

PE1638/D

Petitioner submission of 28 May 2017

The submissions to my petition highlight what will happen if bedroom tax 2 is implemented in 2019 and make no mistake it is a cruel and barbaric measure that will cause homelessness to thousands of young under 35s and this will also happen to senior citizens and disabled people living in supported accommodation.

In addition fuel poverty could be exacerbated and the Scottish government target of building 50,000 affordable rented housing looks seriously at risk unless mitigation takes place. The various submissions also make it clear that the Scottish government will have real difficulty in mitigating bedroom tax 2. It is clear that with the Scottish government budget settlements being reduced in real terms by more than 10 percent since 2010 by Westminster and only having limited tax powers it is clear that the Scottish government has very limited capacity to mitigate this new bedroom tax.

It is my view and those of fellow campaigners, the Scottish Parliament should have a full parliamentary debate on this tax to denounce it and to state that bedroom tax 2 should be fully opposed and not implemented in Scotland. This measure is designed to destroy the socially rented sector based on an ideology to eliminate the welfare state so that the rich and powerful do not have to pay any taxes. I call on all progressive minded parliamentarians to condemn this measure which will further impoverish the working class people of Scotland.