



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

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

18 NOV 2015

*Dear George,*

Thank you for your email of 14 October enclosing correspondence from your constituents ahead of the Spending Review. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

The Government is committed to doing all that it can to protect individuals and families from homelessness and rough sleeping. It is critical that local authorities have the powers and flexibilities to allow them to help people without a permanent residence in their local areas.

In December 2011, the Coalition Government announced £18.5 million funding for local councils to prevent homelessness, to help local councils ensure nobody is turned away without clear and useful advice when they're most in need. An additional £13 million was provided to Crisis to help single homeless people, including priority groups such as recovering drug users and ex-offenders, find stable, privately rented accommodation.

Following on from this in April 2013, the Government made available £1.7 million for the Gold Standard support and training scheme to support local councils deliver a Gold Standard homelessness prevention service. This peer-led support scheme is designed to provide free training and support to help homelessness teams learn from each other.

Going further the Government is investing £40 million through the Department of Health in homelessness hostel refurbishment and shared accommodation for vulnerable young people in 2015 to 2016.

The Government has also supported the national roll out of No Second Night Out through the £20 million Homelessness Transition Fund, and has continued to support the Government-backed hotline and web service Streetlink.

Please pass on my thanks to your constituents for making us aware of these concerns.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Greg Hands', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

GREG HANDS