

**QUESTION NO 4**

**By Councillor Booth for answer by the Convener of the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee at a meeting of the Council on 10 December 2020**

Following the recent publication of the Scottish Government's 'Private Sector Rent Statistics', which show that private sector rents in the Lothians are the most expensive in Scotland, and have risen by 45.9% for a 2-bed property in the period 2010 to 2020, while the consumer price index for the same period has risen by 21.5%, please could the Convener respond to the following questions:

- Question** (1) Does the Convener consider that the evidence required in order for the council to apply for a rent pressure zone is deliverable?
- Answer** (1)
- Question** (2) Does the Convener consider that, if the council were to have the power to require landlords to declare the rents they charge at point of landlord registration and annually thereafter, this would provide sufficient evidence to allow for an RPZ to be applied for?
- Answer** (2)
- Question** (3) Does the Convener consider that the power to take action to address excessive rent rises should lie with local authorities, or with the Scottish Government?
- Answer** (3)
- Question** (4) When did the Convener last meet with Scottish Government officials or ministers to discuss action to tackle rising private sector rents, and what was the conclusion of that discussion?
- Answer** (4)
- Question** (5) Would the council consider publicising the Rent Service Scotland process for challenging excessive private sector rents, to private sector tenants in Edinburgh?

**Answer**

**(5)**