



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01496

Name of petitioner

Alan Wyllie on behalf of No2BedroomTax Campaign

Petition title

Bedroom Tax Mitigation

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to make approximately £50 million available to mitigate all effects of the bedroom tax in Scotland.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

The No2BedroomTax Campaign supports all efforts to mitigate the effects of the bedroom tax. We support Mr Dailly's petition. We have spoken to many community groups who share the same fears as we do regarding the ramifications of the bedroom tax. We have lobbied councils and housing associations for 'no eviction' policies, reclassification and more funds to help and advice those affected by the Welfare Reform Act 2012.

Renfrewshire and South Ayrshire Council accepted motions of "No Evictions" for Bedroom Tax arrears (with caveats) after lobbying from the No2BedroomTax Campaign

The No2BedroomTax Campaign worked with Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations (GWSF) and the Scottish Tenants Organisation to publish a signed letter by all concerned decrying the Bedroom Tax and calling for it to be repealed.

We have lobbied Councillors, MSPs, MEPs and MPs to support all actions that mitigate the effects of the bedroom tax and, ultimately, scrapping the bedroom tax.

From this lobbying we have recieved support from Labour Party, SNP and the Green Party of Scotland as well as support from a cross party of individual councillors. All parties agreed(except LibDems and Conservatives representatives) that the bedroom tax should be scrapped but the LibDems did agree that more should be done to mitigate the effects of the bedroom tax.

Petition background information

The No2BedroomTax campaign is a tenant led, grassroots campaign against the 'bedroom tax' and other welfare reforms.

Alan Wyllie is one of the founding members of the No2BedroomTax Campaign and is now Spokeperson for the campaign.(4)

Shelter Scotland has previously called for the Scottish Government to make up to £50million (5) available this year to protect social landlords from bankruptcy. This petition reiterates Shelter Scotland demands.

By providing this finance the Scottish Government will be protecting social landlords from the threat of bankruptcy while ensuring that those who are eligible to pay the Under-Occupancy penalty will not have to face the prospect of insurmountable debt and evictions.

The bedroom tax will affect over 105,000 households in Scotland(1), of which 79% will have a disabled person in their household.(2)

The bedroom tax can not be successful as there are not enough one bedroom accomodation in the social sector. This has resulted in people who want to move but can't move.(3)

The financial burden on the bedroom tax will be bared by the most vulnerable in our society, those who are on low incomes, Local Authorities and Housing Associations.

The SNP, Scottish Labour and the Scottish Greens have all publicly stated that they are against the bedroom tax and accept that the ramifications of the bedroom tax will have a devastating effect on vulnerable and low paid Scots.

We hope that the Scottish Parliament will realise the tangible fears that vulnerable people feel regarding the 'bedroom tax' and make funding available to eradicate all the effects of the 'bedroom tax' in Scotland.

(1)<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/news/tor-bedroom-tax/>

(2)
<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmsscotaf/writev/bedroom/bt08.htm>

(3) UK Government Impact Statement. Behavioural Change, point 37.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/138017/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

(4) www.no2bedroomtax.com

(5) http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/media/press_releases/press_release_folder/2013/housing_min

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/No2BedroomTax>

Related information for petition

Shelter Scotland calling for the Scottish Governmetn to make available £50m
http://scotland.shelter.org.uk/media/press_releases/press_release_folder/2013/housing_minist

Glasgow and West of Scotland Forum of Housing Associations (GWSF)
<http://www.gwsf.org.uk/>

Scottish Tenants Organisation: <http://www.scottishtenants.org.uk/>

The impact of the Bedroom Tax & other changes to housing benefit in Scotland

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm201314/cmselect/cmsscotaf/writev/bedroom/bt08.htm>

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/scottish-affairs-committee/news/tor-bedroom-tax/>

Westminster Government Under-Occupancy Impact Statement:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/138017/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf

Do you wish your petition to be hosted on the Parliament's website to collect signatures online?

NO

How many signatures have you collected so far?

0

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion