



**PUBLIC PETITION NO.**

**PE01638**

**Name of petitioner**

Sean Clerkin

**Petition title**

Local Housing Allowance (Bedroom tax 2)

**Petition summary**

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to bring forward a debate on the issue of the bedroom tax, in particular the planned Local Housing Allowance cap ("bedroom tax 2").

**Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition**

We have had meetings with various councillors including Councillor George Black and Councillor Jim Bollam from West Dunbartonshire Council and Councillor Billy McAllister from Glasgow City Council and we have met with MSPs including Bob Doris and John Mason on this issue.

**Petition background information**

UK Ministers plan to implement the local housing allowance cap in April 2018. Housing benefit would be capped at the local housing allowance rate for one bedroom.

We have formed the Bin the Bedroom Tax 2 Campaign raising the issue in the media over recent months but many people including media and politicians do not understand the issue properly, mistakenly believing that we are referring to the old bedroom tax.

The Scottish Federation of Housing Associations have stated that, as a result of this bedroom tax 2, up to 240,000 tenants in Scotland would suffer serious housing benefit cuts especially to our young people, our elderly and disabled citizens with a serious risk of many of these people being made homeless. Make no mistake this vindictive measure is designed to destroy public sector and socially rented housing in Scotland driving working class people in communities throughout the land into dire poverty so that the rich and powerful pay little or no tax. The United Kingdom is one of the most unequal countries in the world and bedroom tax 2 would further accentuate this massive inequality. We believe that in taking this issue to our Parliament there will be an increased understanding of the potential disaster ahead and we believe that progressive Parliamentarians can come together to give a considered opinion on this measure which could have a detrimental effect on the lives of our most vulnerable citizens in terms of making many of them homeless.

**Unique web address**

<http://www.parliament.scot/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01638>

**Related information for petition**

**Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?**

**YES**

**How many signatures have you collected so far?**

0

**Closing date for collecting signatures online**

14 / 03 / 2017

**Comments to stimulate online discussion**