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JOSEPH ROWNTREE FOUNDATION

This is an open letter to the First Minister in advance of tomorrow's Scottish Parliamentary vote on Stage 3 Proceedings: Budget (Scotland) (No. 3) Bill

Humza Yousaf MSP
First Minister
Scottish Government

26 February 2024

Dear First Minister

PROPOSED HOUSING AND PLANNING BUDGET CUTS

Tomorrow, the Scottish Parliament will decide whether to approve your government's budget – a budget that proposes to slash the money available to build social homes by **more than a quarter**. The planning budget, which is crucial to the delivery of more homes, is also to be cut by **43 per cent**.

But we have a housing emergency with independent research evidencing that 693,000 Scottish households are facing some form of housing need.

Almost one in twenty people in Scotland are on a waiting list for a social home, 30,000 are homeless and nearly 10,000 children are growing up in temporary accommodation. We just aren't building the homes that Scotland needs, and all the time the situation is getting worse.

This simply isn't right.

Safe, warm, affordable housing is a basic human right. This budget is a hammer-blow to your mission for Scotland to be a country of equality, opportunity and community for everyone.

This is the worst possible decision at the worst possible time.

Please take this last opportunity to reverse these devastating decisions and prioritise resources to deliver the homes that Scotland's people need and deserve.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Executive
Scottish Federation of Housing Associations

Jane Wood
Chief Executive
Homes for Scotland

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