Dear Clare Hawthorne

I was interested to read in The Metro that the LGCC was interested in hearing from the public about tackling the misery of homelessness.

It is really very simple. My "affordable" housing association rent has risen 82% since I moved in 12 years ago. It is no longer affordable and nearly all my low income goes on rent and council tax with just a little left for food. Needless to say, I am disqualified from all benefits because I work but my low wages have barely risen at all in 12 years and certainly not by 82%. My MSP appears to be hand in glove with the Housing Association - just like our previous MSP.

To make matters worse, the Energy regulator ruled that energy companies must impose a standing charge. I have not used any heating for years and use as little electricity as possible as I cannot afford any more. If I have to pay standing charges my energy bills will TREBLE even if I do not use any power. Even a prepayment meter will clock up a debt without using any gas. I have to have a gas supply so that the Housing Association can service the boiler (a boiler which I cannot afford to switch on) - that's the only time it gets used. I will soon be in debt without using any gas at all and very little electricity thanks to the regulator. I worry that I will soon be homeless because public bodies are making life impossible. The six figure salaries of the Housing Association (and their gold plated pensions) are all paid for by folk living below the poverty line.

If you want to stop homelessness then stop the tyranny of Housing Association rent increases and Regulators that legislate to put the poor in debt through no fault of their own - what kind of regulation is that? As if energy company profits rising by over 1000% wasn't enough they are now forcing people out of their homes because the meters themselves are going to put us in debt. I am fully expecting to be made homeless soon. My income has not changed. Everything else has.

Michael