



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Government and Communities Committee

Leader of COSLA -
Councillor Alison
Evison

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The Scottish Parliament
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15 September 2020

Dear Ms Evison,

Local Government and Communities Committee: Individuals who have No Recourse to Public Funds

The Local Government and Communities Committee's attention has again been drawn to the vulnerability of asylum seekers and those with insecure immigration status following recent tragic events in Scotland.

I am writing to seek information on the support and assistance provided to individuals who have insecure immigration status and, due to a change in circumstance, have No Recourse to Public Funds.

The Committee is concerned at the plight of people with NRPF and the gaps that those seeking to help them in local authorities and the third sector have found in the system.

The Committee notes that COSLA had, with two other local government organisations, written to the Home Secretary, calling for the suspension of NRPF during the Covid-19 crisis (8 April 2020).

We also note that COSLA published COVID-19 Response Planning: Supporting Migrants with No Recourse to Public Funds, A framework to support local authorities and their partners in local decision making (20 April 2020).

As you are aware our colleagues on the Equalities and Human Rights Committee have conducted extensive work on this issue with their 2017 inquiry [Hidden Lives – New Beginnings: Destitution, asylum and insecure immigration status in Scotland](#) and the follow up evidence session they held

in [June 2018](#). We wish to build on the work conducted by the Equalities Committee by requesting this update from you.

We ask specifically:

- Do you know how many local authorities have residents who have NRPF and where most are found?
- In general terms how do local authorities support people with NRPF? What powers and resources do they have to do so? What are the practical barrier to helping?
- In what ways have local authorities provided support to people with NRPF during the pandemic, in terms of housing, financial support and food?

I have also written to a range of other stakeholders including the UK Government and Scottish Government for views on this important issue, and all correspondence will be published on our webpages. It may be helpful to add that I have written a letter in similar terms to this one to the City of Glasgow Council, in view of its particular level of responsibility in relation to care of people with NRPF and of tragic events that have been reported there this year. This is the only council from which the Committee has specifically solicited views on this issue although, as ever, individual councils are most welcome to provide their own response if they so wish.

It would assist our consideration of the issue of NRPF if a response to this letter could be provided by Friday 9 October, after which we will consider all responses we have received on this matter.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Dornan', written in a cursive style.

James Dornan
Convener
Local Government and Communities Committee