

Housing Rights Defenders

Build Scotland's Future template letter

Never underestimate the power of writing an influential letter to a decision maker! This template letter can be used to send to your MSPs calling on them to publicly support Shelter Scotland's campaign to see all political parties committing to building at least 37,100 social rented homes during the next Parliamentary term.

If you wish, you can add in why more social housing is important to you by editing the section highlighted in red. If you would prefer to just send the template, simply delete the red text and use the rest! We have also left space for you to add your address at the end. It's important to include your address so your MSPs know you are one of their constituents.

Unsure of who your MSPs are? You can find your local representatives, including their contact details here: <https://www.parliament.scot/msps.aspx>

Check out our 'politics in Scotland: how am I represented' guide to find out exactly how you are represented in parliament!

Dear xxxxxx

As one of your constituents I would like to ask you to support Shelter Scotland's **#Buildscotlandsfuture** campaign to pledge to build **at least 37,100 homes for social rent** over the next 5 years (2021 – 2026). This number of homes is the level of building required to begin to reduce housing need in Scotland.

The Scottish Government has committed to build a record number of social homes over the current parliament but it's not enough to meet the arising or backlog of demand. An ambitious new affordable house building programme can deliver this social housing, but this will take leadership, investment and long-term commitment from the Scottish Government to make this a reality.

Put another way, over the next five years, in addition to the current target - **Scotland must commit to building just one extra home for social rent a day, compared to the current number of homes being built, to start reducing Scotland's housing needs.**

By building more homes, we can help rebuild Scotland's economy, rebuild our communities, create more jobs, help meet climate and child poverty targets and build a brighter future. That's why we're calling on all political parties to build more social homes.

Despite record levels of investment in building more affordable housing over the last four years, waiting lists remain high and homelessness is again on the rise. The latest figures show that there were around 130,000 households on a waiting list for

social housing in Scotland, over 14,000 households were in temporary accommodation, these households spending over six months on average in this kind of accommodation.

Homelessness and a lack of housing is not inevitable, building more social housing will help to reduce housing need, where it is needed, for the people that need it most.

Social housing is important to <me/my community because:

(fill in with your own story or leave as is)

If you agree, you can help by pushing for your parties' manifesto for the 2021 Scottish Parlaimeant elections to include the pledge to build at least 37,100 social homes.

You can also show your support by tweeting:

**It's time to build the social homes that Scotland needs! Let's
#BuildScotlandsFuture**

My address is XXXX. I hope I can count on you to support in any way you can. Together, we can Build Scotland's Future.

Best wishes.

XXXXX