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20 January 2025

Dear Collette,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 January on behalf of the Social Justice and Social Security Committee about the homelessness prevention pilots. I hope the following information is helpful.

As the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government set out in her budget statement and subsequently, the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice stated in her evidence to the Committee on 9 January, subject to members giving the budget their support, we are committed to providing £4 million in 2025-26 to pilot and scale up homelessness prevention best practice across Scotland. Our intention is that the funding will help local authority, frontline services and relevant partners to prepare for the new homelessness prevention duties, while addressing the current housing emergency by stemming the flow into the homelessness system.

To ensure that we maximise the impact of the funding, we are consulting with a range of homelessness experts and third sector stakeholders. These include Housing to 2040 board members who met earlier this month; and the Homelessness Prevention and Strategy Group (HPSG), the Everyone Home Collective and the Change Team, all of whom have the funding tabled for discussion at their various meetings later this week.

I hope this assures you that we are working at pace in collaboration with our stakeholders to explore what the pilots might look like, including where they might be conducted, be that rural, urban, or a mix of the two.

Yours sincerely,

PAUL MCLENNAN

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