

Documents for release for Fol 202400423943

Q: Could you supply all correspondence sent and received by the Scottish Government to/from councils about housing emergencies, including briefings written by officials about councils declaring housing emergencies, between November 1 2023 and December 31 2023?

Part 1: FMQ briefs

FMQ Brief: 1 November 2023

31 Oct: [Daily Record] Shelter Scotland call on FM to declare housing emergency and implement an emergency action plan by 2026 to address high numbers of children in temporary accommodation. They also call on Scottish Government to fund purchase of private rented sector properties to provide homes for affordable rent.

31 Oct: [Edinburgh News] Motion calling for City of Edinburgh Council to declare a housing emergency in response to increasing levels of homelessness and high numbers of households in temporary accommodation submitted by Labour Councillor Jane Meagher.

31 Oct: [Daily Record] Concerns about Scotland's 'housing crisis' and impact of right to buy scheme which removed homes from the social housing sector.
[redacted: out of scope]

29 Oct: [The Herald] Housing campaigners call for urgent action to be taken in response to increasing numbers of cases where councils have failed to provide emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. Concerns Glasgow is facing a housing emergency which will be compounded by Home Office decision to introduce a streamlined asylum process to increase speed of positive asylum decisions over a short time scale and will lead to pressure on homelessness services and increase in rough sleeping numbers.

[redacted: out of scope]

FMQ Brief: 7 November 2023

2 Nov: City of Edinburgh Council declares housing emergency and seeks additional funding from Scottish Government due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs. Telegraph reports that declaration is a sign that Scottish Government rent control policies have 'backfired'.

[redacted: out of scope]

31 Oct: Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland and Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers issue joint letter to Minister for Housing calling for urgent action to avoid a crisis in the response to homelessness in Scotland.

31 Oct: [Daily Record] Shelter Scotland calls on FM to declare housing emergency and implement an emergency action plan by 2026 to address high numbers of children in temporary accommodation.

31 Oct: [Daily Record] Concerns about Scotland's 'housing crisis' and impact of right to buy scheme which removed homes from the social housing sector.

29 Oct: [The Herald] Housing campaigners call for action due to numbers of cases where councils have failed to provide emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. Concerns Glasgow is facing a housing emergency which will be compounded by Home Office decision to increase speed of positive asylum decisions over a short time scale.

[redacted: out of scope]

HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH

Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government.

- Our Ending Homelessness Together strategy, developed with expert input, is the right long term strategy to end homelessness in Scotland.
- Our annual report, published on 26 October, sets out the important gains we have made over the last year towards ending homelessness in Scotland.
- We are making £3.5 billion available over this parliamentary term to support delivery of 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, 70% of which will be for social rent.
- This includes investing at least £60 million to help local authorities and registered social landlords acquire properties for use as affordable, permanent homes.

Our Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) investment in Edinburgh will be at a record level over the parliamentary period at £234m up to 2025-26.

- We increased this figure by a further £10m in 2023-23 and a further £3m this year.
- We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months.
- This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services to help them move onto more settled accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

FMQ Brief: 13 November 2023

12 Nov: [Sunday Mail] Scottish Tenants Organisation call for Glasgow City Council to declare housing and homeless emergency due to high numbers in temporary accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

7 Nov: [Daily Record] Ewan Aitken, CEO, Cyrenians homelessness charity calls for implementation of public and private sector national strategy to address 'housing emergency' and make more homes available.

3 Nov: [Daily Record] Shelter Scotland calls for First Minister to declare housing emergency and implement action plan to reduce numbers of people in temporary accommodation.

2 Nov: City of Edinburgh Council declares housing emergency and seeks additional funding from Scottish Government due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs. Telegraph reports that declaration is a sign that Scottish Government rent control policies have 'backfired'.

[redacted: out of scope]

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[redacted: out of scope]

FMQ Brief: 22 November 2023

[redacted: out of scope]

22 Nov: [The Courier] Labour table Holyrood motion to declare Scottish “housing emergency” citing high numbers in temporary accommodation, rising inflation and increased living costs. Mark Griffin, party spokesman, said ministers have offered no support to people at risk of homelessness and claims work to build social housing has dropped by 26% from 2022.

[redacted: out of scope]

12 Nov: [Sunday Mail] Scottish Tenants Organisation calls for Glasgow City Council to follow Edinburgh and declare housing and homeless emergency due to high numbers in temporary accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

MOTION TO DECLARE HOUSING EMERGENCY

Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government.

- This government is committed to giving housing and homelessness the support and attention it deserves.
- Our Ending Homelessness Together strategy, developed with expert input, is the right long term strategy to end homelessness in Scotland.
- Our annual report, published on 26 October, sets out the important gains we have made over the last year towards ending homelessness in Scotland.

Our ambition is for everyone to have a safe and affordable home that meets their needs.

- That is why we are making £3.5 billion available in this parliamentary term towards the delivery of more affordable and social homes.
- Since 2007, we have worked with partners to deliver nearly 124,000 affordable homes, over 87,000 of which were for social rent.
- The number of affordable homes completed in the latest year to end June 2023 (10,757) is the highest annual figure in more than two decades.

In 2016, we brought an end to the UK government policy of right to buy, which took more than half a million homes out of the social rented sector in Scotland.

- Since ending right to buy, we estimate that up to 15,500 homes have been protected and will remain available to renters.
- We remain committed to delivering our target of 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, of which at least 70% will be for social rent.
- The Minister for Housing is meeting with housing convenors across the country to discuss the challenges in reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

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FMQ Brief: 29 November 2023

29 Nov: [Daily Record] Glasgow City Council to consider declaring housing emergency as Home Office streamlined asylum process places further pressure on the local authority. Labour Housing Spokesperson, Mark Griffin calls homeless deaths statistics “truly heart-breaking.”

29 Nov: [The Scotsman] Gavin Smith, Chair of Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland calls for urgent action to be taken to address homelessness and housing pressures, particularly in relation to affordability of private rented homes.

[redacted: out of scope]

23 Nov [Scottish Housing News] Shelter Scotland and Homes for Scotland express disappointment that Labour’s motion to declare Scottish “housing emergency” was defeated during Scottish Parliament debate on 22 Nov. Shelter Scotland director, Alison Watson, said “Scottish Government are in denial”

[redacted: out of scope]

HOUSING EMERGENCY – GLASGOW

The Home Office’s fast track asylum process is placing Glasgow City Council under unprecedented pressure and risks pushing people into destitution

- Asylum and immigration are entirely reserved and handled by the Home Office.
- The UK Government’s mismanagement of the asylum system has left a backlog of over 165,000 people waiting for a decision on their cases.
- The Home Office must urgently provide funding to local authorities and work constructively with them to ensure that people receiving a positive asylum decision are supported to move on from asylum accommodation.

The Migration and Refugees Minister wrote to the UK Government on 28 October to bring forward funding for local authorities to manage this pressure. It is disappointing that we have not yet received a response from the UK Immigration Minister.

- The leader of Glasgow City Council and the City Convener for Workforce, Homelessness and Addiction Services have also jointly written to the UK Government to outline their concerns, and have received no response.

We are investing nearly £538m over this parliamentary period in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) for Glasgow up to 2025-26.

- The Glasgow Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2024 to 2029 aims to deliver 7,682 affordable homes over the period.
- We provided Glasgow City Council with £1,471,795 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided £99,664 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Glasgow over the winter months.
- This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with a warm, safe space and access to trauma-informed services to help them move onto more settled accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

FMQ Brief: 5 December 2023

[redacted: out of scope]

3 Dec: [The Ferret] Charities call on Scottish Government to declare a national housing emergency citing impact of cost of living and expedited asylum process. Simon Community Scotland reports 41 people sleeping rough in Glasgow and 33 people in Edinburgh. Homeless Project Scotland plans to open 24 hour welfare centre in Glasgow.

[redacted: out of scope]

30 Nov: Glasgow City Council declares housing emergency as Home Office decision to fast track backlog of asylum cases is expected to increase homelessness and rough sleeping. Council calls for UK Government to pause streamlined asylum process and for both UKG and Scottish Government to provide additional funding. Shelter Scotland director Alison Watson said there was a danger “we end up with a situation where Scotland’s world leading rights exist only on paper rather than in reality.”

[redacted: out of scope]

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[redacted: out of scope]

30 Nov: Glasgow City Council declares housing emergency.

[redacted: out of scope]

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[redacted: out of scope]

FMQ Brief: 20 December 2023

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- The Home Office must urgently provide funding to local authorities and work constructively with them to ensure that people receiving a positive asylum decision are supported to move on from asylum accommodation.

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- This year we have provided £99,664 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Glasgow over the winter months.
- This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with a warm, safe space and access to trauma-informed services to help them move onto more settled accommodation.
- [redacted: out of scope]

Part 2: Correspondence sent and received between SG and council officials

Email 1:

From: [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Sent: Monday, December 4, 2023 2:06 PM

To: [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Cc: [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Subject: Committee Reports

Hi [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Links below to the reports we talked about today which will be considered at the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee tomorrow.

[Housing Emergency Action Plan](#)

[Strategic Housing Investment Plan \(SHIP\)](#)

Kind Regards

[redacted s.38(10(b))]

[redacted s.38(10(b))] Homelessness & Housing Support | Housing & Homelessness | Place Directorate | The City of Edinburgh Council | Business Centre 1:8 | Waverley Court, 4 East Market Street, Edinburgh, EH8 8BG



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Email 2:

From: [redacted s.38(10(b))] > **On Behalf Of** Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel & Tenants' Rights

Sent: Tuesday, November 28, 2023 2:06 PM

To: Public Engagement Unit <CorrespondenceUnit@gov.scot>

Cc: Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel & Tenants' Rights <MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Letter from Leader of Edinburgh Council

Hi PEU,

For MR.

Thanks,

[redacted s.38(10(b)) | Assistant Private Secretary to the Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel and Tenants' Rights – Patrick Harvie
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG | Email: MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot

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From: [redacted s.38(10(b))]
Sent: Monday, November 20, 2023 1:06 PM
To: First Minister <FirstMinister@gov.scot>
Cc: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Minister for Zero Carbon Buildings, Active Travel & Tenants' Rights <MinisterforZCBATTR@gov.scot>; Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>
Subject: Letter from Leader of Edinburgh Council

Good afternoon,

Please find attached a letter from Cllr Cammy Day, Leader of the City of Edinburgh Council.

Many thanks,

[redacted s.38(10(b)) Senior Executive Officer | Labour Group
City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh, EH1 1YJ
[redacted s.38(10(b))]

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Attachment 1:



Housing Emergency
Letter to Scot Govt.doc

Email 3:

From: [redacted s.38(10(b))> **On Behalf Of** Casey, Allan (Councillor)
Sent: Monday, December 11, 2023 6:24 PM
To: Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(10(b))>
Subject: Letter to Paul McLennan MSP

Dear [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Please find attached letter from Cllr Allan Casey to The Minister for Housing.

This will be discussed at tomorrow's meeting and Kirsty MacAlpine and Jim McBride will also attend the meeting.

Kind Regards,

[redacted s.38(10(b))]Business Support - Members Services
Chief Executive Department
Glasgow City Council
Room 46
City Chambers
George Square
Glasgow
G2 1DU

[redacted s.38(10(b))]

Email 4:

From: [redacted s.38(10(b))
> **On Behalf Of** Minister for Housing
Sent: Monday, December 18, 2023 1:16 PM
To: [redacted s.38(10(b))]
Cc: Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; [redacted s.38(10(b))]
Subject: FW: Letter from SHAPE, City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

Hi all,

For your awareness, please see below correspondence from Cyrenians to Mr McLennan, and the attached letters which are co-signed by the City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and SHAPE, which were issued to the FM, DFM, Ms Somerville and Mr Gray.

Noting the letters were issued to the aforementioned recipients – grateful for a steer on whether any response should be drafted from Mr McLennan.

Many thanks,
[redacted s.38(10(b))]

[redacted s.38(10(b))]
The Scottish Government
[redacted s.38(10(b))] E: MinisterHousing@gov.scot

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

Subject: Letter from SHAPE, City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

CAUTION: *This e-mail originated from outside of The Scottish Parliament. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.*

Good Morning Mr McLennan,

Mr Aitken asked me to inform you of the attached letters signed by City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and SHAPE, the Third Sector homelessness collaborative in Edinburgh, that were sent out today to the above parties.

We are writing to make the case that addressing the housing emergency in Edinburgh in the upcoming budget is essential for reducing poverty and inequality and to save public money in the long run.

Kind Regards,

[redacted s.38(10(b))] **Business Support Coordinator**

Tackling the causes and consequences of homelessness

Norton Park
57 Albion Road
Edinburgh
EH7 5QY
www.cyrenians.scot

From: Ewan Aitken <EwanAitken@cyrenians.scot>

Sent: 18 December 2023 11:04

To: firstminister@gov.scot <firstminister@gov.scot>

Subject: FAO: First Minister Humza Yousaf - Letter from SHAPE, City of Edinburgh Council and Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

Dear First Minister,

We are writing to make the case that addressing the housing emergency in Edinburgh in the upcoming budget is essential for reducing poverty and inequality and to save public money in the long run.

Please find attached letter signed by City of Edinburgh Council, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and SHAPE, the Third Sector homelessness collaborative in Edinburgh.

Kind Regards,

Ewan Aitken
CEO

Tackling the causes and consequences of homelessness

Norton Park
57 Albion Road
Edinburgh
EH7 5QY
www.cyrenians.scot

Attachments:



SHAPE letter_Humza
Yousaf.docx



SHAPE letter_Shona
Robison.docx



SHAPE letter_Neil
Gray.docx



SHAPE
letter_Shirley-Anne So

Email 5:

From: > [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2023 4:58 PM

To: Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>

Subject: For the attention of the Minister for Housing - SG Response to Temporary Accommodation Pressures - [OFFICIAL]

DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL

Good afternoon

On behalf of the Chief Executive, please find attached a letter for the attention of the Minister for Housing.

Kind regards
Morgan

[redacted s.38(10(b))]Project Officer Chief Executive Office
West Lothian Council, Civic Centre, Howden South Road, Livingston, EH54 6FF

[redacted s.38(10(b))]

Attachments:



Notice of Motion -
Temporary Accommo



Report - Scottish
Government Respons



Letter to Minister for
Housing - 14-12-23.pr

Email 6:

From: [redacted s.38(10(b))]>

Sent: Thursday, December 21, 2023 3:24 PM

To: Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>

Cc: Casey, Allan (Councillor) <Allan.Casey@glasgow.gov.uk>; McLean, Kenny (Councillor) <Kenny.McLean@glasgow.gov.uk>; [redacted s.38(10(b))]

Subject: Housing Funding Flexibility.

Good afternoon,

As discussed, please find attached letter from Cllrs Casey and McLean, alongside a business case for flexibility within Scottish Government funding programmes.

Happy to discuss further.

Best wishes,

>[redacted s.38(10(b))]

Senior Adviser to the Leader

Glasgow City Council

Leader's Office - City Chambers

Glasgow G2 1DU

[redacted s.38(10(b))]

Part 3: Correspondence sent and received between Ministers and councils

Letter 1:



Letter from MfH to
CEC 13 December 20:

Letter 2:



Part 4: Briefings

Briefing 1:

City of Edinburgh Council Housing Emergency – Concurrent Issues Briefing – 3 November 2023

Performance, Delivery and Resilience - Concurrent Issues Briefing

Policy areas should complete the attached template and return by 1200 to SG Preparedness Mailbox SGPreparedness@gov.scot. *New information should be in red.*

ISSUE – Outline of concurrent risk relating to your area. Please include key data to support your text.

2 November 2023: City of Edinburgh Council declare a housing emergency and seek additional funding from Scottish Government due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs.

Background

This is in response to Shelter Scotland's call for both national and local government to declare a housing emergency following the development of their [Scottish Housing Emergency Action Plan](#) (August 2022).

By declaring the emergency, the City of Edinburgh Council aims to work with council officers, existing third sector partners and external organisations with the goal of establishing a Housing Emergency Action Plan to build on and consolidate existing actions to reduce housing and homelessness pressures.

Edinburgh is the second council in Scotland to formally declare a housing emergency following Argyll and Bute Council which previously declared a housing emergency in June 2023.

LEAD MINISTER: Paul McLennan, Minister for Housing

LEAD OFFICIAL: [redacted s.38(10(b))], Homelessness Unit

[redacted: out of scope]

Key lines to take (please note these should be public facing line and should be in standard FMQ-style briefing lines.)

HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH

- We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement their rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months. This provides short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and aims to assist people at risk of rough sleeping to move onto more settled accommodation.

The increased number of homeless households is not unique to Scotland.

- No country is immune to the impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis. This coupled with a hard Brexit and over a decade of austerity from the UK government has put unprecedented pressures on public finances.
- The difference in Scotland is that we are taking action to address the pressures in temporary accommodation and have committed to reducing the use of temporary accommodation by 2026.
- We understand that increasing housing supply is key to reducing the pressure on temporary accommodation. In our response to the Temporary Accommodation Task and Finish Group recommendations, we have said we will invest at least £60 million for councils and social landlords to acquire properties for use as affordable homes, as part of our wider £752 million Affordable Housing Supply Programme investment this year.
- The Home Office's poorly managed process for asylum decisions has left local authorities unable to plan and puts many people at risk of rough sleeping and destitution.

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 2: Sunday Show – 4 November 2024

SUNDAY SHOW 4th NOVEMBER 2023: SUMMARY BRIEFING

[redacted: out of scope]

HOUSING “CRISIS”

- The increased number of homeless households is not unique to Scotland.
- Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government and our Ending Homelessness Together action plan, developed with expert input, is the right strategy to end homelessness in Scotland.
- We are making available £3.5 billion over this parliamentary term to support delivery of 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, 70% of which will be for social rent. This includes investing at least £60 million to help local authorities and registered social landlords acquire properties for use as high quality, affordable, permanent homes.
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans play an important role in Scotland's homelessness strategy and aim to reduce the need for temporary accommodation.

- We have provided local authorities with £52.5 million between 2018-24 for their plans to support people into settled accommodation.
- We have also committed an additional £2m of funding to reduce the use of temporary accommodation and implement targeted partnership plans with the local authorities facing greatest pressure.
- Since 2020 we have provided over £1.1m of funding towards the operation of Rapid Rehousing Welcome Centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh to ensure everyone at risk of rough sleeping can access accommodation and support over the winter months (£215,471 of funding has been provided for this winter.)

Edinburgh-specific

- We provided £713,228 to the City of Edinburgh Council in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan.
- We are making a grant of £115,807 available to the Bethany Christian Trust towards the operation of the rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh in winter 2023-24

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 3:

Homelessness briefing for interview with Inside Housing – 7 November 2023

Briefing for interview with Inside Housing

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- This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services to help them move onto more settled accommodation.

- Since 2007, Scotland has seen over 40% more affordable homes delivered per head of population than in England, and over 70% more than in Wales.
- The number of affordable homes completed in the latest year to end June 2023 (10,757) is the highest annual figure in more than two decades.
- The Minister for Housing is meeting with housing convenors across the country to discuss the challenges in reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation.
Guidance is being prepared to support our new national acquisition plan – backed by investment of at least £60 million from LA resource planning assumptions.

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX A

HOMELESSNESS FMQ

2 Nov: City of Edinburgh Council declares housing emergency and seeks additional funding from Scottish Government due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs. Telegraph reports that declaration is a sign that Scottish Government rent control policies have 'backfired'.

[redacted: out of scope]

31 Oct: [Daily Record] Shelter Scotland calls on FM to declare housing emergency and implement an emergency action plan by 2026 to address high numbers of children in temporary accommodation.

31 Oct: [Daily Record] Concerns about Scotland's 'housing crisis' and impact of right to buy scheme which removed homes from the social housing sector.

29 Oct: [The Herald] Housing campaigners call for action due to numbers of cases where councils have failed to provide emergency accommodation for people experiencing homelessness. Concerns Glasgow is facing a housing emergency which will be compounded by Home Office decision to increase speed of positive asylum decisions over a short time scale.

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 4 – Scottish Labour Party Debate – Housing – Homelessness briefing – 22 November 2023

That the Parliament agrees that Scotland is experiencing a housing emergency.

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 5 - Meeting with the Minister for Housing and SHAPE, ECC and CEC – 23 November 2023

What	SHAPE, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and City of Edinburgh Council
When	23 November 2023 14:15-15:15
Where	MS Teams
Who	Ewan Aitken, Chair, SHAPE, Liz Mcareavey, CEO, Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce and Cllr Jane Meagher, Convenor, Housing, Homeless and Fair Work
Why	Meeting requested by Ewan Aitken
Key messages	The SG is aware of the issues in housing supply and homelessness in Edinburgh, which has culminated in the recent declaration of a housing emergency in the capital. Today's meeting is not to reiterate these issues but to instead discuss potential solutions.
Official support	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit [redacted s.38(1)(b)] Affordable Housing Supply Programme
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minister's response to the case made by the three parties (Annex C) and feedback from SHAPE, CEC and the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce (ECC) to the response <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Main objective	To provide an opportunity for SHAPE, ECC and CEC to put forward for discussion solutions to pressures on the housing and homelessness system in Edinburgh.

[redacted: out of scope]

ITEM 1	Housing emergency in Edinburgh
Issue/ background	<p>2 November 2023: CEC declare a housing emergency and seek additional funding from Scottish Government due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs.</p> <p><u>Background</u> This is in response to Shelter Scotland’s call for both national and local government to declare a housing emergency following the development of their Scottish Housing Emergency Action Plan (August 2022).</p> <p>By declaring the emergency, CEC aims to work with council officers, existing third sector partners and external organisations with the goal of establishing a Housing Emergency Action Plan to build on and consolidate existing actions to reduce housing and homelessness pressures.</p> <p>Edinburgh is the second council in Scotland to formally declare a housing emergency following Argyll and Bute Council, which previously declared a housing emergency in June 2023.</p>
Key message(s)	<p><u>HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH</u> <u>Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Our Ending Homelessness Together strategy, developed with expert input, is the right long term strategy to end homelessness in Scotland. ● Our annual report, published on 26 October, sets out the important gains we have made over the last year towards ending homelessness in Scotland. ● We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement their rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing. ● This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over winter. This provides short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and aims to assist people at risk of rough sleeping to move onto more settled accommodation. <p><u>The increased number of homeless households is not unique to Scotland.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No country is immune to the impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis. This, coupled with a hard Brexit and over a decade of austerity from the UK Government, has put unprecedented pressures on public finances. ● The difference in Scotland is that we are taking action to address the

	<p>pressures in temporary accommodation and have committed to reducing the use of temporary accommodation by 2026.</p> <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Contact point	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit, and [redacted: s.38(1)(b)] , AHSP

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX C

Summary of issues in Edinburgh as detailed in letter from SHAPE, CEC and ECC to the Minister in September 2023

Edinburgh Housing Emergency

The increasing number of people affected by the housing emergency clearly indicates the high level of housing need in Edinburgh which is not being met. The pressures on homelessness in Edinburgh are further compounded by an extremely challenging housing market. With significant, structural, shortfalls in social housing provision compared to the rest of the country, and a uniquely challenging rental market within the United Kingdom, Edinburgh's position highlights the immense pressure the capital city is under to house people who need a safe, secure and affordable social home.

Official statistics

On 31st March 2023 in Edinburgh¹:

- 3,602 households were in temporary accommodation, which is an increase of 231 since March 2022. [That's 23% of all households in temporary accommodation in Scotland]
- 2,755 children were in temporary accommodation which is an increase by 280 since March 2022)[That's 29% of all children in temp in Scotland]
- There were 6,373 live homeless applications which is an increase of 921 since March 2022

In Edinburgh in 2022/23²:

- A couple with children spends on average 611 days in temporary accommodation.
- For homelessness cases closed in 2022/283, 17% had 5 or more temporary accommodation placements.
- There were 1490 recorded breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order: due to known issues with the reporting system this is very likely an undercount
- There were 670 recorded instances of gatekeeping: again, this is likely an undercount.
- More people entered temporary accommodation than left it: 5928 vs 5756 respectively.

Housing in Edinburgh 2022/23³

¹ Scottish Government (2023) Homelessness in Scotland: 2022-23 (redo-hyperlink)

² Scottish Government (2023) Homelessness in Scotland: 2022-23 (redo-hyperlink)

³ Scottish Government (2023) Homelessness in Scotland: 2022-23 (redo-hyperlink)

- Private Rental Sector rents are the highest in Scotland
- Council owned homes as a percentage of the total is the lowest in Scotland
- Below average social home provision at 14% of total – in comparison to a 23% average
- Approximately 200 bids for every available property on Edindex
- Highest PRS inflation in the UK at 13.7%
- A chronic shortage of family, and accessible, social housing

As a result of this pressure households are being denied their housing rights and the impact on those households can be significant and long lasting. Evidence shows that homelessness can impact on physical and mental health, education and employment outcomes. Children can be significantly affected and there can be a lifelong impact on their wellbeing and life chances. For example research shows that:

- Children who have been homeless are three to four times more likely to experience mental health problems than children who have never been homeless, even a year after they have secured a permanent home⁴.
- According to teachers, children who are homeless or in bad housing are often late, exhausted and struggle to maintain relationships with other children⁵.
- Bad housing can increase the risk of severe ill health or disability by up to 25% during childhood and early adulthood⁶.
- Children who have been homeless are more likely to experience repeat homelessness throughout their lives. The earlier a person becomes homeless the more likely they are to have five or more homeless experiences⁷.

People experiencing homelessness experience poorer physical and mental health than the general population.⁸ Housing insecurity and frequently moving home has significant impacts on health and wellbeing – particularly mental health⁹, and in Edinburgh long periods in temporary accommodation and multiple moves between placements means this is all too relevant. Third sector organisations have significant evidence of the impact of long stays in temporary accommodation and how their work in supporting change in people’s lives is hampered when working in this context. Most concerning, studies have shown that people experiencing homelessness have a much higher risk of death from a range of causes and have a much lower average age of death = just 47 years old for men and 43 for women (compared to 77 for males and 81 for women in the general population).¹⁰

This is not just an issue of homelessness. This crisis is having an impact economically, which of course, hinders our ability to respond to crisis and to invest in ways which prevent crisis happening in the first place. Getting it right in Edinburgh economically helps the rest of the country

- The City of Edinburgh takes up 0.16% of Scotland’s land, yet accounts for 9.6% of its population, 16% of its GDP, and has the highest GDP of any region in Scotland. It is also number 8 in the UK for GDP per head. The City Region represents 25% of Scotland’s

⁴ Shelter publication. [Chance of a Lifetime](#) – The Impact of Bad Housing on Children’s Lives. 2006

⁴ Shelter publication. [Chance of a Lifetime](#) – The Impact of Bad Housing on Children’s Lives. 2006

⁵ Digby A and Fu E for Shelter (2017), [Impacts of homelessness on children – research with teachers](#). Kantar Public

⁶ Shelter publication. [Chance of a Lifetime](#) – The Impact of Bad Housing on Children’s Lives. 2006

⁷ Mackie P and Thomas I for Crisis (2014), [Nations apart? Experiences of single homeless people across Great Britain](#)

⁸ Public Health Scotland (previously NHS Health Scotland)(2016) [Health and homelessness](#)

⁹ Fraser of Allander Institute (2022) [Health inequalities in Scotland: Trends in the socio-economic determinants of health in Scotland](#)

¹⁰ Public Health Scotland (previously NHS Health Scotland)(2016) [Health and homelessness](#)

population but contributes nearly 30% of its GDP – if Edinburgh and its region succeeds, then so does Scotland as a whole

- 13.9% of Scotland’s jobs are located within Edinburgh¹¹, with a high percentage of these being concentrated in its city centre, and therefore affordable housing that is still within the city to give people access to these jobs is essential
- The average full time weekly wage in Edinburgh is £654.80 (Scottish average is £640.30)¹² – the presence of high-value, highly productive jobs pushes wages up across the board

Getting this right means many more pathways can be created to lift people out of the poverty which is often the driver of homelessness and sustain the change they make

- Better housing and greater security and affordability is key to addressing some of the structural drivers of health inequality – with an estimated 185.6 million working days lost due to sickness or injury in 2022 across the UK, improvements in health would drive productivity gains¹³.
- In May 2023, 67% of Scottish SMEs reported skills shortages that are impacting business growth and profitability. For businesses with 10–49 employees, this rockets to 83%.¹⁴ Anecdotally, Edinburgh employers are finding it particularly hard to recruit for more low-paid roles, or roles that require unsociable hours. One reason given is that potential employees can’t afford to live in the city and it would be too far to travel for these roles¹⁵
- 2022–25 Edinburgh and East and Midlothian are expected to require an additional 54,700 people in employment. The sectors that expect the most growth in jobs are Human Health and Social Work, and Accommodation and Food Service^{16,17} – sectors that tend to have a larger proportion of lower paid workers⁷, who will need somewhere affordable to live
- Crisis have estimated that if we ended homelessness, increased economic output as a result of people entering employment would create £357.5m of economic benefit for Scotland¹⁸
- A 2019 study found that 67% of those on the waiting list for social housing were struggling to make ends meet, with 60% in debt, compared to 38% and 35% respectively of those already living in social housing¹⁹
- A report into the impact of low-cost housing associations in Austria²⁰ found that tenants of this low cost housing saved a total of €1.2bn per year compared to if they had had to pay full market rents – money that can then be spent elsewhere in the economy

And there is of course a positive economic impact of the spend itself on constructing and operating social housing:

¹¹ Nomis [Labour Market Profile](#)

¹² Nomis [Labour Market Profile](#)

¹³ ONS [Sickness absence in the UK labour market: 2022](#)

¹³ ONS [Sickness absence in the UK labour market: 2022](#)

¹⁴ Open University Scotland [report](#) May 2023

¹⁵ Conversations with Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce members

¹⁶ SDS Regional Skills Assessment Nov 2022: Edinburgh, East and Midlothian

¹⁷ Hospitality and Tourism workforce landscape [report](#) for the Dept. for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

¹⁸ Crisis and PwC: [Assessing the costs and benefits of Crisis’ plan to end homelessness](#)

¹⁹ The Tenant’s Journey – Social Housing and Subjective Wellbeing’ [report](#)

²⁰ [The role of limited profit housing in Austria](#) – the Austrian Institute of Economic Research

- In 2017-18, Welsh housing associations spent £1.2 billion on all of their activities. This led to direct, indirect and induced economic impacts worth £2.26 billion in additional output, gross added value of £886 million and 23,151 FTE jobs across the Welsh economy²¹
- 30 rough sleepers can cost the public sector as much as £600,000 in a 12-month period²²
- Constructing an additional 100,000 homes across the UK would generate £1.1 billion capital spend, £13.6 billion more in economic output, 430,000 FTEs, £432 million in extra local infrastructure investment and £3.2 billion more spending by residents on goods and services²³

This housing emergency requires an **urgent emergency response** fully focussed on the structural solutions. This means that the Council should be supported to fully focus on delivering the maximum number of quality, **social homes** they can each year. This will mean continuing to build new social homes, buying back and buying from open market where possible, bringing empty homes and voids back into use and flipping tenancies where suitable for the tenant. We urgently need to ensure that those households who are currently in temporary accommodation and who require a social home can be supported, as quickly as possible, into a suitable, secure and affordable home.

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX D MINISTER FOR HOUSING'S FORMAL RESPONSE TO CEC PROPOSALS

Minister for Housing
Paul McLennan MSP



T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Councillor Jane Meagher
Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work
Convener City of Edinburgh Council

16 November 2023

Dear Jane,

²¹ [2018 Economic impact of Welsh housing associations](#) – Community Housing Cymru

²² [The Impact of Social Housing: Economic, Social, Health and Wellbeing](#) – the UK Collaborative Centre of Housing Evidence and Housing Associations Charitable Trust

²³ [The Economic Footprint of UK House Building](#) – House Builders Federation

Since we last met, I know councillors have backed a motion submitted by you to declare a housing emergency in Edinburgh. While this is far from desirable, I would like to reiterate my commitment to work with you on the proposed solutions to help alleviate the housing pressures Edinburgh is facing.

I would like to thank you and your officials for forwarding on revised proposals to help reduce temporary accommodation pressures in Edinburgh and was very glad to meet with you on 17 August when we had the chance to discuss some of these in more detail. I think these proposals are shaping up well, and I have provided feedback on the homelessness-focused solutions to formalise our discussion and potential next steps. The latest iteration of these proposals is attached as Annexes A and B.

Annex A

There are a few general points to make in relation to all staffing funding bids. Proposals have been sought on what work is needed in the short term (the next two to three years) to reduce the pressures on temporary accommodation. While the Scottish Government is willing to consider providing funding towards staffing on a project basis, it is important to be clear from the outset that any contracts for staff part-funded by the Scottish Government (SG) will be offered on a fixed term basis. The expectation is that posts that are required beyond 31 March 2026 will be mainstreamed into the City of Edinburgh Council (CEC) or that the staff would be released.

In our response to the Temporary Accommodation Task and Finish Group report, we said we would provide targeted funding of £2 million to the local authorities facing the most significant temporary accommodation pressures to support stock management activity and provide the resource needed to deploy capital monies effectively. CEC has been awarded £546,000 of this resource, which can contribute to the staffing posts set out in your proposal. As local authorities are best placed to assess where the greatest need for staffing resource lies, I am content for CEC to allocate this funding to the posts they consider to be of the highest priority. When we next meet on 7 December, I would be grateful for an update on how you propose to allocate this funding.

Continued RRTP funding

Thank you for forwarding CEC's annual update on RRTP progress. I appreciate that continued RRTP funding is the biggest priority for CEC given that a significant proportion of this resource supports staff costs, and that you are very keen to hear about potential allocations beyond 31 March 2024. The Scottish Government remains wholly committed to the implementation of RRTPs and my officials are continuing to make a case internally for continued funding beyond our initial five year commitment. As in previous years, funding plans will be confirmed towards the end of the year when the Scottish Draft Budget is published on 19 December.

RSL commitment to increase the percentage lets to homeless households

At our meeting on 17 August, we discussed CEC's recent homelessness input to the EdIndex Board and your wish to achieve a balance between homeless households with people on housing lists with other priority needs. I would reiterate my encouragement for CEC to press for a commitment from RSLs to increase the percentage lets to homeless households, and would be interested in an update from engagement with the EdIndex Board on this issue.

I also suggested that holding discussions with local authorities in the south east of the country would be beneficial so that, if any changes to percentage lets to homeless households were made, this does not inadvertently disadvantage any neighbouring councils. At the Housing Convenors forum on 3 October, I reiterated that I would be happy to facilitate discussions around short term actions to reduce the numbers if local authorities would find that helpful.

Annex B

Capital fund for TA properties

I appreciate CEC is looking to acquire more CEC-owned temporary accommodation to move households out of unsuitable accommodation and into suitable temporary accommodation while they wait for a permanent property. We discussed the increasing number of homeless households and the need to have a supply of temporary accommodation to house them.

The Scottish Government will shortly be issuing guidance on the £60 million National Acquisition Plan announced in our response to the Temporary Accommodation Task and Finish Group report, the primary aim of which is to help increase the availability of permanent homes. The guidance states that, in certain circumstances, it may be appropriate for properties acquired through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme/National Acquisition Plan to be used as suitable temporary accommodation, and that the relevant More Homes Scottish Government area team should be contacted to discuss such requests.

Technology to identify households at risk of homelessness

At our meeting, the technology, data gathering and analysis, and campaign work undertaken by CEC's Housing and Homelessness Director in his previous post to identify where people are in difficulty and potentially at risk of homelessness was discussed. I advised it would be helpful for any reports or evaluations which demonstrate the outcomes of the previous project would be helpful to demonstrate its potential for success, although I noted that the £2m is to fund activity in 2023-24, and this seemed to be a longer term project. I would be happy to revisit discussions around this proposal at our next meeting once this information has been submitted.

Reintroduction of local connection referrals

We discussed that informal monthly data on local connection is being requested to monitor the impact of the changes to the legislation on local authorities. CEC submitted informal monitoring data which showed that, between June and

September, 156 households without a local connection to Edinburgh have arrived²⁴ and that 25 households have left and presented as homeless to another Scottish local authority.

However, when this data is filtered for only the households who would have been eligible for a referral back to their originating Scottish local authority prior to the legislative change, only 25 households with no local connection to the local authority have presented in Edinburgh since November 2022. Rather than indicating a disproportionate impact on the capital city, this net total of 0 provides a pattern of movement across Scotland, which is indicative of the legislation working as intended. It would be helpful if CEC could continue to return this data on a monthly basis to allow us to continue to monitor any trends.

Officials will continue to keep this under review and will work with CEC officials to understand the impact for CEC as well as analyse the statistical data. In addition, the Local Connection Solutions Group, which includes representation from CEC officials, is meeting regularly to develop appropriate supportive measures to assist local authorities to address the issues they are experiencing. SG officials are in the process of preparing guidance on transfers and managed moves between local authorities in response to points the group has raised.

Continued funding for Tenant Grant Fund

In a previous discussion with you on the Tenant Grant Fund, I advised that this fund had now closed and would not be re-opened. However, CEC receives funding to support households struggling with housing costs as a result of the bedroom tax, benefit cap and local housing allowance rate freeze through the Discretionary Housing Payment scheme. In 2023-24, this amounts to an estimated £6,956,775, with a further £185,617 to support CEC with the administration of the scheme.

Funding for Portlee modular build project

When we met, you clarified that CEC has already committed funding to this project but, due to increased costs, a funding shortfall has been identified and that the project would be unable to proceed without additional funding to offset this.

As you are likely aware, the purpose of the Scottish Government's Ukrainian Longer Term Resettlement Fund is to bring empty properties back into use that would otherwise not have been available for let. Recently, the scope of the fund was widened to include different proposals and acquisitions, such as buybacks, off the shelf purchase and the reprovisioning of properties. The fund has also been extended to 31 March 2025. I would ask that you explore possible funding for this project from the Ukrainian Longer Term Resettlement Fund (Longer-Term_Resettlement_Fund@gov.scot) in the first instance.

²⁴ Data provided by CEC showed that a total of 41 households from outside of Edinburgh presented to the local authority between November 2022 and June 2023, 33 households arrived in July, 52 in August and 30 in September.

I had recently met with Midlothian and East Lothian Housing Convenors and we discussed opportunities for CEC to undertake joint ventures with neighbouring local authorities, for example, flexibility around procurement, mid-market rent opportunities and City Growth or City Region Deals. CEC confirmed that initial discussions between CEC and Midlothian on modular development were already underway.

Finally, since our previous engagement, my officials have been liaising closely with CEC officials regarding the potential purchase of 20 Taylor Wimpey homes. We can confirm that the 20 units proposed to boost social rented housing supply will be supported with an additional £3.286 million.

As agreed at our last meeting, the focus of our discussions will alternate between homelessness and housing supply issues. I would appreciate if CEC feedback could be provided against the SG comments on the Affordable Housing Supply Programme proposals (Annex C) in the same way as CEC feedback was provided on the homelessness proposals in August to inform our next meeting on 7 December.

I am of the view that we have made good progress from where we were a few months ago and think we have a strong foundation for action to address the current housing and homelessness challenges. I feel that continued partnership working between national and local government is paramount to our ability to effect change here. I look forward to receiving any further comments, which will inform the agenda for our next meeting.

PAUL MCLENNAN

Briefing 6 – Oban Housing summit – 27 November 2023

Housing Emergency

- Argyll and Bute were the first local authority in Scotland to declare a housing emergency (June 2023). This has since been followed by the City of Edinburgh Council in early November.

[redacted: out of scope]

LINES TO TAKE

Housing Emergency/Temporary Accommodation Backlog

- We recognise the challenges that are facing local authorities, which is why the Minister for Housing has been meeting with Housing Convenors to hear more about the specific issues they are experiencing and how national and local government can work together in partnership to address these.
- The Minister for Housing has invited local authorities to submit bespoke proposals to address these pressures and the Scottish Government is supporting councils to develop targeted plans to address local need.
- We are acting on the recommendations of the expert Temporary Accommodation Task and Finish Group, including investing at least £60 million for councils and social landlords to acquire properties for use as affordable homes, as part of our wider £752 million Affordable Housing Supply Programme investment this year, and asking social landlords to increase allocations to homeless households.
- To support local authorities and registered social landlords with a range of approaches to local housing stock management the Scottish Government announced, earlier this month, allocations of £2 million funding to 15 local authorities to help them maximise the use of their existing stock.
- Argyll and Bute have been allocated £47,000 from this funding.
- Scottish Government officials are also working with partners, including ALACHO, COSLA, the Scottish Housing Regulator, the SFHA and GWSF, on developing an accord, which will outline activity it might be feasible for local authorities and RSLs to pause without creating long term damage and the partnership work that is required to deliver on this.
- Most funding for homelessness is provided through the local government settlement (£13.2 billion in 2023-24) and local authorities are best placed to identify and respond to local needs and priorities.
- It is the responsibility of each local authority to allocate the financial resources available to it on the basis of local needs and priorities having first fulfilled its statutory obligations and the jointly agreed set of national and local priorities.

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 7 -
BBC Radio 4 Interview – 29 November 2023**

**BBC Radio 4 interview - Today programme
Housing emergency and homelessness deaths briefing
29 November 2023 – 7:30-7:45**

TOP LINES

[redacted: out of scope]

The increased number of homeless households is not unique to Scotland. We are seeing an increase in homelessness levels across all nations.

[redacted: out of scope]

- [Last week we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the two local authorities who have taken this step.]

[redacted: out of scope]

HOUSING CRISIS

- I am engaging with Cllr Meagher, Edinburgh's Housing Convenor, on a regular basis.
- The Scottish Government recently provided feedback on the solutions proposed by the City of Edinburgh Council, which they did before declaring a housing emergency, to help inform the discussion when we next meet on 7 December.
- Continued partnership working between national and local government is needed to address the current housing and homelessness challenges.
- Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government and our Ending Homelessness Together action plan, developed with expert input, is the right strategy to end homelessness in Scotland.
- With lack of supply significantly contributing to the housing emergencies declared by Argyll & Bute and Edinburgh councils, building more new homes across all tenures is a key part of the solution.
- We are making available £3.5 billion over this parliamentary term to support delivery of 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, 70% of which will be for social rent. This includes investing at least £60 million to help local authorities and registered social landlords acquire properties for use as high quality, affordable, permanent homes.
- Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans play an important role in Scotland's homelessness strategy and aim to reduce the need for temporary accommodation.
- We have provided local authorities with £52.5 million between 2018-24 for their plans to support people into settled accommodation.
- We have also committed an additional £2 million of funding to reduce the use of temporary accommodation and implement targeted partnership plans with the local authorities facing greatest pressure (Edinburgh will receive £546,000 and Argyll and Bute will receive £47,000).
- Since 2020 we have provided over £1.1 million of funding towards the operation of Rapid Rehousing Welcome Centres in Glasgow and Edinburgh to ensure

everyone at risk of rough sleeping can access accommodation and support over the winter months (£215,471 of funding has been provided for this winter.)

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 8 - Clyde 1 Interview – 29 November 2023

Clyde 1 Interview 29 November 2023 Glasgow Housing Emergency Briefing

HOUSING EMERGENCY – GLASGOW

The Home Office’s fast track asylum process is placing Glasgow City Council under unprecedented pressure and risks pushing people into destitution

- Asylum and immigration are entirely reserved and handled by the Home Office.
- The UK Government’s mismanagement of the asylum system has left a backlog of over 165,000 people waiting for a decision on their cases.
- The Home Office must urgently provide funding to local authorities and work constructively with them to ensure that people receiving a positive asylum decision are supported to move on from asylum accommodation.

The Migration and Refugees Minister wrote to the UK Government on 28 October to bring forward funding for local authorities to manage this pressure. It is disappointing that we have not yet received a response from the UK Immigration Minister.

- The leader of Glasgow City Council and the City Convener for Workforce, Homelessness and Addiction Services have also jointly written to the UK Government to outline their concerns and have received no response.

We are investing nearly £538m over this parliamentary period in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) for Glasgow up to 2025-26.

- The Glasgow Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2024 to 2029 aims to deliver 7,682 affordable homes over the period.
- We provided Glasgow City Council with £1,471,795 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.

[redacted: out of scope]

Q&A

Would you accept that ‘a crisis’ is not too strong a word to describe the housing situation we’ve got across the country at the moment?

- We know these are exceptionally challenging times, however, this government is not complacent.
- We hear local authorities’ concerns. We are listening to the evidence from advocacy organisations. We know there are families today who woke up in temporary accommodation, who have waited far too long for a settled home.

- We all need a home to live in. It is more than a place to shelter. It is a basic human right. It must be a place where we feel safe, where we can thrive.
- That is why we are committed to reform. In Scotland, we are taking action to tackling poverty and inequality. We are taking action to prevent and end homelessness. We are taking action to fully realise the right to adequate housing.

Will the Scottish Government declare a housing emergency?

- Last week [22 November], we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the local authorities who have taken this step.
- This government is absolutely determined to address levels of homelessness and improve the supply of social and affordable housing.
- People also need to see action: action to build more homes, make better homes and keep costs affordable.

Do you have the confidence that we can tackle this housing crisis?

- What I have heard many times that Scotland has the right strategy to end homelessness and the right long-term housing targets.
- We don't need a new plan but instead to keep moving forward with our strategy, to maintain momentum with meeting targets, and to create the right environment for investment in Scotland.
- I will do all I can to deliver on this but some matters are beyond my control.
- No country is immune to the impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis.
- Inflationary pressures, the impacts of Brexit and wider market conditions have contributed to rising construction costs and workforce challenges.
- In addition, the Home Office's poorly managed process for asylum decisions has left local authorities unable to plan and puts many people at risk of rough sleeping and destitution.
- The Scottish Government will continue to work with partners to mitigate these impacts.

What conversations have you had with Glasgow City Council since the housing emergency was declared and what immediate actions are the Scottish Government taking to work with the council to tackle the emergency?

- I have met regularly with the Housing Convener of Glasgow City Council – and with Housing Conveners across the country.
- I have invited proposals from Glasgow to understand how we can work together to reduce numbers in temporary accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 9 –
Meeting with Opposition MSPs – Miles Briggs – 6 December 2023**

Meeting Title	Meeting with Opposition MSP Miles Briggs
Date/Time	Wednesday 6 Dec, 10:30 - 11:00
Venue	Parliament, Room T3.05
Attendees	Minister for Housing Miles Briggs, MSP
Official Support	More Homes – [redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Better Homes – [redacted: s.38(1)(b)]
Briefing Contents	Annex A - Overview - context of meeting & what he might say. Annex B – Edinburgh Housing Situation – Homelessness [redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX A

ITEM 1	OVERVIEW - CONTEXT OF MEETING
ISSUE/ BACKGROUND/ PREVIOUS MEETINGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Housing Crisis Fund Needed to reduce Homelessness in the capital” – Evening News 13 October 2023. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ “I met with the SNP housing minister, Paul McLennan, recently to air my concerns around the issue and to discuss the severity of the situation in Edinburgh. But it seems to me that there has been far too much in the way of talking and far too little in the way of action.”
WHAT THE STAKEHOLDER MAY SAY/ASK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Two summers ago, I wrote... affordable housing budget for Scottish councils allocated to Edinburgh was not enough... I was right then and I am right now.” • “housing and homeless crisis... a national-level approach is not working. This is why I am calling on the Scottish Government to establish an Edinburgh-specific housing fund: a housing fund designed to combat the very unique problems faced by the Capital.”
KEY MESSAGE(S) –	[redacted: out of scope]

ITEM 2	EDINBURGH HOUSING SITUATION - Homelessness
Issue/ background	<p>2 November 2023: CEC declare a housing emergency and seek additional funding from Scottish Government due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs.</p> <p><u>Background</u> This is in response to Shelter Scotland’s call for both national and local government to declare a housing emergency following the development of their Scottish Housing Emergency Action Plan (August 2022).</p> <p>By declaring the emergency, CEC aims to work with council officers, existing third sector partners and external organisations with the goal of establishing a Housing Emergency Action Plan to build on and consolidate existing actions to reduce housing and homelessness pressures.</p> <p>Edinburgh is the second council in Scotland to formally declare a housing emergency following Argyll and Bute Council, which previously declared a housing emergency in June 2023.</p>
Key message(s)	<p><u>HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH</u> <u>Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Ending Homelessness Together strategy, developed with expert input, is the right long term strategy to end homelessness in Scotland. • Our annual report, published on 26 October, sets out the important gains we have made over the last year towards ending homelessness in Scotland. • We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement their rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing. • This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over winter. This provides short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and aims to assist people at risk of rough sleeping to move onto more settled accommodation. <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Contact point	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 10 - Minister for Housing meets with CIH and ALACHO – 14 December 2023

What	Joint meeting with CIH and ALACHO
When	14 December 2023 14:30-15:00
Where	MS Teams
Who	Callum Chomczuk, Director of CIH Scotland, Gavin Smith, Chair of CIH Scotland, and Tony Cain, Policy Manager, ALACHO
Why	This meeting has been set up to respond to the joint letter from CIH and ALACHO that is detailed at Annex A. This will also be the Ministers opportunity to have an introductory meeting with ALACHO (they have engaged at events or meetings but not in this capacity).
Key messages	I look forward to working closely with CIH, ALACHO and other key stakeholders going forward to find solutions to the pressures in the homelessness and housing systems.
Official support	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit Team Lead [redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit Team Lead
Agenda	[redacted: out of scope] <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Key lines to take on topical homelessness issues (Annex C) [redacted: out of scope]
Main objective	SG to work collaboratively with CIH and ALACHO on shared objectives and solutions to the pressures in the housing and homelessness system.

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX C

[redacted: out of scope]

- Last month we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the three local authorities who have taken this step.

[redacted: out of scope]

HOUSING EMERGENCY – GLASGOW

We are investing nearly £538m over this parliamentary period in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) for Glasgow up to 2025-26.

- The Glasgow Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2024 to 2029 aims to deliver 7,682 affordable homes over the period.
- We have also provided Glasgow City Council with £1,471,795 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided £99,664 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Glasgow over the winter months.
- This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with a warm, safe space and access to trauma-informed services to help them move onto more settled accommodation.

HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH

Our Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) investment in Edinburgh will be at a record level over the parliamentary period at £234m up to 2025-26.

- We increased this figure by a further £10m in 2022-23 and a further £3m this year.
- We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months which provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and helps them move onto more settled accommodation.
- I have met regularly with the housing convener of City of Edinburgh Council – and with housing conveners across the country. I have invited proposals from Edinburgh to understand how we can work together to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation and last met with Cllr Meagher on 7 December.

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 11 -
Minister for Housing and Shelter Scotland – 14 December 2023**

What	A regular meeting with Alison Watson of Shelter Scotland
When	14 December 2023 15:15-15:45
Where	MS Teams
Who	Alison Watson, Director, Shelter Scotland
Key messages	Tackling homelessness and reducing numbers in temporary accommodation are key priorities for the Scottish Government.
Official support	[redacted: s. 38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit, [redacted: s. 38(1)(b)]
Agenda	Meeting will provide an opportunity for Alison to share any updates or concerns since the last meeting at the end of September.
Main objective	Discuss the work of Shelter Scotland and how the SG can continue working in collaboration to achieve shared objectives.

ITEM 1	Housing Emergency
Issue/ background	<p>Media summaries</p> <p>3 Dec 2023: [The Ferret] Alison Watson is quoted stating that while the situation is most stark in Glasgow and Edinburgh, local authorities across Scotland were struggling. She expects other council areas to declare a housing emergency in coming months.</p> <p>30 Nov 2023: In response to Glasgow City Council declaring a housing emergency Alison Watson is quoted saying there was a danger “we end up with a situation where Scotland’s world leading rights exist only on paper rather than in reality.”</p> <p>31 Oct 2023: [Daily Record] Shelter Scotland again calls on FM to declare housing emergency and implement an emergency action plan by 2026 to address high numbers of children in temporary accommodation.</p> <p>Shelter Scotland has also been promoting calls for the FM to declare a housing emergency on their social media pages. They want the SG to commit to an urgent action plan.</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Shelter Scotland’s call for both national and local government to declare a housing emergency following the development of their Scottish Housing Emergency Action Plan (August 2022).</p> <p>Argyll and Bute Council were the first local authority to respond by declaring a housing emergency in June 2023. Following this, the City of Edinburgh Council declared at the beginning of November and Glasgow City Council declared at the end of November.</p> <p>Shelter and other partners, including SHAPE, have developed a Draft Housing Emergency Action Plan with City of Edinburgh Council.</p> <p>On 4 December, the Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) published an update to its homelessness thematic. In its February review, the SHR found there was an emerging risk of systemic failure in some homelessness services. The December update finds that the situation has worsened and the SHR is of the view that some councils are now experiencing systemic failure, while a number of others are at heightened risk of systemic failure (More detail at Annex B).</p>
Key message(s)	<p>HOUSING EMERGENCY – GLASGOW</p> <p><u>We are investing nearly £538m over this parliamentary period in the Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) for Glasgow up to 2025-26.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Glasgow Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP) for 2024 to 2029 aims to deliver 7,682 affordable homes over the period. • We have also provided Glasgow City Council with £1,471,795 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This year we have provided £99,664 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Glasgow over the winter months. • This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with a warm, safe space and access to trauma-informed services to help them move onto more settled accommodation. [To note, Glasgow’s RRWC does not provide accommodation.] • I have met regularly with Glasgow’s housing convener – and with housing conveners across the country – and last met with Cllrs Casey and McLean on 12 December. <p>HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH <u>Our Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) investment in Edinburgh will be at a record level over the parliamentary period at £234m up to 2025-26.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We increased this figure by a further £10m in 2022-23 and a further £3m this year. • We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing. • This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months which provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and helps them move onto more settled accommodation. • I have met regularly with the housing convener of City of Edinburgh Council – and with housing conveners across the country. I have invited proposals from Edinburgh to understand how we can work together to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation and last met with Cllr Meagher on 7 December. <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Contact point	[redacted: s. 38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit

[redacted: out of scope]

- Last month we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the three local authorities who have taken this step.

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 12 –
Visit to Simon Community Scotland – 18 December 2023**

What	Joint visit to Simon Community Scotland (SCS) Access Hub
When	Monday 18th December 12:30 – 15:30
Where	389 Argyle Street, Glasgow, G5 0QW
Who	Lorraine McGrath, Chief Executive of Simon Community Scotland. There will also be an opportunity to spend time with members of staff and service users.
Why	Simon Community Scotland (SCS) provide a range of support services to people experiencing homelessness and are the commissioned frontline outreach service in Glasgow and Edinburgh. The support they provide to people experiencing homelessness and/or at risk of rough sleeping, many of whom have multiple & complex needs, is critical to reducing the number of people sleeping rough in both cities.
Key messages	The Scottish Government is grateful for the work undertaken by Simon Community Scotland to support people experiencing homelessness who have multiple and complex needs. The charity's understanding of the specific needs of people with addiction issues who are living in temporary accommodation or engaging in rough sleeping ensures that individuals are supported to access the treatment and support that works best for them.
Official support	[redacted: s. 38(1)(b)] Team Leader, Rapid Rehousing and Rough Sleeping Response Team, [redacted: s. 38(1)(b)]
Agenda	Topics for discussion will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homelessness and rough sleeping in Glasgow and Edinburgh [redacted: out of scope]
Media Handling	Comms aware. SCS may also be looking to have a meet and greet photo with both Ministers and post this on their social media channels including @SimonCommScot.
Entrance & greeting party	Lorraine McGrath, Chief Executive, [redacted: s. 38(1)(b)] .
Parking for Ministerial car	Car parking is available at the Argyle Building, Cadogan Square Car Park, 500 Argyle St, which is a 2 minute walk away as well as within the GCC Cadogan Square Car Park, 25 Douglas Street, a 3 minute walk away. Limited on street parking may also be available.
Briefing contents	[redacted: out of scope] Annex D Homelessness – Glasgow and Edinburgh [redacted: out of scope]

[redacted: out of scope]

[redacted: out of scope]

SENSITIVITIES

[redacted: out of scope]

Glasgow City Council declared a housing emergency on 30 November and recent media reports have focused on increasing numbers of homeless refugees in the city, which SCS may also reference.

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX D	HOMELESSNESS - GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH
Issue/ background	<p>HOUSING EMERGENCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Edinburgh City Council declared a housing emergency on 2 November due to increasing levels of homelessness, high numbers of households in temporary accommodation, a shortage of social housing and increasing private rental costs. • Glasgow City Council (GCC) subsequently declared a housing emergency on 30 November, additionally citing the Home Office decision to fast track asylum claims which, they estimate will result in thousands of additional homelessness presentations, as well as increased pressure on a variety of statutory services - Glasgow is the largest asylum dispersal area in Scotland. • Both local authorities are seeking additional funding from the Scottish Government. • GCC are also seeking funding from the UK Government to assist with pressures resulting from the streamlined asylum process. <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Key message(s)	<p>HOUSING EMERGENCY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last month we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. The Scottish Government respects the decisions of the three local authorities who have taken this step. • We are determined to address levels of homelessness and improve supply. People also need to see action. It is action that will deliver more homes, make better homes and keep costs affordable. <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Contact point	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit Team Lead

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 13 -
BBC Disclosure interview – 19 December 2023**

**BBC Disclosure interview
19 December 2023 – 9:00 to 9:30
Documentary on Stacey Grieve**

[redacted: out of scope]

**HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH
Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) investment in Edinburgh**

- We increased the City of Edinburgh Council's Resource Planning Assumption by a further £10m in 2022-23 and a further £3m this year.
- We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months which provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and helps them move onto more settled accommodation.
- CEC received £546,000 from the £2m provided by the Scottish Government to help local authorities with the greatest temporary accommodation pressures make best use of their existing housing stock.
- I have met regularly with the housing convener of City of Edinburgh Council – and with housing conveners across the country. I have invited proposals from Edinburgh to understand how we can work together to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation and last met with Cllr Meagher on 7 December.

[redacted: out of scope]

Q&A

[redacted: out of scope]

Would you accept that ‘a crisis’ is not too strong a word to describe the housing situation we’ve got across the country at the moment?

- We know these are exceptionally challenging times. This government is not complacent.
- We hear the concerns of local authorities. We are listening to the evidence from advocacy organisations. We know there are families today who woke up in temporary accommodation, who have waited far too long for a settled home.
- We all need a home to live in. It is the foundation of life, a basic human right. It is more than a place to shelter. It must be a place where we feel safe, where we can thrive.

That is why we are committed to reform. In Scotland, we are taking action to tackling poverty and inequality. We are taking action to prevent and end homelessness. We are taking action to fully realise the right to adequate housing.

Will the Scottish Government declare a housing emergency? Are you in denial about the situation?

- Last month, we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the local authorities who have taken this step.
- This government is absolutely determined to address levels of homelessness and improve social and affordable housing supply.
- People also need to see action. It is action that will deliver more homes, make better homes and keep costs affordable.

Do you have the confidence that Scotland can tackle this housing crisis?

- What people tell me is that Scotland has the right long term plan for housing [Housing to 2040], the right housing targets [110,000 by 2032], the right plan to end homelessness [Ending Homelessness Together].
- What they want me to do is to keep those plans moving forward, to maintain momentum with our targets, to create the right environment for investment.
- I will do all I can to progress plans but some matters are beyond my control.
- Inflationary pressures, the impacts of Brexit and wider market conditions have contributed to rising construction costs and workforce challenges.

The Scottish Government will continue to work with partners to mitigate these challenges.

[redacted: out of scope]

What conversations have you had with City of Edinburgh Council since the housing emergency was declared and what immediate actions are the Scottish Government taking to work with the council to tackle the emergency?

- I have met regularly with the housing convener of City of Edinburgh Council – most recently on 7 December – and with housing conveners across the country.
- There is no single approach to addressing this – each one of the 32 local authorities in Scotland will have different issues that require different solutions.
- I have invited proposals from Edinburgh to understand how we can work together to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation.

City of Edinburgh Council are seeking additional funding from the Scottish Government to tackle the housing emergency – what additional funds will be provided and where will this money come from?

- We increased the City of Edinburgh Council’s resource planning assumption this year by a further £3m, taking available resources this year to £48.1m.
- We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months which provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and helps them move onto more settled accommodation.

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 14 -
BBC Radio 4 Interview – 20 December 2023**

**BBC Radio 4 Interview
Homelessness in Edinburgh
20 December 2023**

HOMELESSNESS

TOP LINES

Scotland has the strongest rights across the UK nations for people experiencing homelessness.

- Unlike England and Wales, Scotland abolished the priority need test in 2012. Anyone threatened with or experiencing homelessness is entitled to access temporary accommodation, advice and assistance through their local authority.
- The Scottish Government is absolutely determined to address levels of homelessness and improve the supply of social and affordable housing.
- Scotland has the right strategy to end homelessness and we need to keep moving forward with the implementation of this and creating the right environment for investment in Scotland.

The increased number of homeless households is not unique to Scotland. We are seeing an increase in homelessness levels across all nations.

- Homelessness statistics for England (published 30 November 2023) confirm that the numbers of households and children in temporary accommodation are at a record high.
- No country is immune to the impacts of Covid and the cost of living crisis. This coupled with a hard Brexit and over a decade of austerity from the UK Government has put unprecedented pressures on public finances.
- Last month we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the three local authorities who have taken this step.
- The Scottish Government recognises that these are exceptionally challenging times and we are absolutely determined to address levels of homelessness and improve the supply of social and affordable housing.

While the Scottish Government takes action to tackle homelessness, UK Government decisions are compounding a difficult situation.

- While we are relieved to hear the Chancellor will be scrapping the freeze on Local Housing Allowance the damage done over the three years the freeze has been in place has been considerable – an estimated £819m cut to the allowance across Great Britain, coupled with cuts of £181m to Scotland's capital budget, has hampered efforts to increase available housing.
- The recent decision by the Home Office to fast track the asylum backlog is poorly thought out and has left local authorities unable to plan – putting many people at risk of rough sleeping and destitution.

[redacted: out of scope]

Q&A

Would you accept that ‘a crisis’ is not too strong a word to describe the housing situation we’ve got across the country at the moment?

- We know these are exceptionally challenging times. This government is not complacent.
- We hear the concerns of local authorities. We are listening to the evidence from advocacy organisations. We know there are families today who woke up in temporary accommodation, who have waited far too long for a settled home.
- We all need a home to live in. It is the foundation of life, a basic human right. It is more than a place to shelter. It must be a place where we feel safe, where we can thrive.

That is why we are committed to reform. In Scotland, we are taking action to tackling poverty and inequality. We are taking action to prevent and end homelessness. We are taking action to fully realise the right to adequate housing.

Will the Scottish Government declare a housing emergency? Are you in denial about the situation?

- Last month, we debated calls for Scotland to declare a housing emergency. I respect the decisions of the local authorities who have taken this step.
- This government is absolutely determined to address levels of homelessness and improve social and affordable housing supply.
- People also need to see action. It is action that will deliver more homes, make better homes and keep costs affordable.

Why has the Scottish Government cut funding for new homes during a time of crisis?

- Scotland is facing the most challenging budget settlement since devolution because of sustained high inflation and a UK Government autumn statement that failed to deliver the investment needed in Scotland’s public services.
- We will invest £556 million in affordable housing next year and continue to work with partners to increase the delivery of more affordable homes, the majority of which will be for social rent, including supporting acquisitions of existing properties.
- We will also work with the financial community to attract private sector investment and help deliver more homes.
- The UK Government did not inflation-proof its capital budget which has resulted in a 9.8% real terms cut in our capital funding between 2023-24 and 2027-28.
- This alongside construction supply chain issues and labour shortages driven by Brexit, and high inflation last year means we cannot deliver on all our capital projects within the funding available.

Do you have the confidence that Scotland can tackle this housing crisis?

- What people tell me is that Scotland has the right long term plan for housing [Housing to 2040], the right housing targets [110,000 by 2032], the right plan to end homelessness [Ending Homelessness Together].
- What they want me to do is to keep those plans moving forward, to maintain momentum with our targets, to create the right environment for investment.

- I will do all I can to progress plans but some matters are beyond my control.
- Inflationary pressures, the impacts of Brexit and wider market conditions have contributed to rising construction costs and workforce challenges.
- The Scottish Government will continue to work with partners to mitigate these challenges.

How have you supported the City of Edinburgh Council to tackle their housing crisis?

- We increased the City of Edinburgh Council’s Resource Planning Assumption by a further £10 million in 2022-23 and a further £3 million this year.
- We also provided CEC with £713,228 in 2023-24 to help them to implement their rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- This year, we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre over the winter months.
- Additionally, they received £546,000 from the £2 million provided by the Scottish Government to help local authorities with the greatest temporary accommodation pressures make best use of their existing housing stock.
- I have met regularly with the housing convener of City of Edinburgh Council – and with housing conveners across the country.
- I have invited proposals from Edinburgh to understand how we can work together to reduce the number of people in temporary accommodation and last met with Cllr Meagher on 7 December.

[redacted: out of scope]

**Briefing 15 -
Post budget discussions with City of Edinburgh Council and Glasgow City Council – 21 December 2023**

What	Post budget calls with Cllr Casey and Cllr McLean of Glasgow City Council and Cllr Meagher, City of Edinburgh Council
When	Thursday 21st December 2023 11.30 – 12.30
Where	Microsoft Teams
Who	Cllr Casey and Cllr McLean, Glasgow City Council Cllr Meagher, City of Edinburgh Council
Why	Engagement with key local authorities after the Scottish Budget was announced in Parliament on Tuesday 19 December.
Key messages	To offer assurance to GCC and CEC that Scottish Government remains committed to supporting local authorities to deliver their homelessness services and to progress with their affordable housing plans following the budget announcement on Tuesday.
Official support	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit Team Leader

Agenda	30 minute discussion for each meeting – no formal agenda. Annex A: Local context for Glasgow Annex B: Local context for Edinburgh Annex C: Homelessness [redacted: out of scope]
Main objective	To convey key messages from the budget announcement on Tuesday and to seek immediate feedback on impact for Glasgow City Council and City of Edinburgh Council.

ITEM 1	Local context for Glasgow
Issue/ background	Cllr Casey tweet on the budget on Tuesday 19 December: “Will need to see the full detail of this but if as it looks this is extremely disappointing. We are facing a housing emergency and the only way of really solving that is building more not less.” [redacted: out of scope]
Key message(s)	<u>HOUSING EMERGENCY</u> <u>The Home Office’s fast track asylum process is placing Glasgow City Council under unprecedented pressure and risks pushing people into destitution.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asylum and immigration are entirely reserved and handled by the Home Office. The UK Government’s mismanagement of the asylum system has left a backlog of over 165,000 people waiting for a decision on their cases. • The Home Office must urgently provide funding to local authorities and work together to ensure people with a positive asylum decision are supported to move on from asylum accommodation. • We have provided Glasgow City Council with £1.9m of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing. • This year we have provided £99,664 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Glasgow over the winter months. • This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with a warm, safe space and access to trauma-informed services to help them move onto more settled accommodation. [redacted: out of scope]
Contact point	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit Team Leader

ITEM 2	Local context for Edinburgh
Issue/ background	[redacted: out of scope]
Key message(s)	<p>HOUSING EMERGENCY – EDINBURGH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We increased the City of Edinburgh Council’s Resource Planning Assumption by a further £10m in 2022-23 and a further £3m in 2023-24. • We provided City of Edinburgh Council with £713,228 of funding in 2023-24 to help the council implement its rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing. • This year we have provided funding of £115,807 towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months, which provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services and helps them move onto more settled accommodation. <p>[redacted: out of scope]</p>
Contact point	[redacted: s.38(1)(b)] Homelessness Unit Team Leader

[redacted: out of scope]

**Contribution 1 –
RSL roundtable – 4 December 2023**

Issue: (30 November 2023) Glasgow City Council declares housing emergency as Home Office decision to fast track backlog of asylum cases is expected to increase homelessness and rough sleeping. Council calls for UK Government to pause streamlined asylum process and for both UKG and Scottish Government to provide additional funding. Shelter Scotland director Alison Watson said there was a danger “we end up with a situation where Scotland’s world leading rights exist only on paper rather than in reality.”

[redacted: out of scope]

HOUSING EMERGENCY – GLASGOW

The Home Office’s fast track asylum process is placing Glasgow City Council under unprecedented pressure and risks pushing people into destitution

- Asylum and immigration are entirely reserved and handled by the Home Office.
- The UK Government’s mismanagement of the asylum system has left a backlog of over 165,000 people waiting for a decision on their cases.
- The Home Office must urgently provide funding to local authorities and work constructively with them to ensure that people receiving a positive asylum decision are supported to move on from asylum accommodation.
- The Migration and Refugees Minister wrote to the UK Government on 28 October to bring forward funding for local authorities to manage this pressure. We have not yet received a response from the UK Immigration Minister.
- The leader of Glasgow City Council and the City Convener for Workforce, Homelessness and Addiction Services have also jointly written to the UK Government to outline their concerns, and have received no response.

[redacted: out of scope]

Briefing 16-

Briefing for Second Edinburgh Housing Summit: 7 November 2023

Documents for release for Fol 202400423943

Part 5: Briefings and Contributions (from More Homes searches)

Q: Could you supply all correspondence sent and received by the Scottish Government to/from councils about housing emergencies, including briefings written by officials about councils declaring housing emergencies, between November 1 2023 and December 31 2023?

Briefing 1: Briefing for Second Edinburgh Housing Summit: 7 November 2023

What	Second Edinburgh Housing Summit – The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh.
When	Tuesday 7 November 2023 - 13:00 – 14:30, Minister to attend from 13.00 – 14:00

Where	The Flemming Room, The Scottish Parliament -Edinburgh EH9 1SP
Who	Invitation from Alex Cole-Hamilton, MSP for Edinburgh Western
Why	Minister to hear from Edinburgh cross sector housing stakeholders and experts on pressing housing issues affecting Edinburgh and discuss possible solutions to the housing problems in Edinburgh.
Key messages	[redacted: out of scope]
Speech details	Click here to enter text. Speech is not required. This will be a Round Table Discussion with Q & A expected throughout the summit discussions
Official support	Senior Policy Manager [redacted:s.38(1)(b)]
Media handling	Journalists are expected to attend. [redacted: s.38(1)(b)] from SG comms will be in attendance to provide media handling support. [liaise with Comms as appropriate]
Twitter	Event hashtag and organisation(s) Twitter handles Suggested tweet
Dress code	Formal
Entrance & greeting party	Name, title and contact number of someone from host organisation that can be contacted by Private Office – N/A
Parking for Ministerial car	Do not go to any major effort to secure parking but do find out if readily available. N/A
Briefing contents	All briefing should include annexes A-D. Anything additional to this should be carefully considered and minimal. Annex D Key Messages/Top Lines [redacted: out of scope] Annex U Press Links to Edinburgh Declaring Housing Emergency [redacted: out of scope]

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX D

KEY MESSAGES

EDINBURGH DECLARES HOUSING EMERGENCY

- I am aware City of Edinburgh Council declared a Housing Emergency on Thursday 2 November.

Tackling homelessness is a key priority for the Scottish Government.

- Our Ending Homelessness Together strategy, developed with expert input, is the right long term strategy to end homelessness in Scotland.
- Our annual report, published on 26 October 2023, sets out the important gains we have made over the last year towards ending homelessness in Scotland.
- We are making £3.5 billion available over this parliamentary term to support delivery of 110,000 affordable homes by 2032, 70% of which will be for social rent and 10% will be in our rural and island communities.
- This includes investing at least £60 million this year to help local authorities and registered social landlords acquire properties for use as affordable, permanent homes.
- The very challenging situation facing local authority housing departments is being compounded by the humanitarian challenges posed by the UK Government's streamlined asylum processing system.
- The Scottish Government is pressing the Home Office for funding for local authorities to manage the unprecedented pressures created by fast-tracked asylum decisions.

Our Affordable Housing Supply Programme (AHSP) investment in Edinburgh will be at a record level over the parliamentary period at £234m up to 2025-26.

- We increased this figure for Edinburgh by a further £10m in 2023-23 and a further £3m this year.
- In 2023-24, the City of Edinburgh Council will receive over £3.8 million to prevent homelessness and to help implement the council's rapid rehousing transition plan and support people into settled housing.
- Separately, we have provided funding of £115,807 this year towards the operation of a rapid rehousing welcome centre in Edinburgh over the winter months.
- This provides people at risk of rough sleeping with short-term, self-contained accommodation and trauma-informed support services to help them move onto more settled accommodation.
- The Minister for Housing is meeting with housing convenors across the country to discuss the challenges in reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation.
- The Scottish Government is committed to working with local authority partners to find joint solutions and different ways of working in line with our shared ambition to end homelessness.

[redacted: out of scope]

ANNEX U

EDINBURGH DECLARES HOUSING EMERGENCY - Press Articles

[Edinburgh council declares housing emergency amid homelessness crisis | STV News](#)

[Edinburgh declares a housing emergency – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

[redacted: out of scope]