

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

## **Petitioner written submission, 11 January 2025**

The Scottish Government's recent submission to petition PE1946 in relation to the work of the Housing Affordability Working Group is very troubling.

This Working Group in considering a shared understanding of housing affordability has completely ignored the very high costs of temporary accommodation for homeless people in Scotland, with only one member of the working group from the minutes of the 21st May 2024 protesting that the high costs of homeless temporary accommodation should be included. The whole exercise is yet another working group going nowhere.

The massive rise of 9% in homeless people being in temporary accommodation increasing to a record 16,330 homeless people including 10,110 children in 2023-2024 shows that the main contention of this petition is more important than ever. General Taxation should be used to pay for the costs of temporary accommodation and that the Scottish Government should write off the £33.3 million plus debt owed to local authorities by homeless people for the very high costs of temporary accommodation as it is obvious that homeless people will never be in a position ever to pay these debts off.

I would urge members of this Committee to support this petition and write to the Scottish Government accordingly urging that they implement the main objectives of the petition. Or at the very least the Committee should bring the Minister for Housing, Paul McLennan before the Committee and force him to answer questions about the issues raised by this petition.