

Argyll and Bute submission on the housing emergency, 12 February 2025

Thank you for your letter of 20th January 2025.

I am glad to hear you found your visit to Argyll and Bute in November useful, we were pleased to be able to explain the details of our Housing Emergency as we experience them. I look forward to seeing the published report into your inquiry.

You have enquired if we have more recent data available since the information we provided you in November 2024. There are limited updates in that time, but the most relevant are as follows:

- We presented a detailed report of all the action taken and progress made to tackle the housing emergency to Council on November 21st 2024, and this can be accessed here: [HOUSING EMERGENCY: LHS ANNUAL UPDATE](#) This report, at para. 4.19, includes a set of proposed metrics which will be used to monitor progress in tackling the housing emergency on an annual basis.
- From 1st April 2024 – 24th January 2025 we have taken 375 homeless applications which is a 3.8% decrease (15 applications) on the same period in 23/24.
- We have seen an overall reduction in the number of permanent houses being allocated by the Registered Social Landlords – there has been a 15% reduction in the number of allocations to date in 24/25 (92 less allocations) compared to the same period in 23/24. In terms of allocations to homeless households there has been a reduction of 4% (10 allocations).
- In terms of Empty Homes there have been 5 properties brought back into use in quarter 3 – 1st Oct 24 – 31st Dec 24.
- The number of people presenting as Homeless who have No Recourse To Public Funds has increased significantly, occurring 15 times in the last 12 months compared to 3 the year before.
- We have secured an extension to our TIF Agreement with Scottish Government. This is most welcome and fundamental in allowing us to progress further phases of housing development at Dunbeg. Planning applications for this have now been lodged with the Council. To support this, and as identified in the Council's SHIP, we plan to initiate Housing Infrastructure Fund applications or request flexible use of the RPA during 2025 to deliver fundamental enabling infrastructure.

I trust this information is useful and please do not hesitate to contact me should you require further information or explanation.