

Your details

Please complete the following details below. It is essential that we have a name and the name of any organisation if you are responding on their behalf. Contact details would be helpful if we need to follow up on any points.

Name:	Robert Thomson
Organisation:	Care and Repair Scotland
Email address:	thomson.robert@btconnect.com
Phone number:	01412219879
Would you like us to keep your response confidential:	no

Consultation questions

Below you will find response boxes for each of our consultation questions. If possible, please base your response on answers to these questions.

Some questions may be somewhat irrelevant to your interests, in which case please feel free to answer as many or as few as you like. And please feel free to offer other comments if you think they are relevant to our remit. There is space at the end for you to do so.

You can skip to the section(s) that you wish to respond to through the links below:

1. [Wellbeing](#)
2. [Housing and investment](#)
3. [Housing and the economy](#)
4. [Housing and welfare policy](#)
5. [Housing and the environment](#)
6. [Housing and health and education](#)
7. [Housing and community regeneration](#)
8. [The Private Rented Sector \(PRS\)](#)



Section 1: Our assessment of the importance of housing for wellbeing in Scotland

Q.1. Has our assessment of housing and wellbeing missed any important benefits and, if so, which benefits and what is the evidence for this?

The context of people 'flourishing' in their homes sits well with the objectives of Care and Repair Scotland and we are pleased to see this focus in the thinking of the Commission members.

Q.2. Has our assessment exaggerated any of the benefits of housing for wellbeing and, if so, in what respects and what are your reasons for saying this?

Section 2: Does Scotland invest enough in housing?

Q.3. Do you agree with our assessment of the current position on investment in housing?



Commission on Housing & Wellbeing

Q.4. Do you agree with our brief assessment of current policy on investment in housing?

Q.5. Do you agree with our suggestions for further action in the area of investment in housing?

We agree with the view that the Scottish Government should undertake a review of the need for more investment in existing private sector housing and think a reasonable starting point is to review the effectiveness of the 2006 Act, particularly of the Scheme of Assistance, which do not believe has delivered the stated aim, at the time of introduction, of assisting more owner occupiers than ever before. The Act included a clause that would allow SG to review the effectiveness of the SoA after 5 years and this has not taken place.

6. Do you have any other suggestions that we have not mentioned in relation to investment in housing?



Section 3: Getting a better fit between housing and the economy

Q.7. Do you agree with our assessment of the current position regarding housing and the economy? What more would you add?

Q.8. Do you agree with our assessment of the current situation of UK Government policy with regards to the housing market and the economy?

Q.9. What are your views about the five areas of policy reforms suggested here?



Section 4: Getting a better fit between housing and welfare policy

Q.10. Do you agree with our assessment of the current position regarding housing and welfare benefits? What more would you add?

Q.11. Do you agree with our assessment of the current situation of government policy at UK levels and the possible outcomes post-referendum? What more would you add?

Q.12. What are your views about the medium term policy options presented here? What other ideas and issues strike you over this time frame?



Q.13. Do you agree that we have a unique opportunity to consider longer term policy options over the next key period in Scotland's history? How do you respond to the options proposed here? Are there other options that should be considered?

Section 5: Getting a better fit between housing and the environment

Q.14. Do you agree with our assessment of the importance of housing to the environment?

Q.15. Do you agree with our brief assessment of current policy on housing in relation to the environment?



Q.16. Do you agree with our suggestions for further action in the area of housing and the environment?

We fully support the view that we need to minimise the need to demolish and replace existing housing

Q.17. Do you have other suggestions that we have not mentioned in relation to housing and the environment?

Section 6: Housing and Health and Education

Q.18. Do you agree with our on our assessment of the importance of housing to health and education?



Q.19. Do you agree with our brief assessment of current policy on housing and health and education?

Yes, particularly:

- Lack of suitable aids and adaptations in the home and, in some cases, lack of repairs and maintenance can trigger falls which, in turn, can lead to emergency admissions to hospital and premature admissions to care homes.

Q.20. Do you agree with our suggestions for further action in the area of housing and health and education?

Yes – whole heartedly support them.

Would like to see some consideration given to actions points to support people with dementia and enable them to flourish in a home and community setting.

Q.21. Do you have other suggestions which we have not mentioned in relation to housing and health and education?

We believe that the Commission should expand on the statements made on page 30 in relation to Scottish Government's current 10 year strategy for housing older people. If the Commission takes the view that, 'it is far from clear how these are to be implemented' the report should make it clear that this is unacceptable and suggest action points to move this agenda forward. This strategy is far too important to be left to the vagaries of locality planning and short term thinking.

Likewise, we feel that there is scope for the Commission to expand on its statement about the about The Public Bodies Act and the role of housing. Is it acceptable to the Commission that, 'although some consideration has been given to the role of housing subsequently, it is not yet clear that these ad hoc changes will prove to be satisfactory'?

Should the Commission not press the Scottish Government for further assurances that housing will have a full a partnership role? The Chair mentioned at the recent seminar that some issues warranted 'controlled anger' – we believe that these are two policy areas that require such a response from the Commission!



Section 7: Housing and Community Regeneration

Q.22. Do you agree with our on our assessment of the importance of community regeneration?

Q.23. Do you agree with our brief assessment of current policy on community regeneration?

Q.24. Do you agree with our suggestions for further action in the area of community regeneration?



Q.25. Do you have other suggestions which we have not mentioned in relation to community regeneration?

Section 8: Do we need a more robust private rented sector?

Q.26. Do you agree with our views on the need for a more effective private rented sector which can make a greater contribution to meeting housing needs?

Q.27. Do you agree with our brief assessment of current policy on the private rented sector?



Commission on Housing & Wellbeing

Q.28. Do you agree with our suggestions for further action in the private rented sector?

Q.29. Do you have other suggestions which we have not mentioned in relation to the private rented sector?

Do you have any further comments in relation to the Commission on Housing and Wellbeing's consultation paper?

The Commission should be congratulated on its thoughtful and refreshingly frank presentation of the issues around housing and wellbeing in Scotland.