

<CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Spad view - Labour release on housing debate

Copying other comms colleagues.

From: [Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)]

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 3:42 PM

To: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

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Subject: RE: Spad view - Labour release on housing debate

[Redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]

From: Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>

Sent: Tuesday, October 1, 2024 3:21 PM

To: [Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)] <[Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emily Mackintosh <Emily.Mackintosh@gov.scot>; Jack Middleton <Jack.Middleton@gov.scot>

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Subject: Spad view - Labour release on housing debate

Spads,

We have been approached by the Daily Record to respond to a Scottish Labour release ahead of tomorrow's debate. Full release at the bottom of this email. You may wish to issue a spad line in response but have prepared the below government line to be progressed as normal if you think that's all we need. Grateful for views by **16:30 today**.

[Redacted - Section 30(b)(ii)]

IMMEDIATE

Anas Sarwar has called on the SNP to "take responsibility" for its failures on housing ahead of a Parliamentary debate on the issue.

Figures uncovered by Scottish Labour have revealed that families are now typically spending more than a year and a half stuck in temporary accommodation.

The average time couples with children have already spent living in temporary accommodation as of 31 March 2024 was a staggering 565 days, with average stays in some areas almost reaching two years.

As of March 2024, there were more than 10,000 children stuck in temporary accommodation, including 310 staying in B&Bs and 55 in hostels.

Scottish Labour will tomorrow (Wednesday 2) put the SNP government's record on housing to a vote, moving a motion that states that "the Parliament believes that the Scottish Government has failed to respond adequately to the housing emergency that the Parliament declared in May 2024."

In May of this year the SNP government backed a Scottish Labour motion declaring a housing emergency in order to avoid parliamentary defeat – however, it has faced criticism since for failing to act.

Commenting, **Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar said** “It is a scandal that Scottish families are being left in limbo for months and even years on end.

“No-one should have to spend their childhood dealing with the anxiety and insecurity of temporary accommodation, but that is the heartbreaking reality of the SNP’s housing emergency.

“SNP incompetence has consequences and once again it is the most vulnerable people in Scotland paying the harshest price.

“If John Swinney chooses to keep the Housing Minister in post despite his abject failure, it is a sign that this SNP government has well and truly given up on governing.

“The SNP must take responsibility for its record of shame on housing and start treating this national emergency with the urgency it deserves.”

ENDS

[Redacted - Section 38(1)(b)]

Social Justice portfolio|Scottish Government

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