



## Private Landlord Newsletter

Welcome to the August 2025 edition of the Argyll & Bute Council Private Landlord Newsletter.

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### Landlord Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recent Landlord Survey - your feedback helps shape the support we offer to better meet your needs.

These are the top 5 topics that mattered to you:

- 1. Available Grant Funding**
- 2. Home Energy Efficiency Projects & Grant Funding**
- 3. Landlord Registration**
- 4. Property Maintenance Standards and Dealing with Disrepair**
- 5. Ending a Tenancy Agreement**



Many of you also suggested additional topics and questions which you were interested in receiving more information around. We have compiled these into a handy '[Your Questions Answered](#)' page on the Private Landlord Advice Hub website, to answer some of your questions in more detail.

You also told us that some of the biggest barriers to attending **Landlord Forums** were time and distance. We are working hard to make sure that all of the information we provide is as accessible as possible, and using our [Private Landlord Advice Hub](#) to showcase helpful information for you to access at any time.

### Landlord Forum - 25 August 2025

We're excited to invite you to our upcoming **Landlord Forum on Monday, 25th August 2025**, from **2:30pm to 4:30pm**, hosted online via Microsoft Teams.

This session will spotlight your top concerns - **Grants** and **Home Energy Efficiency** - based on feedback from our recent survey.

### Meet the Speakers

Get expert insights from:

- Home Energy Scotland's **Specialist Advice & Technical Manager** for the Highlands & Islands
- Argyll & Bute Council's **Home Energy Efficiency Project Officer**
- Argyll & Bute Council's **Housing Strategy Manager**, with updates on the recently reviewed **Scheme of Assistance**

### How to Join:

Reserve your free ticket today through [Eventbrite](#) or contact us at [privatelandlordsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:privatelandlordsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk) if you would like any assistance with joining.

### What to Expect:

- Presentations will be recorded and made available on our website afterwards.
- The Q&A sessions will not be recorded, but anonymised responses will be compiled into an FAQ document to share key highlights with everyone.

We're looking forward to an informative and interactive forum and hope to see you there!

## Minimum Energy Efficiency Standards (MEES) and Heat & Energy Efficiency Technical Suitability Assessment (HEETSA) Consultations

The Scottish Ministers intend to bring forward legislation to **reform the current Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) system** in September 2025. These regulations would see a new EPC system created, including the introduction of a new Heat Retention Rating (HRR). These changes to the EPC system are likely to come into effect in Autumn 2026 and the new HRR is intended to be the basis for a possible future **Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES)** for the Private Rented Sector (PRS).



In relation to the above, the Scottish Government are now seeking input from landlords on two key consultations.

### **What is being proposed?**

The Government are proposing a new **Minimum Energy Efficiency Standard (MEES)** requiring all PRS properties, as far as is possible, to reach reformed **EPC Heat Retention Rating Band C** by **2028 for new tenancies**, and **2033 for all tenancies**.

The Scottish Government are also seeking views on the concept and initial proposals for a **Heat & Energy Efficiency Technical Suitability Assessment (HEETSA)**. This would be an **additional option** for those seeking a more bespoke assessment of the technical suitability of their properties for energy efficiency improvements. The results of a HEETSA could therefore help to support landlords as evidence of how their building could or could not comply with the proposed PRS MEES.

### **How to Get Involved:**

Further details are available on the Scottish Government website below. Share your views and help inform future policies by responding to both consultations before **29th August 2025**:

[MEES Consultation - gov.scot](#)

[HEETSA Consultation - gov.scot](#)

## **Universal Credit Guidance from the Department for Work and Pensions**

If you're a landlord receiving benefits, or supporting tenants who do, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) website has advice to help navigate housing-related payments more smoothly.

[Universal Credit: information for landlords](#)

This comprehensive collection of guidance includes information about:

- **Alternative Payment Arrangements - where a tenant may require assistance with managing their monthly payment.**
- **The Housing Queries Routeway - for assistance with resolving queries about Universal Credit.**
- **Top Tips for Landlords**
- **The Deduction from Benefits Scheme**

The page also contains links to additional guidance to support tenants with their claim to Universal Credit.

## **Leasing Spotlight on... Landlord Accreditation**



Did you know that you can sign up to be an **accredited landlord** for free?

[Landlord Accreditation Scotland \(LAS\)](#) is the national accreditation scheme for landlords and letting agents in Scotland's private rented sector, offering professional recognition at no cost.



To maintain accreditation, LAS simply ask landlords who manage their own properties to **attend one webinar or information session per year**. Once accredited, you'll be able to include this on property listings to showcase your standards as a high-quality landlord.

Accredited landlords also benefit from:

- **Discounted rates for LAS webinars and events**
- **Access to expert advice and guidance**
- **Help navigating legislation and staying compliant**

Signing up is quick and easy – you just have to agree to meet the [core standards](#).

For more information, visit [landlordaccreditationscotland.com](http://landlordaccreditationscotland.com).

## More Information

Thank you for reading our Private Landlord Newsletter. If you have any suggestions for future newsletter topics, please let us know.

You can also contact us for tailored support at [privatelandlordsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:privatelandlordsupport@argyll-bute.gov.uk), or visit our [Private Landlord Advice Hub](#) for more helpful information.

The Council's [Landlord Registration Team](#) will continue to assist you with all of your registration requirements, and can be contacted at [landlord.registration@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:landlord.registration@argyll-bute.gov.uk).

For information on [Short-Term Lets](#), you can contact [short-termlets@argyll-bute.gov.uk](mailto:short-termlets@argyll-bute.gov.uk)

Thank you,

**Private Landlord Team**



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