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Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee  
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Dear Chair,

I am writing on behalf of Homes for All Cymru and in anticipation of the Committee drafting its legacy report as this Senedd term draws to a close.

As a coalition of third-sector housing and homelessness organisations working across Wales, we have very much welcomed the work of the Committee over this term. Particularly, the recent scrutiny of the Homelessness and Social Housing (Allocations) Bill, as well as the Committee's inquiries into temporary accommodation and social housing supply to name but a few.

I have no doubt that the findings of these valuable inquiries will help to inform the Committee's legacy report for the next parliament. In addition, we thought it would be timely to share with you some of the conversations that Homes For All Cymru has had regarding our shared priorities for the next Senedd term, particularly as we developed [our joint manifesto](#).

These points include:

- **The need to deliver social homes at pace.**

As a coalition, we are clear that an insufficient supply of social homes is a significant factor in our high levels of homelessness as well as the prevalence of long stays in temporary accommodation in Wales. Given the Committee's recent report on social housing supply, I am sure this will already be on your agenda.

Our hope is that the next Committee continues to play a key role in ensuring that the Welsh Government drives forward with the delivery of social rent homes at pace to match need, learning from and developing solutions to barriers.

- **The need to embed sustainable, person-centred solutions to prevent and end homelessness**

Members of Homes For All Cymru have welcomed the recently passed Homelessness and Social Housing Allocations (Wales) Bill. It places a much-needed emphasis on homelessness prevention and improving support to help people build a life beyond homelessness.

However, to make sure this Bill fulfils its potential as world-leading legislation and helps to drive down homelessness levels, it will be imperative that it is appropriately resourced, implemented, monitored and reviewed.

As identified throughout the Committee's scrutiny of the Bill, there are aspects of the new law which hold the potential to be delayed in implementation, misinterpreted, or which could be helpfully expanded upon during key review points (such as the public sector body duties and the exemptions from local connection). We would warmly welcome the next Committee having a continued key role in scrutinising the effective implementation of the law.

In addition, across recent years, homelessness services have struggled with tight budgets. We are keen to ensure that the next Welsh Government is held to account on sufficiently funding services so that they can help to deliver the aims of the Bill – especially through the Housing Support Grant and the Homelessness Prevention Grant.

- **Setting out a long-term vision and strategy so that a suitable, safe and genuinely affordable home is both a right and a reality for everyone in Wales**

Homes For All Cymru understands the importance of our homes as providing the foundations for healthy and fulfilling lives.

To ensure that we continue to build upon the work of this Senedd term to help us move towards ending homelessness, and to press ahead with securing good quality and genuinely affordable homes for all, across all tenures – Homes For All Cymru members believe it will be critical that the next Welsh Government sets out a clear long-term strategy and ensures that a suitable, safe, and genuinely affordable home is both a right and a reality for everyone in Wales.

As the Committee has recognised throughout its work, homelessness and housing insecurity comes at a significant human cost to the thousands of households across Wales affected. Not having a stable place to call home creates lasting trauma. It makes it difficult to seek employment, see friends and family, and stay healthy.

Homelessness also comes at a substantial cost to our wider public services. Currently, local authority housing options teams describe themselves as being in “firefighting mode” and are footing bills of [nearly £100million for temporary accommodation](#). In addition, we know that long periods of homelessness and housing insecurity can lead to further pressures on wider services as, for example, the risk of developing health issues is increased.

We hope that the next Committee will continue a focus on looking at the progress made towards ending homelessness and the housing emergency, given the moral and financial imperative to do so and the wider societal benefits.

I hope this information is helpful. May I take this opportunity to again thank the Committee members on behalf of myself and Homes For All Cymru members. As a coalition we are grateful for your engagement across the sector this Senedd term and for the important contribution that the Committee has made in the context of the housing emergency in Wales.

Yours sincerely,



**Ruth Power, Chair, Homes for all Cymru**

CEO, Shelter Cymru

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The members of Homes For All Cymru are:

Age Cymru	Homeshare Wales
Bevan Foundation	Housing Justice Cymru
Care and Repair Cymru	Llamau
Chartered Institute of Building	MCS Charitable Foundation
Community Housing Cymru	Mind
CIH Cymru	Platform
CITB Wales	RNIB
Crisis	Salvation Army
Cwmpas	Shelter Cymru
Cymorth Cymru	Tai Pawb
Disability Rights Task Force	The Bevan Foundation
Disability Wales	The Wallich
Ethnic Minorities and Youth Support Team	TPAS Cymru
EYHC	Welsh Refugee Council
Goleudy	Welsh Women's Aid
Gypsies and Travellers Wales	