

Petitioner submission of 1 December 2022

PE1946/E: To call on the Scottish Government to pay all charges for homeless temporary accommodation

The submission by the Scottish Government is completely unacceptable for the times we live in where social rented tenants have record rent arrears of £169 million according to the Scottish Housing Regulator, private rented tenants have rent arrears estimated to be £126 million according to a study by Glasgow University and currently in Sherriff Courts throughout Scotland Banks are securing orders repossessing people's family homes all resulting in record amounts of homelessness in Scotland during this cost of living existential crisis.

In Glasgow alone I recently received a Freedom of Information response from Glasgow City Council that as at 1st October 2022 a record 6,634 homeless people are living in often unsuitable temporary accommodation with 2,677 of them being children. The same council has breached the unsuitable accommodation order on 2,013 occasions another record number. The dam has burst and all the talk about preventing homelessness is a red herring when we have thousands of families being chased through the courts by Local Authorities for the sky high charges for temporary accommodation. Glasgow City Council admitted to me in another freedom of information request that they chase after the homeless for the £4 million that they are owed. Overall as the petition states, all 32 local authorities have accrued £33.3 million debt and most Local Authorities are making the lives of homeless people and their families a living hell of stress and worry beyond our normal comprehension.

In addition we have working homeless coming through this unworkable system who due to the high costs of temporary homeless accommodation are forced onto the streets, sofa surfing, and sleeping in cars or vans. The system is unworkable and broken now and our vulnerable people need help now and not through some working group that will just be looking at this issue in the future. Thousands of people need help immediately not the Scrooge like statement in the Scottish Government statement that cruelly and callously says, "The Scottish Government has no plans to pay for homeless temporary

accommodation nor waive the outstanding debt owed by homeless households to local authorities for temporary accommodation.”

The above to me is the Scottish Government washing its hands of the poorest and most vulnerable people in our nation and I condemn the Sturgeon Government for abandoning its own people when the same Scottish Government can give £65 million lethal war aid for the war in Ukraine and can give £6.5 million to the arms industry in Scotland but not help our people most in need.

I stand by our petition as being truth to power and warn you all that civil unrest is a real possibility in the days and months to come as you can only drive people so far before the dam bursts.