

Wed 08/07/2020 11:32

From: David Aitchison [REDACTED]

Subject: 7 July meeting with Shelter Scotland

To: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <[REDACTED]>; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning [REDACTED]

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Dear Cabinet Secretary and Minister,

Thanks for taking the time to speak with our new Director, Alison Watson, yesterday. I'm sure you'll agree we covered a lot of ground and it was good to hear your perspectives on where we are currently at and what we need to do progressing out of the pandemic.

The discussions around NRPF were particularly interesting – especially around the Glasgow incident a fortnight ago. Cabinet Secretary, you mentioned an interest in continuing a dialogue with Alison on our work around this and the Scottish Government's continued efforts to improve conditions for those seeking asylum. We'd be keen to take you up on that, so please do let us know how we can assist and contribute to this work.

Thanks again, and all the best,
David

David Aitchison
Public Affairs Officer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



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Coronavirus housing advice

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From: David Aitchison **Sent:** 09 July
2020 16:09

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning ; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

Subject: Shelter Scotland 3-point plan update

Good afternoon,

Shelter Scotland is renewing its call for our 3 point plan to be implemented – please see the attached updated briefing on the plan.

Cuts to LBTT are no substitute for the construction of affordable homes.

The Scottish Government has acted decisively to protect renters and house rough sleepers during this crisis. We are calling on the Scottish Government to commit to further protection for renters from evictions and to prioritise the resources it has to urgently invest in social housebuilding. This will stimulate the economy, protect and create jobs and provide homes to those in greatest need.

As we face the most serious economic downturn in living memory, we need decisive action that matches the scale of the crisis.

While additional funding for discretionary housing payments to help renters is welcome these are only available to people on social security benefits and it is unlikely to be enough to stop a tidal wave of evictions and new cases of homelessness.

Best wishes,
David

David Aitchison
Public Affairs Officer
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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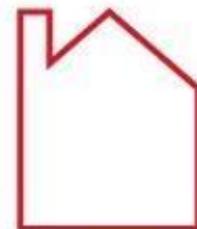
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Shelter Scotland: 3-point plan

Never before have we understood how important having a safe home is. **Stay home, save lives** has been the key message during this health crisis, but due to the housing emergency for many people this has not been possible.

The Scottish Government has however acted decisively and swiftly during the coronavirus pandemic to move those who were sleeping rough into safe accommodation and passed emergency legislation to protect most tenants from eviction for 6 months. This has meant we have seen those who are at the very sharp end of homelessness, who have been living on our streets, protected and supported in hotel accommodation. People who are struggling to pay their rent have been thrown a lifeline, as they try and sort out how they can pay their rent, bills and essential living expenses having suddenly lost their incomes.

However, as these emergency provisions come to an end in October, and the impact of the pandemic will be felt for many months to come, similar decisive action must be taken to ensure we do not step backwards. We do not want a return to the “old normal” putting people’s lives and homes at risk during these very uncertain times.

In the short term we need to ensure people are not at risk of ending up living on our streets again or losing their home through evictions for rent arrears, due to the impact of the pandemic.

In the longer term building enough affordable homes to reduce housing need must be a top priority, with people empowered to be able to fight for their right to a safe home.

Extend the emergency coronavirus powers to protect people from being evicted

From private rented housing, social housing, and temporary accommodation for any reason other than significant anti-social behaviour until at least April 2021

Prevention of homelessness

We are extremely concerned about the increasing risk of homelessness for those who are currently housed. Unemployment figures have increased, and social security claims have spiked, which indicates that there is the real prospect that when the furlough scheme ends, many thousands more will be unable to pay their rent or their mortgage. The scale of this prospect can be seen in the 8.7m jobs that are currently furloughed and the 1.5m claims to Universal Credit, 6 times more than the same period last year.

The housing emergency has become even more pronounced due to the pandemic, and the increase in people being pushed into homelessness with 13,175 households now in temporary accommodation, an increase of 7.5% on the previous month¹. This indicates very clearly that people are not coping.

Throughout the pandemic period, the proportion of our helpline cases in which the clients needed help with their financial situation has increased by 7% compared to the same period in 2019. Rent arrears are accruing, and clients who already had rent arrears prior to the pandemic are unable to maintain repayments to agreed repayment plans.

¹ [Scottish Housing Regulator, 19 June 2020](#)

The harsh reality is that not all clients will manage to repay their missed payments, as a result of their financial circumstances worsening during this pandemic. As of the end of May, **rent arrears in social housing stood at over £156 million, up by more than £8.5 million – or 5.8% – from April²**. We expect this to be just the start of such financial difficulty, and anticipate it will go on well into 2021, at the very least.

Prior to the pandemic many households were already struggling to pay their rent with 2,138 social sector evictions due to rent arrears in 2018/19. Our housing advisers are now seeing families who are in significant hardship, choosing between paying their rent or for food. For many people who were struggling to pay their rent prior to the pandemic and had rent repayment plans set up, there is an additional issue as the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) suspended third party deductions for two weeks at the start of May, with no warning. These direct payments to landlords have now been reinstated, again with no explanation, but unfortunately the impact of this is still ongoing.

Unless we act quickly, we will face a tsunami of homelessness in the coming months. It is therefore imperative that current emergency powers are extended to prevent people from eviction for any reason other than anti-social behaviour until 2021. Supporting people to be able to stay in suitable temporary accommodation or in their own homes is the best way of protecting people during, and in the aftermath of, this pandemic.

No return to rough sleeping – funding must continue to house those at risk

At the start of the coronavirus pandemic, the Scottish Government acted quickly to ensure that those who had been rough sleeping were moved into safe hotel accommodation, and off the streets. However, funding for this accommodation is nearing an end.

We need urgent action to ensure people currently in these hotels are supported into good quality temporary accommodation, or settled homes, before the funding is stopped.

In addition to this support must be provided for people who enter into the homeless system and need to be safely housed. The population in the hotels is not a static one and there will be people struggling to keep their homes, or no longer able to sofa surf or stay with family and we must ensure that as the hotel accommodation is stopped people are supported into safe accommodation as they enter the homelessness system.

Stopping the use of emergency dormitory style night shelters

We do not want to see a return to people living on our streets or a return to using dormitory style emergency night shelters. Many people who use emergency night shelters describe them as unpleasant and intimidating places to be, and report finding themselves stuck in the system because of a lack of move-on options.³

Local authorities must take a proactive approach to assessing and anticipating need and acquiring temporary accommodation accordingly, so no-one is left without safe and suitable accommodation. The Everyone Home collective has also provided a route map on how to support people who do fall through the gaps and require emergency temporary accommodation with support to find and keep a home⁴.

² [Ibid](#)

³ <https://www.everyonehome.scot/pdf/route-map.pdf>

⁴ [Ibid](#)

Build 53,000 affordable homes to reduce housing need and housing poverty in Scotland

Prior to the pandemic, we were already in a housing emergency with a significant shortage of socially rented homes for people who cannot afford to buy a home and cannot afford the private rented sector.

Over the three-year period 2015-18, just over 1 million people, or one in five people in Scotland, were in relative poverty after housing costs.

As of March 2019, 132,000 households were on the waiting list for local authority social housing. As of September 2019, there were 11,342 households in temporary accommodation, including 7,252 children. These figures are at an all-time high, and are resulting in a bottleneck situation where households in temporary accommodation are having to wait longer for permanent homes. On average, 178 days were spent in temporary accommodation at the most recent data release, with many having to endure far longer stays: for example, households with children in Midlothian spent, on average, 477 days in temporary accommodation.

Shelter Scotland, together with CIH and SFHA commissioned independent [research](#) to assess the number of affordable homes required to reduce housing need in Scotland. The research shows that we urgently need a commitment to ensure that as part of social and economic recovery plans an ambitious target is set to **build 53,000 affordable homes**, of which **37,100 should be socially rented homes over the next 5 year period**.⁵

By committing to this ambitious target Scotland can start reducing housing need, tackle child poverty and kick-start the economic recovery. We are calling on all political parties to commit to a capital investment programme of £3.4 billion over 5 years, ensuring that social housing is at the heart of its social justice and child poverty programmes and Scotland's recovery from Coronavirus.

Empower people to guarantee their right to a safe home

Scotland has some progressive housing and homelessness rights, but we know that too often people either do not know their rights or how to assert them, or when people try to assert their rights, they are turned away.

In the first few weeks of the coronavirus pandemic, we saw instances of gatekeeping⁶ sharply decrease, which was in part as a result of the swift action taken by the government to provide additional funding for hotel accommodation. However, in recent weeks we have unfortunately seen an increase in local authorities failing in their duties to provide temporary accommodation. Our law service has logged at least 30 instances of gatekeeping since April, including in smaller local authorities where we have not previously seen gatekeeping cases. These cases include clients being told they are ineligible for homelessness assistance based on their nationality, before any investigation into eligibility has actually been carried out. When these decisions were challenged it was found that they were entitled to homelessness assistance.

Renters, home owners and all housing consumers should have the power to enforce their legal rights. We are calling for a new human rights bill to be introduced which will include having a safe, decent and affordable home. This must be supported by stronger consumer protection to make sure nobody can be denied their

⁵ [Shelter Scotland \(2020\). Affordable housing need in Scotland post-2021](#)

⁶ The term 'gatekeeping' refers to any instance in which the local authority fails to comply with their legal duty to a homeless household, such as failing to take a homeless application, or failing to provide temporary accommodation where they have a legal duty to do so.

right to a safe home, especially as we move into a period in which many households across the country will be experiencing financial uncertainty.

From: Debbie King <[REDACTED]> **Sent:** 24 July 2020 14:29

To: Scottish Ministers <Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot>

Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; Alison Watson

<[REDACTED]>; Gordon MacRae <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Joint letter to the Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Dear Mr Stewart, please find attached a letter I am submitting on behalf of a coalition of third sector organisations from across the housing, homelessness and social welfare sectors who work with clients impacted by the financial crisis created by the pandemic.

We are supportive of the emergency measures that you have implemented. We now wish to add our call and support for further mitigation efforts for people who are struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

In order to gather more support and help counter any dissenting views the intention is to send out this letter early next week through media and social media.

We look forward to your response and should you require any further information please do get in touch.

Many thanks

Debbie

Debbie King
National Policy Advocacy Manager
[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Shelter Scotland

Scotiabank House

6 South Charlotte Street

Edinburgh

EH2 4AW

Due to government guidance on the Coronavirus Pandemic, I am now working from home; you can still contact me via Skype, phone and email as normal. I will respond to your email as soon as possible

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Coronavirus housing advice

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Kevin Stewart MSP

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

St Andrew's House

Regent Road

Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

24 July 2020

Dear Mr Stewart,

We are writing to you as a coalition of third sector organisations from across the housing, homelessness and social welfare sectors who work with clients impacted by the financial impact of the Covid-19 crisis. Many of our clients have benefited from your swift action in the early days of this crisis. Thanks to your action and the support of local agencies and their third sector partners, most of our clients are in a safer place than they would have been.

However, time is running out. As we approach the end of September and the planned lifting of the existing protections, people are worried about how they will keep a roof over their head and avoid destitution.

We know that you are personally committed to ensuring nobody returns to the streets, no matter their immigration status. We welcome your support in principle for the reconvened Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group recommendation to extend these powers until April 2021. We are also encouraged by the positive way in which you have engaged with the Everyone Home Collective of homelessness, poverty organisations and academics who are working towards these same goals.

Now we are asking for your support once more.

Together, we are calling on Scottish Ministers to confirm the extension of emergency powers when parliament next meets on August 11th to ensure vulnerable households cannot be evicted until at least April 2021.

Your recent call on the UK Government to meet their moral and humanitarian duties to people impacted by the *No recourse to public funds* designation shows that you understand the harm faced by people facing destitution within our communities across Scotland. Their needs are urgent and cannot wait for UK Ministers, who have demonstrated no desire to take a humane approach that respects everyone's human rights.

We therefore call on Scottish Ministers to once again show leadership by using the power of your offices to commission a legal opinion as to whether forced destitution is compatible with the equalities and human rights duties placed on public bodies in Scotland.

Thank you for the time and dedication you have demonstrated in addressing our concerns and we look forward to working with you to continue to make Scotland a place where everyone has a safe home and nobody can be forced into destitution.

Yours sincerely

Lorraine McGrath



Helen Carlin



Rowan Alba
More than just a roof

A handwritten signature in black ink.





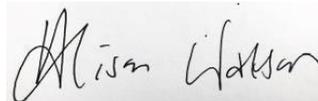
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unlocking your potential 



Scottish Churches
Housing Action

25 YEARS FIGHTING HOMELESSNESS

Cyrenians



From: David Aitchison <[REDACTED]>

Sent: 04 November 2020 13:58

To: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <[REDACTED]>; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <[REDACTED]>

Subject: FW: Press release: Regulator's report confirms failure of Glasgow homeless services, says Shelter Scotland

Dear Cabinet Secretary and Minister,

Please see below for Shelter Scotland's media response to the Scottish Housing Regulator's report into Glasgow City Council's homelessness services.

All the best,

David

David Aitchison

Public Affairs Officer

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]



Scotiabank House, 6 South Charlotte Street | Edinburgh | EH2 4AW [Website](#)
| [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#)



shelterscotland.org/coronavirusadvice

Embargo: For immediate release

Contacts: Susie Rose or Niamh Ni Mhaoileoin 0844 515 2442

Regulator's report confirms failure of Glasgow homeless services, says Shelter Scotland

A newly-published report from the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) confirms that Glasgow City council failed in its legal duties to homeless people, Shelter Scotland has said today (Wednesday).

The report on the SHR's inquiry into Glasgow City Council's services for people experiencing homelessness finds that pre-pandemic the Council did not ensure it had enough suitable temporary accommodation and did not provide temporary accommodation to significant numbers of people when they needed it.

It includes alarming evidence of families with children being turned away without the Council knowing where they would sleep that night, and of single people being sent to sleep on the streets with the Council's knowledge.

While the report reflects some positive developments – 17 new staff have been hired in recent months and an increase in the number of lets from housing association has made a real difference during the pandemic – it's clear that the that the Council was seriously failing before coronavirus hit.

The inquiry was announced last year, after Shelter Scotland launched legal action against Glasgow City Council over its practice of "gatekeeping" – where people who present as homeless are refused their legal rights.

Commenting on the report, Shelter Scotland Director Alison Watson said:

"This report confirms the systemic failure of Glasgow City Council's homelessness services, which has led to thousands of people being denied their legal rights.

"We took legal action last year because we'd had enough of the Council routinely breaking the law and forcing people onto the streets. This inquiry wouldn't have happened if it wasn't for the thousands of people who supported our action, in Glasgow and beyond.

"We'll now take the time to carefully reflect on the report and assess what needs to happen next. We welcome the Regulator's findings and recommendations and look forward to meeting to discuss the issues further. The test will be how Glasgow City Council responds positively to this unprecedented intervention.

"Our shared goal must be to ensure that everyone who presents to the Council as homeless is provided with the safe and suitable accommodation they're legally entitled to."

Ends/

Notes to Editors:

- The Scottish Housing Regulator's full report is available [here](#).
- Commenting on the prevalence of "gatekeeping", the report states (par 3.9):

"During 2019/20, the Council told us that it failed to offer temporary accommodation on 3,786 instances when households required it, which was lower than the 3,835 it reported to the Scottish Government and which was an increase of 445 on the previous year. This means the Council failed to comply with its statutory duty to offer temporary accommodation in nearly 1 in 3 occasions when people required it. The Council told us that this related to 1,471 households. From our review of a sample of cases we found that single people were disproportionately affected by this; they accounted for 66% of homeless applications but for 83% of those not offered temporary accommodation. Many of those not accommodated were vulnerable and approached the Council for help on multiple occasions."

- More information on Shelter Scotland's legal action against Glasgow City Council is available [here](#).
- Spokespeople are available for interview - call the media team on 0844 515 2442.
- Shelter Scotland exists to defend the right to a safe home. We help over half a million people every year struggling with bad housing or homelessness through our advice, support and legal services. And we campaign to make sure that, one day, no one will have to turn to us for help.

Shelter helps millions of people a year struggling with bad housing or homelessness – and we campaign to prevent it in the first place.

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4AW t 0344 515
2444
shelterscotland.org

Kevin Stewart MSP
Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
St Andrew's House, Regent Road
Edinburgh
EH1 3DG

27th August 2020

Dear Mr Stewart,

We very much welcomed you bringing forward the revised Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO) earlier this year, which promised **all** homeless households would be protected from unsuitable temporary accommodation. We also welcomed your firm commitment to end the use of unsuitable temporary accommodation. While we have concerns about the exemptions included in the new UAO, we understood why you had included them, as they were temporary measures in relation to COVID 19 health considerations and would only be in place until the end of September.

We have recently been made aware of a new SSI which will be introduced in the next few days, and I'm sure you will understand that the proposed extension of the current exemptions in the new SSI fails to live up to the expectations set earlier this year. We also understand that in addition to the extension of original exemptions, a new third exemption is being considered that is a cause of grave concerns and that we would be very keen to discuss with you.

Scotland has some of the most progressive housing legislation and the UAO is a vital part of how we ensure homeless people's rights are upheld. Our housing advisers and legal team regularly rely on the UAO mechanism to enforce the rights of homeless households, and in fact we have on-going cases we are currently working on where households have been placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

To learn that proposals were being prepared to withdraw the rights for households with children and pregnant women to have a right to suitable temporary accommodation, felt like a betrayal of all the progress and promises that have come out of HARSAG and HPSG. We are very grateful to the Scottish government team for listening to our concerns, and for amending draft amendments for your consideration to ensure this does not happen.

We are however concerned that the new exemption will also allow hundreds of other homeless households to continue to be at risk of extended stays in unsuitable temporary accommodation,

Until there's a home for everyone shelterscotland.org

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Scotland as it will allow Local Authorities to place them in unsuitable



accommodation until 31 January 2021 well beyond the initial promise of September. Not only is this a volte face on the promises made to people with multiple and complex needs, but it places them at risk of real harm during the worst of the winter months. The impact of staying in unsuitable accommodation on people's mental and physical health and wellbeing can be significant, especially during a health emergency. We are therefore asking you to ensure that we can avoid this further delay to ensuring Local Authorities prioritise all homeless households by offering suitable temporary accommodation.

We recognise that there are challenges, according to the latest data from the Scottish Housing Regulator, there were 14,174 households in temporary accommodation. However, this is not a new issue for some Local Authorities, with significant breaches to the UAO reported for some Local Authorities before the pandemic.

We need a different approach. Local Authorities should provide evidence that they will struggle to accommodate people in suitable temporary accommodation, and Scottish Government should step in and provide the support they require until they can ensure they have enough suitable temporary accommodation for people who require it. We would like to see this proposal adopted so that people's homeless rights are strengthened and upheld, especially during the pandemic where health considerations must also remain a priority.

At the start of the coronavirus emergency, we saw a remarkable cross sector response to a huge challenge. Now is the time to ensure that the work that was done back in the spring is not eroded. We are hoping the Scottish government will not backtrack on its own commitments to strengthen people's homeless rights and provide councils with additional support.

We would therefore ask that the Scottish government urgently reconsider introducing this proposed SSI, and we stand ready to work together to ensure everyone in Scotland has access to suitable temporary accommodation.

Yours sincerely

Gordon MacRae

Gordon MacRae

Assistant Director, Communications and Policy
Shelter Scotland

From: Janice Higgins <[REDACTED]>

Sent: Thursday, August 6, 2020 12:43:43 PM

To: Janice Higgins <[REDACTED]>

Subject: Urgent - Preventing Evictions during a Pandemic

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament

Please find attached a letter from the Everyone Home Collective, representing 27 organisations working together to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on people affected by or at risk of homelessness in Scotland. We are asking for your help.

Thank you.

Margaret-Ann Brünjes | Chief Executive

Homeless Network Scotland t: [REDACTED] | m:

[REDACTED] w: homelessnetwork.scot |

[@homelessnetscot](https://twitter.com/homelessnetscot)

6 August 2020

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament

Preventing Evictions During a Pandemic

We are writing to ask for your urgent support in extending an important aspect of Scotland's coronavirus response. Please help prevent an increase in homelessness this autumn by supporting an extension to temporary safeguards relating to evictions.

The [Everyone Home Collective](#) came together early in the pandemic because we knew the conditions were being created for a surge in homelessness; we want to do all we can to prevent that. The Collective of organisations from across the third, academic, legal and advice sectors meet frequently on priorities to mitigate the worst impacts of the pandemic on people affected by or at risk of homelessness in Scotland.

A second wave of new eviction cases that may result from the social and economic impact of COVID-19 can be mitigated by Parliament extending the provisions from 30 September to April 2021 in the first instance. This was also a key recommendation of the expert [Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Action Group](#).

We are concerned that if these temporary measures are lifted prematurely you may see an increase in homelessness in your constituency. With the pandemic far from being over and the lasting impact on unemployment unknown, this would be devastating for individuals and families and counter to good public health outcomes in the community.

Members across the Scottish Parliament can make sure that people with the most insecure housing and economic conditions do not shoulder the impact of this pandemic.

Evicting people into homelessness is to be avoided at any time, especially during a public health emergency. It is crucial that we all play our part to prevent homelessness from happening in the first place and that we ensure tenants and landlords have the support they need to resolve any issues. The majority of evictions are due to rent arrears, and we counter the position that people who can pay and don't are a significant

number. The Collective are much more likely to advise and support people with rent arrears who have significant money challenges, people with many other life stresses, and people who avoid official correspondence because of mounting pressures affecting their health and wellbeing. Each case has a unique, very real and very human story. These households need our help, especially now and in the aftermath of this pandemic.

These are not ordinary circumstances. The emergency measures put in place quickly and with Parliament's support have helped many people stay safe and well over the past few months. This is why we are urging you to support the extension of emergency legislation on evictions up to April 2021 in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

the undersigned

Jon Sparkes

Chief Executive



Homeless Network Scotland

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Office at Unit 16a, Adelphi Centre,
12 Commercial Road, Glasgow G5 0PQ.

[Contact Us](#)

T: 0141 420 7272 hello@homelessnetwork.scot w: homelessnetwork.scot

Executive: Margaret-Ann Brünjes



Annika Joy

Project Director



Ruth McIntyre
Chief Executive

Mike Burns

Chief Executive



Legal Services Agency
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Aaliya Seyal

Chief Executive

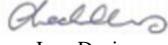



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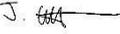
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Chief Executive

Sabir Zazai
Chief Executive




Jane Devine
Charles Maasz
Chief Executive
Chief Executive




Josh Littlejohn
Ricky McAddock
Group CEO

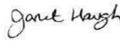



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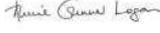



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Chief Executive




Alasdair Bennett
Annie Gunner Logan
Director
Chief Executive





Kate Polson
Chief Executive

Helen Carlin
Chief Executive





Alison Watson
Director





Lorraine McGrath
Chief Executive




David Duke
Chief Executive



Patrick McKay
Director of Operations

Mon 31/08/2020 13:28

Margaret-Ann Brunjes <[REDACTED]>

Speaker Invitation and Publication Foreword

TO - Scottish Ministers < Scottish_Ministers@gov.scot >

CC – [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

**Homeless
Network
Scotland**
we are all in

FAO:

Kevin Stewart MSP, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing

The Scottish Government

St Andrew's House

Regent Road Edinburgh

EH1 3DG

Dear Ministers

Homeless Network Scotland is a national membership organisation. We manage Housing First Scotland and organise the largest conferences in our sector, considered important events with the widest reach for shaping and influencing what happens next.

Please consider our warm invitation on 2 matters:

Housing First Scotland: A National Framework

Housing First is a national policy objective with the strongest backing and funding from Scottish

Government. [HARSAG](#), a Scottish Government appointed group, made recommendations last month to scale Housing First further and faster across Scotland. To underpin this, we are publishing a detailed national framework with specific considerations for key partners including national and local government, health services, housing providers and the third sector. We would be delighted if you could provide a **joint-Ministerial Foreword** for this important framework that will be launched in October.

Annual Homelessness Conference 20-22 October 2020

'*Safe as Houses: Homelessness, Health and a Global Pandemic*' will showcase the extraordinary efforts of all partners at the height of the pandemic, draw from international learning - and look beyond the pandemic to continue to deliver an evidence-led end to homelessness in Scotland.

Would the Ministers provide the lead keynote on different days of the conference? It is being held across 3 days online, each day built around specific themes including:

- **A Global Pandemic:** international responses to homelessness, including showcasing the exceptional response in Scotland from Scottish and local government and the third sector.
- **Same Storm, Different Boat:** events and discussion through an equalities lens.
- **A Day in the Sun for Good Law and Policy:** focus on the positive impact of emergency legislation - and what happens next. And on the HARSAG policy recommendations invited by Scottish Government.
- **A Shift in Society?** events and discussion on whether society's perceptions on homelessness have (or could) shift because of the pandemic.

With very best regards, I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Margaret-Ann Brunjes

Chief Executive

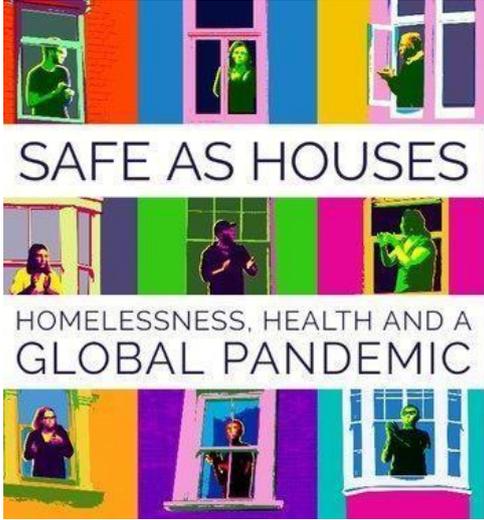
Margaret-Ann Brünjes | Chief Executive

Homeless Network Scotland

t: [REDACTED] | m: [REDACTED]

w: homelessnetwork.scot | [@homelessnetscot](https://www.instagram.com/homelessnetscot)

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SAFE AS HOUSES

HOMELESSNESS, HEALTH AND A
GLOBAL PANDEMIC

SAVE THE
DATE

20-22
OCTOBER 2020

Live | Online | Dynamic
CHOOSE THE CONFERENCE YOU WANT

Homeless
Network
Scotland
we are all in

#SafeAsHouses

From: Jon Sparkes <[REDACTED]>
Date: Tuesday, 17 November 2020 at 20:49
To: "Stewart K (Kevin), MSP" <[REDACTED]>
Cc: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>
Subject: Election Manifesto

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Dear Kevin

I hope this finds you well.

Following on from the publication of the updated Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan, I am delighted to see the renewed ambition and momentum towards ending homelessness in Scotland. The leadership shown by you and your colleagues really has been key to Scotland's progress in this area and may related areas - and I am very much enjoying working with Aileen Campbell and Shirley-Anne Somerville to support the development of social renewal proposals.

I'm getting in touch to let you know about Crisis' policy priorities activities ahead of next year's election. As is to be expected, my team has been engaging with all political parties around our priorities for manifestos including sharing these with SNP staff manifesto leads. Last Friday, members of my policy team met with special advisor Jeanette Campbell to discuss these priorities – which are summarised in the attached briefing document.

There will not be anything in these priorities that surprises you and, as ever, Crisis is committed to working in a close and constructive partnership with the Scottish Government, local authorities and others to see our shared ambition and common endeavour to prevent and end homelessness realised. We are mindful that the Scottish Government's revised action plan is due to last beyond this parliamentary term. As we look to the elections next year, I would be grateful if you could provide assurance that ending homelessness will remain a priority for your party in the run up to the election, including in your party's manifesto, and beyond the lifetime of the current action plan. Having worked with you, I am certain that this will continue to be a priority for you and your colleagues.

As you are aware, recommendations for new legislation and a much stronger and far-reaching approach to preventing homelessness are being developed by the Prevention Review Group which Crisis is leading following discussion with you. I hope that these will offer a unique opportunity to put in place a truly pioneering legal framework for preventing homelessness. I understand that the PRG hope to share their recommendations with you and your officials over the upcoming weeks. I very much look forward to discussing these with you in more detail, and hope that, if accepted, there will be a specific commitment to introducing this legislation within the next Programme for Government.

Please do let me know if a meeting would be helpful for us to discuss this in more detail – [REDACTED]/ [REDACTED].

All best wishes

Jon

Jon Sparkes
Chief Executive



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Mon 30/11/2020 09:39

Prevention Review Group <[REDACTED]>

Prevention Review Group - request for meeting with the Minister to discuss the Group's recommendations

TO - Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <[REDACTED]>

CC – [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]>

Dear Minister

As you know the Prevention Review Group has been working over the past year to take forward the HARSAG recommendation on developing legal duties on local authorities and other public bodies to prevent homelessness. Having done extensive consultation with stakeholders, the Group has developed some detailed proposals, which we believe will help prevent people from having to lose their accommodation and make sure they have access to stable accommodation which meets their needs. We have now completed our work, and I would like to meet with you, along with colleagues from Crisis, who have provided the secretariat to the Group, to discuss the Group's recommendations and draft report.

I'd be grateful if your office would liaise with my colleague [REDACTED], on [REDACTED] to find a suitable time.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Suzanne Fitzpatrick

Chair, Prevention Review Group