

Jayne Bryant MS
Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local
Government

18 June 2025

Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for attending the Committee's meeting on 11 June 2025 and responding to our questions on the Welsh Government's Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill.

During the evidence session you committed to providing a technical note on the model and assumptions used by Alma Economics to develop the cost-benefit analysis of the Bill. Members also agreed to write to you with follow up questions on the issues outlined in the annex to this letter.

It would be helpful to receive your response by 29 August 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair, Finance Committee

Annex: follow up questions after oral evidence session on 11 June 2025

Following the oral evidence session on the Homelessness and Social Housing Allocation (Wales) Bill on 11 June 2025, we would welcome further information on the matters listed below. It would be helpful to receive your response by 29 August 2025.

1. The Integrated Impact Assessment highlights the possibility that reforms create a negative impact in terms of increased strain on health services and resources during the transitional period due to an increased number of referrals from housing and other sectors. How have you factored this into the RIA?
2. You've undertaken an affordability assessment, which strips out opportunity costs, savings and non-financial costs and benefits. It outlines £475 million of financial benefits, and does not include the estimated benefits of £167 million for the wider public sector and £3.7 million for Registered Social Landlords. In what form will benefits to the wider public sector and RSLs be realised?
3. Training for "Ask and act" results in £12.4 million of opportunity costs across a variety of organisations. How will you ensure this activity is done as efficiently as possible and how have you engaged with relevant bodies, particularly those in areas that are not devolved?
4. £5 million per annum, from 2027-2028, is identified to ensure that local authorities are able to "offer help to secure that suitable accommodation does not cease to be available for occupation by the applicant by taking reasonable steps likely to achieve that purpose". What does that mean practically, and how have you calculated this figure?
5. You estimate an additional annual cost of £997,000 from 2027-28 associated with increased rights to request a review. How have you come to the assumption 25% of applicants subject to a homelessness duty may request a review?
6. The estimated total recurring annual cost in the RIA for the duty to retain suitable accommodation secured in exercise of homelessness functions is £7.8 million from 2027-28. Have you committed to funding the full cost of this and what happens with the funding of those costs following the initial years of implementation?