



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Local Government and Communities Committee

Positive Action in
Housing
Director

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15 September 2020

Dear Ms Qureshi,

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.

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:

- Has your organisation been providing support to people with NRPF, and if so, what support have you been providing? What are the practical challenges?

- What does the UK Government and Scottish Government need to do, if anything, to support providers of services in the local government and third sectors who are assisting people with NRPF?
- How has Covid impacted the support available to people with NRPF?
- From your perspective, have local authorities been able to support people with NRPF sufficiently during the pandemic?

I have also written to a range of other stakeholders including the UK Government and Scottish Government for its views on this important issue and all correspondence will be published on our webpages.

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