

Local Government and Communities Committee

Public Petition PE1686: Homelessness Crisis in Scotland

Correspondence from the Petitioner

Dear Members of the Committee,

The recent response from the Scottish Government was sadly predictable from a Government that shows no flexibility in its position to the core homeless in Scotland. The £23.5 million they have allocated is over 2 years with £6.5 million within the above allocation being over three years for pilots for Housing First. They are sticking to their position of allocating £10 million a year over 5 years totalling £50 million.

The Homelessness Crisis in Scotland is getting worse and the best estimate from Heriot Watt University is that core homelessness in Scotland which comprises rough sleepers, those who sofa surf, those living in unsuitable temporary accommodation, those who go to hostels, those sleeping in cars and those in squats etc will increase from 11,800 to 18,100, a 53 percent increase. With the rollout of universal credit and large rises in rents in the private rented sector in Scotland with such rents rising by 14 percent in Glasgow alone we will experience many more evictions and resulting homelessness.

We will be starting a Hunger Strike starting at 10 am on Monday 21st January 2019 at the Scottish Parliament demanding that the Scottish Government spend up to £40 million over the next financial year to tackle the Homelessness Epidemic in Scotland in line with petition 1686. The Scottish Government have spent more money on defending themselves in the Alex Salmond case spending £500,000 than they have done for rough sleepers in the whole of Scotland for this winter only spending £370,000. That is a disgrace.

The Scottish Government must recognise that unless they spend more money on our core homeless now more homeless people will die on our streets in the weeks and months to come. 94 dying last year was 94 too many. We need action now not platitudes.

Sean Clerkin
Petitioner