



PUBLIC PETITION NO.

PE01189

Name of petitioner

Anne Lear on behalf of Govanhill Housing Association

Petition title

Standards of Social Rented Housing

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to conduct an inquiry into the responsibilities of private landlords, the levels of social housing below tolerable standard, and the impact 'slum' living conditions has on the health and wellbeing of both residents and the wider community, and whether such conditions should merit housing renewal area status and additional Scottish Government funding.

Action taken to resolve issues of concern before submitting the petition

Several very well attended local public meetings have taken place where elected members (MSP and councillors) along with the police, fire service, local authority departments, local housing association and voluntary sector agencies have all come together to listen to the serious concerns of local people.

Discussions have taken place with the local authority who are sympathetic to applying for 'Housing Renewal Area' status for Govanhill under section 2 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2006 (when this statutory provision is brought into force by the Scottish Government).

However, the concern is that additional capital resources would be necessary to tackle the scale of the private housing stock problem, which is directly responsible for public health and safety hazards, overcrowding and the worrying social and racial tensions in the neighbourhood.

Petition background information

The specific concerns of the petitioners are:

- the increasing number of slum private sector landlords the likes of which have not been seen for decades in Scotland;
- the impact that slum living conditions have on the health and wellbeing of local EU migrant workers, their dependent children, and the wider local community;
- the relationship and interaction between slum landlords, agency gangmasters and organised crime;
- the sustainability of the local community in relation to the problems caused through the exploitation of citizens by slum landlords and local gangmasters;

- the real and substantial risks to public health and safety from slum living conditions and local gangmasters; and
- the solutions necessary to address the race relation, housing and socio-economic challenges which threaten Govanhill's sustainability as a vibrant and successful multicultural community in Scotland.

The petitioners call upon the Scottish Parliament to determine if the scale of the race relation, housing, and socio-economic challenges facing Govanhill are unique in Scotland and if so ask the Scottish Government to make adequate provision for dedicated funding and support.

Unique web address

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/GettingInvolved/Petitions/PE01189>

Related information for petition

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?

8

Closing date for collecting signatures online

N/A

Comments to stimulate online discussion