

Item 1

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 23 April 2020 16:16

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

<CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; Director for Housing and Social Justice

<DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>; CLG Coordination Unit <CLGCoord@gov.scot>; MacDougall

A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger)

<Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: Covid-19 - Delays in New House Building & Homelessness Statistical Publications

[Redacted]

Cc: [Redacted]– for Cab Sec

I would be grateful if you could inform the Minister that due to Covid-19, we will be publicly announcing next week, delays to publications scheduled for June, on New House Building and Homelessness Statistics. There is a requirement under Official Statistics to keep our user informed of publication plans. This will be reflected in the Forthcoming Statistical Publications update from the Chief Statistician's Office to Ministers next week.

Whilst continuing with these data collections, we have been taking a flexible approach and liaising with Local Authorities who are having difficulty meeting regular data provision deadlines, either through staff shortages, absences, re-prioritisation of work or due to lockdown and the inability to currently access information from Council Management Information Systems.

Homelessness

Having said that, 25 out of 32 Local Authorities have already confirmed they will be able to supply Q1 2020 homelessness data within usual deadlines, with 3 stating they will require deadline extensions and 4 yet to confirm. In the current circumstance, I think this reflects the value Local Authorities place on this data, which they also find very useful for their own purposes. Once we have a clearer indication of when all or most of the data will be available, we will be able to pre-announce a publication date for these statistics and the main annual reports on homelessness.

The Minister may already be aware that the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) is setting up a new monthly data collection from RSLs and LAs, which includes aggregate estimates of homelessness applications and offers of temporary accommodation. This ought to provide useful monthly indicative estimates, but we will need to rely on the SG homelessness data collection of individual records to provide robust official statistics and insights into the circumstances and characteristics of households affected by homelessness during the Covid-19 period. We have offered our statistical advice to SHR on their data collection.

[Redacted – Out of scope]

I am happy to discuss or provide any further clarifications if required.

[Redacted]

Head of Housing, Homelessness & Regeneration Analysis (HHaRA)
Communities Analysis Division (CAD)
Scottish Government

[Redacted]

Item 2

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Sent: 23 April 2020 19:45

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
<MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
<CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; Director for Housing and Social Justice
<DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>; CLG Coordination Unit <CLGCoord@gov.scot>;
MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger)
<Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser)
<Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Covid-19 - Delays in New House Building & Homelessness Statistical Publications

[Redacted]

Thanks for this information which Mr Stewart noted.

[Redacted]

Private Secretary to Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

[Redacted]

Please see the [Ministerial preferences](#) which may be of assistance to you.

All e-mails and attachments sent by a Ministerial Private Office to any other official on behalf of a Minister relating to a decision, request or comment made by a Minister, or a note of a Ministerial meeting, must be filed appropriately by the recipient. Private Offices do not keep official records of such e-mails or attachments.

Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Item 3

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 20 August 2020 16:38

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
<MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) Roger.Halliday@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS - Ministerial Submission: Homelessness Equalities Statistics

Dear Minister,

Please find attached a submission relating to the publication of 'Homelessness in Scotland: 2019 to 2020' statistics.

Also attached is a pre-release copy of the publication and a statistical news release.

Official statistics - please treat as restricted, for the named individuals or identified post holders only. Not for sharing with anyone else, not to be used in other documents, not to be saved in a shared file before publication on THURSDAY 27 AUGUST 2020.

'Homelessness in Scotland: 2019 to 2020' is an Official Statistics product bound by the Code of Practice for Statistics and as such restrictions apply when gaining access to the data before the official release date. The Pre-release Access to Official Statistics (Scotland) Order 2008, sets out in statute the rules governing pre-release access to statistics immediately before publication.

You are being given access to these documents for the sole purpose of ensuring that Ministers can comment on an informed basis at the time of release.

The following restriction apply;

You must not share or pass on the statistics more widely. If you judge that there is a legitimate need for others to have access they should contact the author of this email who may extend the access list if they judge there to be a legitimate need.

You must not disclose any of the statistics, or give any broad indication of their content or what they show, to any individual who has not also been given access. Wrongful release includes indications of the content or the trend of the figures, including descriptions such as 'favourable' or 'unfavourable'.

You must not use the statistics for any purpose other than that which the access was granted.

You must not use the statistics for personal or political gain

You must not seek to change the format, content or timing of the publication of the official statistics unless a clear error in the data is identified in which case you should inform the author of this email.

If any accidental or wrongful disclosure of the statistics or the broad indication of what the statistics show occurs, this must immediately be reported to the author of this email and the Office of the Chief Statistician. Breaches are taken extremely seriously and will be published on the Scottish Government website.

If you have any questions about your responsibilities please get in touch either with myself or the Office of the Chief Statistician.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Item 4 – Ministerial Submission (Attachment to Item 3)

From: [Redacted]

Communities Analysis Division
20 August 2020

Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government

FOR INFORMATION

Homelessness in Scotland: 2019 to 2020

PURPOSE

1. To inform the Minister of the publication of 'Homelessness in Scotland: 2019 to 2020' annual statistics.

PRIORITY

2. Routine. **Please treat these statistics in strict confidence until publication at 9.30am on Thursday 27 August 2020.**

BACKGROUND

3. The Homelessness in Scotland publication (Annex A attached) presents information on local authority homelessness applications, assessments and outcomes in the period from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020, and places it in the context of longer term trends. It also provides data on the use of temporary accommodation throughout the same period, including the number of breaches of unsuitable accommodation legislation.

4. Given the figures in this publication report data up until 31st March 2020 this only crosses over with around a week of coronavirus restrictions and changes in practices

being in place. Therefore, changes in trends in homeless data as result of coronavirus will be extremely minimal over this reporting period. Some summary information for homeless applications and the use of temporary accommodation during the coronavirus period has been collected by both the Scottish Housing Regulator and by the Scottish Government. These collections are released as management information, and are not Official or National statistics.

5. The presentation of the publication has been improved following feedback received as part of a compliance check by the Office for Statistics Regulation in February 2019.

6. We will also be publishing a Statistical News Release (Annex B attached) highlighting selected key results from the publication.

KEY POINTS

7. In 2019/20:

Extent of Homelessness

- There were 36,855 applications for homelessness assistance. This was an increase of 84 (0%) compared with the 36,771 applications made in 2018/19.
- There were 31,333 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. This is an increase of 1,097 (4%) compared to 30,236 in 2018/19.
- 1,187 (4% of 31,333) were assessed as intentionally homeless – a decrease from 1,476 (5% of 30,236) in 2018/19. Legislative changes as of November 2019 no longer required local authorities to assess for intentionality. As these came in to effect most of the way through the reporting period, their impact on the statistics are likely to be limited.
- 4% (1,195) of homeless households had a connection to another local authority other than the one they made an application to. The majority of these were in Glasgow (925, 77% of the total).
- These households contained 51,365 people, including 35,654 adults and 15,711 children.
- There were 11,665 households in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2020, an increase of 676 (6%) compared to 10,989 at 31st March 2019.
- There were 7,280 children in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2020, an increase of 485 (7%) compared to 6,795 at 31st March 2019.

Reasons for Homelessness and Prior Circumstances

- Being 'asked to leave' was the most common reason for making a homeless application, given in 24% (8,762) of cases.

- 'Dispute within the household / relationship breakdown: non-violent' (19%, 6,840) and 'Dispute within the household: violent or abusive' (13%, 4,832) were the next most common reasons for making a homeless application.
- There was a 45% increase in households becoming homeless from supported accommodation (1,447 compared to 997 in 2018/19).
- 2,884 applications had a household member who experienced rough sleeping in the 3 months prior to their application, representing 8% of all applications. 1,643 (4%) households had a member experiencing rough sleeping the night before their application.

Characteristics of the Homeless Population

Of the 31,333 applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2019/20:

- 66% (20,674) were single person households, of which 69% (14,327) were male. By contrast, 22% (6,783) were single parent households, of which 79% (5,338) were female.
- 33% (10,346) of main applicants were aged 25-34, and 30% (9,335) aged 35-49.
- 86% (27,034) of main applicants were White, down from 95% in 2006/07.
- 51% (15,991) were identified as having a household member with at least one support need. The most common support need was a mental health problem, identified in 27% (8,313) of households.

Temporary Accommodation

- 61% (7,125) of the 11,665 households in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2020 were in social sector accommodation.
- 36% (10,605) of the 29,685 homeless applications assessed as homeless that closed in 2019/20 did not use temporary accommodation. 35% (10,520) had one temporary accommodation placement and 4% (1,120) had 5 or more placements.
- Homelessness applications that closed in 2019/20 that used temporary accommodation spent 184 days in temporary accommodation on average.
- There were 4,595 cases of households not being offered temporary accommodation in 2019/20. 3,835 of these were in Glasgow.
- There were 500 breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order in 2019/20, compared to 645 in 2018/19. 375 of these were in Edinburgh.

Outcomes

- 82% of households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness (20,806 out of 27,002) secured settled accommodation in 2019/20, increasing from 63% in 2002/03. The remaining outcomes were 'Other (known)' (8%), 'Returned to previous/present accommodation' (5%), 'Moved in with friends/relatives' (5%) and 'Hostel' (1%).
- 6% of homeless households had previously been assessed as homeless in the previous 12 months, and 15% in the previous 5 years.
- It took an average of 16 days for a case to be assessed in 2019/20. This has fallen from 29 days in 2004/05.
- It took 224 days on average from assessment to closure in 2019/20 for cases assessed as homeless.

HANDLING

8. There may be media and stakeholder interest in these statistics, especially around the 4% increase in households assessed as homeless, the 6% increase in households in temporary accommodation and the 7% increase in the number of children in temporary accommodation. There may also be interest in the number of breaches of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation Order) and the number of applications where temporary accommodation was not offered (particularly in Glasgow).

9. We are working with Communications and Policy colleagues to develop reactive lines to take, in particular regarding the increases in number of households, and in particular children, in temporary accommodation; and the number of households in breach of the unsuitable accommodation order.

FURTHER ADVICE OR DISCUSSION

10. The following documents are attached for further information:

- A pre-release copy of the draft 'Homelessness in Scotland: 2019 to 2020' (**Annex A** – see attached e-mail)
- A pre-release copy of the draft Statistical News Release (**Annex B** – see attached e-mail)

CONCLUSION

11. You are invited to note this forthcoming statistical publication. *Please treat the attached statistics and any indication of the results as restricted until their public release at 09:30 on 27th August 2020.*

[Redacted]

Communities Analysis Division

[Redacted]

Item 5 – Statistical News Release (Attachment to Item 3)

Exemption applied (Section 25: Information otherwise accessible) – information available [here](#)

Item 6 – Homelessness in Scotland 2019-20 (Attachment to Item 3)

Exemption applied (Section 25: Information otherwise accessible) – information available [here](#)

Item 7

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Sent: 20 August 2020 16:40

To: Stewart K (Kevin) <Kevin.Stewart@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS - Ministerial Submission: Homelessness Equalities Statistics

Content to note as per conclusion ?

CONCLUSION

11. You are invited to note this forthcoming statistical publication. *Please treat the attached statistics and any indication of the results as restricted until their public release at 09:30 on 27th August 2020.*

Item 8

From: Stewart K (Kevin) <Kevin.Stewart@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 August 2020 20:22

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS - Ministerial Submission: Homelessness Equalities Statistics

Noted.

K

Sent with BlackBerry Work
(www.blackberry.com)

Item 9

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Sent: 24 August 2020 09:34

To: [Redacted]; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>
Cc: First Minister <firstminister@gov.scot>; Chief Statistician <ChiefStatistician@gov.scot>; Director for Housing and Social Justice <DirectorHSJ@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: OFFICIAL SENSITIVE - PRE-RELEASE STATISTICS - Ministerial Submission: Homelessness Equalities Statistics

[Redacted]
Mr Stewart has noted

Thanks

[Redacted]

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Item 10

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 26 August 2020 15:14
To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) ; MacDougall A (Audrey) ; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government; [Redacted]
Subject: For clearance - Homelessness Equalities Statistics: Proactive statement

PS / Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Hi [Redacted],

I'd be very grateful for the Minister's clearance on the following proactive statement on the latest homelessness statistics, due for publication **tomorrow, Thursday 27 August**.

SpAds and policy officials are content with the below.

To note: the line highlighted in yellow is subject to an announcement being made tomorrow on regulations on eviction notice periods. If this goes ahead, we will remove the line and issue a separate release based on the GIQ.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Latest homelessness statistics published

Commenting on the publication of *Homelessness in Scotland: 2019 to 2020* statistics, Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said:

“Today’s figures are a reminder about why we are committed to ending homelessness and rough sleeping. They do not reflect the progress made to dramatically reduce the numbers of people sleeping rough during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Since the start of the crisis, we have provided more than £1.5 million to third sector partners to accommodate those experiencing homelessness in hotels. This builds on our £32.5 million investment to support local authorities to prioritise settled accommodation for all. Our priority is now to prevent anyone from ending up back on the streets or in unsuitable temporary accommodation.

“To help us achieve this, the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group recently made a series of recommendations which we will respond to fully next month. In the interim, our partners have closed night shelters to explore alternative self-contained options for the coming winter, with a view to phasing out such shelters completely in the long term. **Additionally, as previously announced, we also intend to extend emergency legislation designed to protect renters from eviction.**”

Background

The Scottish Government will outline its official response to the HARSAG recommendations next month. The full list of [HARSAG recommendations](#) have been accepted in principle.

Given the figures in this publication include data up until 31 March 2020, this only covers around one week of coronavirus restrictions and changes in practices. Therefore, changes in trends in homeless data as result of coronavirus will be minimal over this reporting period. Some summary information for homeless applications and the use of temporary accommodation during the coronavirus period has been collected by both the [Scottish Housing Regulator](#) and by the [Scottish Government](#). These collections are released as management information, and are not Official or National statistics.

[Redacted]

Item 11

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Sent: 26 August 2020 17:41

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: For clearance - Homelessness Equalities Statistics: Proactive statement

Hi [Redacted]

Mr Stewart is content with the lines and approach – thanks.

[Redacted]

Private Secretary to Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

[Redacted]

Please see the [Ministerial preferences](#) which may be of assistance to you.

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Item 12

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 30 July 2020 13:46

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Homelessness Team <DLECJHLT@gov.scot>; homelessness statistics inbox <homelessness_statistics_inbox@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE: Disabled people/housing - Renfrewshire Gazette

Thanks very much [Redacted]. Issuing now.

[Redacted]

Item 13

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 27 August 2020 12:00

To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Cc MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: For feedback: Mr Stewart quote - text and graphic for Twitter.

Hello Jeanette

Please find below a proposed text and graphic which will go from @ScotGovFairer later today.

Grateful for your thoughts.

TEXT: Today's homelessness figures are a reminder about why we are committed to ending homelessness and rough sleeping.

Our priority is now to prevent anyone from ending up back on the streets or in unsuitable temporary accommodation.



Best wishes

[Redacted]

Item 14

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 August 2020 12:04
To: [Redacted]
Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: For feedback: Mr Stewart quote - text and graphic for Twitter.

Ok thanks

Item 15

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2020 13:56
To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
<MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
<CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>;
Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: For awareness: Mr Stewart quote - tweet and graphic - homelessness
figures

Hello [Redacted]

For Mr Stewart's awareness, as mentioned, we have prepared a tweet and graphic which will go from @ScotGovFairer later today. The Minister's account will be tagged.

TEXT: Today's homelessness figures are a reminder about why we are committed to ending homelessness and rough sleeping.

Our priority is now to prevent anyone from ending up back on the streets or in unsuitable temporary accommodation.



Best wishes

[Redacted]

Item 16

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Sent: 27 August 2020 14:09
To: [Redacted]; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
<MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>
Cc: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
<CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>;
Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: For awareness: Mr Stewart quote - tweet and graphic - homelessness
figures

Hi [Redacted]

Thanks for picking up, Mr Stewart is content with the tweet and graphic.

[Redacted]

Private Secretary to Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

[Redacted]

Please see the [Ministerial preferences](#) which may be of assistance to you.

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Item 17

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 27 August 2020 13:37

To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>

Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]

Subject: Bid - KS - Homelessness - Drivetime

Importance: High

Hi Jeanette,

We've had the following bid from the BBC for Mr Stewart to appear on *Drivetime* this afternoon. They'd like to discuss the stats and are speaking to Shelter at the same time.

[Redacted]

I'd be very grateful for your views.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Item 18

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 27 August 2020 13:44

To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>

Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness - Drivetime

Jeanette,

Further to the below we have had an additional bid in for all the BBC outlets today. They are going down the route of households and children in temporary accommodation being the highest on record.

They're looking for a statement from us or a clip and their deadline is 5 pm.
[Redacted]

Grateful for your views.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Item 19

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 August 2020 13:45
To: [Redacted]
Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness - Drivetime

[Redacted]

Item 20

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2020 13:50
To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;
MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
<Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
<CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: Bid - KS - Homelessness - BBC
Importance: High

PS / Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Hi [Redacted],

We have had bids in for the Minister for all the BBC outlets today, including *Drivetime*. They are covering the homelessness stats and focussing on the number

of households and children in temporary accommodation being the highest on record.

They're looking for a statement or a clip and their deadline is 5 pm.

[Redacted]

I'd be very grateful if you could please let me know if the Minister is content with the advice.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Item 21

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Sent: 27 August 2020 14:01

To: [Redacted]; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
<MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness - BBC

Hi [Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Private Secretary to Kevin Stewart, Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

[Redacted]

Please see the [Ministerial preferences](#) which may be of assistance to you.

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Item 22

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2020 14:02
To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
<MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>;
MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
<Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
CabSecCLG@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness - BBC

Thanks [Redacted], I will issue this now.

Item 23

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2020 14:19
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness

Jeanette,

The BBC have followed up asking for a specific response to the figure which shows that households and children in temporary accommodation is the highest on record.

Suggest the following – grateful for your views.

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Item 24

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 August 2020 14:29
To: [Redacted]
Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness

[Redacted]

Thanks
JC

Item 25

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 27 August 2020 15:01

To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>

Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness

Thanks Jeanette. I have shortened and altered, as below. Officials are content with this – grateful for your views.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said:

“While temporary accommodation can offer an important emergency safety net for anyone who finds themselves homeless, such as those fleeing domestic violence, it should be a purely temporary measure.

“That’s why we introduced new legislation, a UK first, to make sure that anyone facing homelessness will spend no longer than a week in unsuitable accommodation, like bed and breakfasts, before moving to a more appropriate, permanent home. For those who do need it in emergency situations, we also introduced universal standards for the quality of temporary accommodation, for all local authorities to adhere to.

“It is unacceptable for any local authority to fail to uphold its statutory responsibilities and we are working closely with councils to make sure they provide homeless people with appropriate accommodation and services.”

[Redacted]

Item 26

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 August 2020 15:01

To: [Redacted]

Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk
Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness

Yes thanks all

Item 27

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 27 August 2020 15:03

To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>

Cc: MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk

Newsdesk@gov.scot; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness

Great, thanks Jeanette.

Item 28

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2020 15:05
To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) ; MacDougall A (Audrey) ; News Desk ; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government ; [Redacted]
Subject: Bid - KS - Homelessness - BBC

PS / Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Hi [Redacted],

The BBC have followed up asking for a specific response to the figure which shows that households and children in temporary accommodation is the highest on record.

I'd be grateful for the Minister's clearance on the lines below, which SpAds and officials are content with.

Thanks,

[Redacted]

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said:

“While temporary accommodation can offer an important emergency safety net for anyone who finds themselves homeless, such as those fleeing domestic violence, it should be a purely temporary measure.

“That's why we introduced new legislation, a UK first, to make sure that anyone facing homelessness will spend no longer than a week in unsuitable accommodation, like bed and breakfasts, before moving to a more appropriate, permanent home. For those who do need it in emergency situations, we also introduced universal standards for the quality of temporary accommodation, for all local authorities to adhere to.

“It is unacceptable for any local authority to fail to uphold its statutory responsibilities and we are working closely with councils to make sure they provide homeless people with appropriate accommodation and services.”

[Redacted]

Item 29

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Sent: 27 August 2020 15:49
To: [Redacted]; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness - BBC

[Redacted]

Mr Stewart is content

Thanks

[Redacted]

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Item 30

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 27 August 2020 15:55
To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>
Cc: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: Bid - KS - Homelessness - BBC

Great, thanks [Redacted]. I will issue these now.

Item 31

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 31 August 2020 16:49
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: For SpAd views - media enquiry - Con NR Temporary Housing Crisis - Midlothian Courier

Good afternoon SpAds,

We've been asked to respond to the press release at the bottom of this thread, which points out the number of households in temporary accommodation in Midlothian are double the national average.

Grateful if you could confirm you're content with the following, drafted with the help of policy colleagues.

[Redacted]

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Item 32

From: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>
Sent: 31 August 2020 16:55
To: [Redacted]; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: For SpAd views - media enquiry - Con NR Temporary Housing Crisis - Midlothian Courier

[Redacted]

Item 33

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 31 August 2020 16:58
To: Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross) <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>
Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; [Redacted]
Subject: RE: For SpAd views - media enquiry - Con NR Temporary Housing Crisis - Midlothian Courier

Thanks Jeanette,

I'll put to the Minister for clearance.

[Redacted]

Item 34

From: [Redacted]
Sent: 31 August 2020 17:02

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
Cc: News Desk ; MacDougall A (Audrey) ; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) ; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser ; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government
Subject: For clearance please - media enquiry - Con NR Temporary Housing Crisis - Midlothian Courier

Good afternoon PO,

We've been asked to respond to the press release below – pointing out the number of households in temporary accommodation in Midlothian is double the national average (see bottom of email thread).

Grateful if you could confirm clearance of the following lines, drafted with the help of policy colleagues and SpAds.

Housing Minister Kevin Stewart said:

“While temporary accommodation can offer an important emergency safety net for anyone who finds themselves homeless, it should be a purely temporary measure. That’s why for those who need it in emergency situations, we also introduced universal standards for the quality of temporary accommodation, for all local authorities to adhere to.

“We are committed to ending homelessness and have allocated £32.5 million to support, prioritising settled housing for all.”

Many thanks,

[Redacted]

Press release from the office of Jeremy Balfour MSP

For immediate release

31/08/2020

Urgent Action Needed to Address Temporary Housing Crisis in Midlothian

Jeremy Balfour, Scottish Conservative and Unionist MSP for the Lothian Region, has called on the SNP Government to take responsibility for the number of households in temporary accommodation in Midlothian.

The latest figures reveal 5.6 households per 100,000 of the population were in temporary accommodation in Midlothian. This is the highest rate of any local authority in Scotland, where the average is 2.6 per household.

The figures cover period up to the end of March this year so do not take full account of the effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, but Jeremy Balfour MSP is calling on SNP Ministers to get control of the homelessness crisis and ensure effective strategies are in place to properly tackle the situation.

Commenting, Jeremy Balfour MSP said:

“I am extremely concerned at the temporary accommodation figure for Midlothian, which is more than double the Scottish average for those households per population that are in temporary accommodation (5.6 compared to 2.6).

“This appalling situation will be hurting children and the most vulnerable. Urgent attention is needed as to why so many in Midlothian are in temporary accommodation.”

“It is time the SNP Government took full responsibility and came up with effective strategies that properly tackle this serious issue. I will continue to hold the SNP Government to account over the housing crisis.

ENDS

Notes: The figures can be accessed here:

[Table 35: Households in temporary accommodation at 31st March compared to population of Scotland age 16 or over](#)

Item 35

From: [Redacted] **On Behalf Of** Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning

Sent: 31 August 2020 17:40

To: [Redacted]; Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>; Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government <CabSecCLG@gov.scot>; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: For clearance please - media enquiry - Con NR Temporary Housing Crisis - Midlothian Courier

[Redacted]

Mr Stewart is content with the lines, thanks.

[Redacted]

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Item 36

From: [Redacted]

Sent: 31 August 2020 17:43

To: Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning <MinisterLGHP@gov.scot>

Cc: News Desk <Newsdesk@gov.scot>; MacDougall A (Audrey) <Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot>;

Campbell J (Jeanette) (Special Adviser) <Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot>; Ingebrigtsen R (Ross)

<Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Nicolson S (Stuart) Special Adviser <Stuart.Nicolson@gov.scot>;

Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Local Government CabSecCLG@gov.scot; [Redacted]

Subject: RE: For clearance please - media enquiry - Con NR Temporary Housing Crisis - Midlothian Courier

Thanks [Redacted],

I'll issue now.

[Redacted]