



Pauline McNeill MSP for the Glasgow Region

Scottish Labour Spokesperson on Housing Communities & Equalities

Kevin Stewart
Minister for Local Government, Housing and Planning
The Scottish Government
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Dear Kevin,

Re: Support for those with no recourse to public funds

The £50million Wellbeing Fund announced by Aileen Campbell last week will allow charities to support at-risk groups through the Coronavirus crisis and is welcome news.

Last week 60 charities working with some of the most vulnerable people in society, including leading homelessness and refugee organisations wrote to the UK Prime Minister. Amongst other measures, they called for the suspension of no recourse to public funds conditions for all migrants to enable access to Universal Credit and statutory sick pay for the duration of the Coronavirus pandemic.

www.naccomm.org.uk/news/

Whilst many of their calls require urgent action from the UK Government, there are measures that could be taken in Scotland now to ensure those applying for asylum, and other high risk groups, are supported.

The Welsh Government has announced an additional £10million for each local authority to secure accommodation for those without a home at this time of national emergency. This includes refugees and asylum seekers as well as victims of domestic abuse and homeless people.

If implemented here, such an initiative would allow councils to block purchase B&Bs or hotel rooms, for example and would provide vulnerable individuals and families to have a safe place to self-isolate or recuperate if required along with the necessary support they need.

I encourage you to follow the Welsh Government's lead on this matter and look forward to hearing from you

Yours sincerely



Pauline McNeill MSP