



**Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government**

Clive Betts MP
Chair
Communities and Local Government Committee
House of Commons
London
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Mrs Heather Wheeler MP
Minister for Housing and Homelessness

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Dear Clive,

Thank you for your letter of 11 December to Marcus Jones MP following the Select Committee evidence session on the implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act and consultation on the Homelessness Code of Guidance. I am replying as I have recently taken on ministerial responsibility for these matters.

I would like to confirm that we will take the oral evidence from the Select Committee session, and the additional information sent by Crisis, into account as part of the consultation.

You also raised London Councils' concerns about new burdens funding. The Government is providing £72.7 million in new burdens funding for the Homelessness Reduction Act. This is specifically for the administration of the new duties and sits alongside the rest of our funding package for homelessness services. We published our new burdens assessment, and the methodology for the distribution of the funding, alongside the local authority allocations on 16th October 2017. This is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-reduction-act-new-burdens-funding>

We are confident that our approach to calculating and distributing the new burdens funding is robust. We have worked with the LGA, London Councils and local authorities to develop and test the assumptions underpinning the overall assessment and to ensure the way the funding is distributed reflects geographical variations in homelessness pressures and costs.

The Department also committed to providing further information on the evaluation of the Housing First pilots which were announced at autumn Budget 2017. International evidence has shown Housing First to be effective at ending long-term homelessness in countries as diverse as Finland, the United States, and Canada, and we think it has the potential to play a significant role in ending rough sleeping for those who are the most entrenched in this country. Government is taking a bold step to test this through three large scale regional pilots, the impact of which will be measured by a rigorous evaluation. The pilots will build on learning from the feasibility study we co-funded in Liverpool City Region, which indicated that

Housing First could work best when delivered as an integral part of wider homelessness and support services.

I also wanted to thank you for your constructive support. The contribution of the DCLG Select Committee in supporting the passage of this legislation has been invaluable.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Heather Wheeler'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MRS HEATHER WHEELER MP