



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Alison Thewliss MP  
House of Commons  
London  
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**Mrs Heather Wheeler MP**  
Minister for Housing and Homelessness

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Dear Alison,

I am writing in response to your question at Oral Questions on 30 April about people with insecure immigration status. I agree with you that no one should be sleeping on the streets no matter their background, that's why the Government provides funding to tackle this issue through the Controlling Migration Fund. This £100m fund is available to bids from local authorities in England to mitigate negative impacts on the provision of local services from recent migration. This includes rough sleeping by non-UK nationals. The projects work with non-UK national rough sleepers in a range of ways, including helping them secure regular employment and accommodation or facilitating a voluntary return to their country of origin. As already mentioned, this fund is available only in England as this issue is devolved to the devolved administrations, therefore within your constituency this would be a matter for the Scottish Government.

This government is committed to providing protection for those who genuinely need it, in accordance with our international obligations under the Refugee Convention and European Convention on Human Rights. Asylum decision-makers carefully consider protection needs following an interview by assessing all available evidence provided by the claimant in light of published country information. They receive extensive training on considering asylum claims and must follow published Home Office policy guidance. Claims are carefully considered on their individual facts on a case by case basis. Protection is normally granted when a claimant establishes a well-founded fear of persecution under the Refugee Convention or their particular circumstances engage our obligations under Article 3 (ECHR).

Tackling rough sleeping is a priority for the Government. In our manifesto we have committed to halving rough sleeping by 2022 and eliminating it by 2027. In order to tackle this we have set up a cross-government taskforce which is focused on designing a strategy to ensure that rough sleeping is eliminated by 2027. This is supported by an expert advisory panel from across the sector, which provides recommendations to the Taskforce. The Government has

also recently announced the Rough Sleeping Initiative, backed with a £30m fund to reduce the number of rough sleepers this year.

I hope this information is suffice in response to your interesting question last week.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Heather Wheeler". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**MRS HEATHER WHEELER MP**