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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P 06 1304
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/02208/22

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

01 November 2022

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 4 October seeking my views regarding Petition P-06-1304 “to review the emergency temporary housing policy which impacts our communities” ahead of the formal consideration of the petition by the Committee.

The pandemic has enabled us to gain a much more accurate picture of the true scale of homelessness across Wales. Whilst the emergency response has helped many individuals to engage with services for the first time, it has demonstrated the level of hidden need that the housing, health and wider support system was not ordinarily addressing and the need to respond to these in both the short and longer term.

Since the start of the pandemic the Welsh Government has taken a ‘no-one left out’ approach to people experiencing homelessness, supported by specific guidance and funding. I have been very proud of the response in Wales - with over 25,200 people supported with temporary accommodation since March 2020 and provided with the wrap around support they need to stay safe – this inclusive response continues to be in place today and has undoubtedly saved lives.

The Committee will wish to note that there has recently been Senedd consideration of this policy. On 18th October, following a short debate in Plenary, the Senedd passed regulations to create an 11th category of Priority Need for those who are ‘street homeless’, to ensure the continuation of the ‘no-one left out’ approach ahead of wider legislative reform. This followed a public consultation on the proposals and the summary of responses can be found [here](#):

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The pandemic has given us an opportunity to transform homelessness services and begin the adoption of a truly inclusive approach to ensure no-one is left without a home, and we are strongly committed to moving from a position of reliance on temporary accommodation, to a system focused on prevention and rapid rehousing – as outlined in the Programme for Government and our Ending Homelessness Action Plan. To support this, we are committed to delivering 20,000 new low carbon homes for rent in the social sector. We are investing over £197m in Housing Support and Homelessness Prevention services this year and a record £310m in Social Housing. Our aim is to build better social homes in Wales, build more of them, and build them more quickly – ensuring they are fit for the future.

In the short term, whilst we increase the supply of longer-term homes, it is vital we keep people and families experiencing homelessness safe through the provision of suitable temporary accommodation, so that no one is forced to sleep rough in Wales. Due to pressure on housing and homelessness services, local authorities are using a range of temporary accommodation to ensure people are not forced to sleep rough, including hotels and B&Bs. We are supporting local authorities to move away from this type of accommodation and have provided an additional £65m this year for a Transitional Capital Accommodation Programme to increase move-on options.

I am sure you will agree that there can be no going back, we need to build on the progress made, and together, we have an opportunity to end homelessness in Wales and it is one that I fully intend to take.

Yours sincerely,



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