

Kate Forbes MSP
Cabinet Secretary for Finance
Scottish Government
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26th January 2021

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

Budget 2021/22 – Reducing Scotland’s Housing Need

We are an alliance of Scotland’s leading advocacy, support and housing organisations. Working with tenants and communities across the country we understand many of the economic and social challenges facing Scotland have been exacerbated by the public health emergency, but they are not new. Scotland’s housing need was not being met before COVID-19 and the pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance of having a safe, secure and affordable home.

We are collectively calling on the Scottish Government to reduce affordable housing need by committing to a new and ambitious social and affordable housebuilding programme. Evidence from independent academics show this will require minimum of 53,000 affordable homes, including at least 37,100 for social rent between 2021-2026.

The quality of homes and communities impact directly on our health, happiness and wellbeing. Investing in the social and affordable homes Scotland needs has been shown to reduce child poverty by keeping housing costs low; improve our mental and physical wellbeing by providing people secure, quality homes from which to build their lives; and help meet ambitious climate change targets by ensuring these new homes meet the highest standards for efficiency.

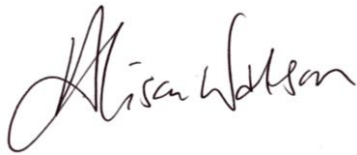
We agree with the First Minister that investment in housing is also an investment in our economy, in jobs and in our communities. This is a pivotal time to invest in housing and Scotland’s future.

The Scottish Government has shown leadership having committed to build a record number of social homes over the current parliament but the need for affordable and social housing continues to rise. Homelessness and a lack of housing is not inevitable, building more social and affordable housing will help to meet the demand for housing, from those that need it most. We welcome the new standards on carbon emissions, digital infrastructure, and access to outdoor space and room for home working. However, further leadership and long-term commitment will be required to ensure there is the funding available inclusive of appropriate levels of grant funding to ensure no additional financial burden falls to social tenants to make these aspirations a reality and to reduce housing need and reduce homelessness.

We urge you to use the Scottish Budget as the opportunity to commit to reducing housing need by making social and affordable homes the cornerstone of Scotland's recovery – rebuilding Scotland's economy, invigorating our communities, creating more jobs, helping meet climate and child poverty targets and building a brighter future.

Yours sincerely

Alison Watson, Director, Shelter Scotland



Shelter
Scotland

Sally Thomas, Chief Executive, Scottish Federation of Housing Associations



sfha
Scottish Federation of
Housing Associations
We are housing Scotland

Callum Chomczuk, National Director (Scotland), Chartered Institute of Housing Scotland



CIH
Scotland

Audrey Simpson, Chief Executive, Ardenglen Housing Association



ARDENGLLEN

CIlr Robin Currie, Leader, Argyll and Bute Council



Argyll
Bute
COUNCIL

Tony Cain, Policy Manager, Association of Local Authority Chief Housing Officers



ALACHO
ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL AUTHORITY CHIEF HOUSING OFFICERS

Alasdair Bennett, Chief Executive, Bethany Christian Trust



Janice Lyon, Chair, Castlehill Housing Association



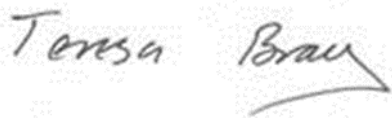
Maureen Smith, Housing Solicitor, Castlemilk Law Centre



Derek Mitchell, Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Scotland



Teresa Bray, Chief Executive, Changeworks




John Dickie, Director of Child Poverty Action Group in Scotland



Mary Glasgow, Chief Executive, Children 1st



Jon Sparkes, Chief Executive, Crisis



Ewan Aitken, CEO, Cyrenians



Frazer Scott, Chief Executive, Energy Action Scotland



Etienne d'Aboville, Chief Executive, Glasgow Centre for Inclusive Living



Phil Wray, Head of Projects, Glasgow City Mission



Craig Stirrat, Chief Operating Officer, Grampian Housing Association



Professor Ian Welsh OBE, Chief Executive, Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland (the ALLIANCE)




Gavin Yates, Chief Executive, Homeless Action Scotland



Maggie Brunjes, Chief Executive, Homeless Network Scotland



Ellinore Folkesson, National Chair, Living Rent



Robina Qureshi, Director, Positive Action in Housing



Kate Polson, Chief Executive, Rock Trust

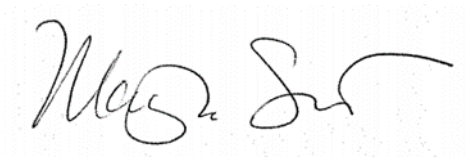


Derek Logie, Chief Executive, Rural Housing Scotland



**RURAL
HOUSING
SCOTLAND**

Dr Marsha Scott, Chief Executive, Scottish Women's Aid



Andrea Finkel-Gates, Chief Executive Officer, Scotland's Housing Network



Andy Milne, Chief Executive, SURF – Scotland's Regeneration Forum



Tony Teasdale, Chief Executive, Shettleston Housing Association



**SHETTLESTON
HOUSING
ASSOCIATION**

Lesley Baird, Chief Executive, Tenant Participation Advisory Service

