

c/o Shelter Scotland  
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shelterscotland.org

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Kate Forbes MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Economy  
Scottish Government  
CabSecFE@gov.scot

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

The national response to the Covid-19 pandemic assumed everyone had a safe home to remain in. In Scotland we knew that wasn't the case. The work of Scottish Ministers, Local Authorities, housing associations and the third sector to lift people off the streets and off other people's couches averted the long-standing housing crisis becoming a public health crisis.

The reason that work was necessary however, was because we are still playing catch up to provide enough social homes to reduce housing inequality for good. Different people and different communities experienced the pandemic in very different ways. People from marginalised groups, such as people of colour and disabled people trapped in inadequate housing had a very different lockdown to those in a safe home.

In June 2020, when our three organisations came together to publish research on how many homes were needed to reduce affordable housing need in Scotland, you listened, and you responded decisively.

This week, as we look towards the announcement of the Scottish Budget, we hope you will hear us again. Never before has your commitment to deliver 110,000 affordable homes, 70% for social rent, by 2032 been more important or at greater risk.

Housing supply generally and social housing delivery specifically are under unprecedented pressure. The impact of global supply chain tensions, de-carbonisation costs and, post-Brexit skills shortages each mean that assumptions about how much investment was required no longer stand up to scrutiny.

We are writing today to ask you to protect the Scottish Government's house building commitments in your budget. We recognise that this will take more money than was previously set aside.

We ask that you stand by the commitment to ensure affordable housing need will be reduced by the end of this Parliament and that you and your Ministerial colleagues will lead a national effort to prioritise social housing delivery through access to supply chains, skills and resources whilst protecting tenants from unaffordable rents.

People in Scotland who are homeless and badly housed cannot afford any further delays and we are calling on you to deliver your promise to them.

Best wishes,

Alison Watson  
Director, Shelter Scotland



Callum Chomczuk  
National Director



Sally Thomas  
Chief Executive



We are housing Scotland