens and bathrooms and further improving the energy efficiency of our homes to help limit your energy costs.

What should you do next?

The leaflet enclosed with this letter sets out the options we are considering for next year. You can let us know your views by:

- completing and returning the feedback form in the enclosed prepaid envelope, or
- completing the feedback form online at www.riversidescotland.org.uk or
- emailing involvement@riversidescotland.org.uk

If you are worried about paying your rent, please get in touch with us straight away, so we can talk about how we can help.

We hope you will let us know what you think.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Heather Anderson".

Heather Anderson

Head of Service Delivery