



HM Treasury, 1 Horse Guards Road, London, SW1A 2HQ

The Rt Hon Sir George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

25 November 2020

Dear Sir George,

Thank you for your email of 29 September to the Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP enclosing correspondence from your constituent, about homelessness and the Spending Review 2020. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I am grateful to you for drawing to my attention the issues set out in your constituent's email. As the Spending Review is ongoing, it would not be appropriate to respond in detail to the points made at this stage.

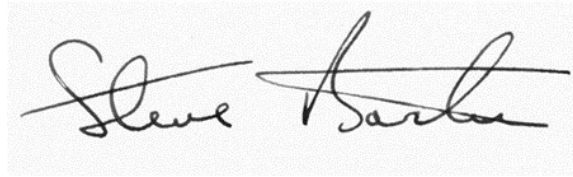
However, I can assure you that the Government is continuing to take the issue of rough sleeping and homelessness very seriously. The funding the Government has provided to help those sleeping rough and on the brink of homelessness during the COVID-19 pandemic has taken spending on homelessness and rough sleeping support to over half a billion pounds in 20/21.

This is in addition to steps announced at Spring Budget 2020 where the Government introduced additional exemptions from the Shared Accommodation Rate for Universal Credit and Housing Benefit claimants to protect those at risk of homelessness. This will enable rough sleepers aged 16-24, care leavers up to the age of 25, and victims of domestic abuse and human trafficking to live on their own, supporting their recovery from homelessness.

Please pass on my thanks
aware of these concerns.

for taking the trouble to make me

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Steve Barclay".

RT HON STEVE BARCLAY MP