

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

Scottish Government written submission, 12 December 2024

Thank you for your correspondence of 20 November 2024 to Kirsty Henderson, the Committee Liaison Officer, seeking information about the Housing Affordability Working Group's recommendations and what action the Scottish Government intends to take in response, in relation to Petition [PE1946](#). I am responding as Housing Affordability Policy Manager within the Better Homes Division, with responsibility for secretariat of the Housing Affordability Working Group.

The [Housing Affordability Working Group](#) brought together stakeholders and experts from across Scotland's housing sector with the aim of reaching a consensus on a shared understanding of housing affordability.

With an initial focus on the rented sector, the group has explored the underlying meaning of affordability and its different uses within housing debates, policy and practice. The group has not been asked to find solutions to housing affordability problems, nor has it been asked to focus specifically on homeless households. Rather, members have worked together to agree a shared understanding of what housing affordability is and how it should be measured, in order to support a range of policy and sector requirements across relevant areas.

The group is currently finalising its report and recommendations, which we expect will be completed soon. We had previously indicated the group would report before summer recess 2024, but reaching a consensus between the wide range of stakeholders in this independent group has taken time. Once the report has been shared with us, the Scottish Government will carefully consider the group's recommendations and provide a response.

I would be happy to share a copy of the report with the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee once available.

Better Homes Division