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Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref WQ86217 & WQ86218

Natasha Asghar
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24th October 2022

Dear Natasha

Thank you for your two Written Questions of 11 October. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding formally.

WQ86217 asked: *How much money was allocated to the COVID tenancy hardship grant scheme and how much money was spent from this fund as at 30 September 2022?*

The Covid Tenancy Hardship Grant (THG) was allocated up to £10.9m to support both private and social rented sector tenants who were struggling to repay significant rent arrears built up due to the pandemic.

The Tenancy hardship Fund was managed through the Covid Hardship Fund; a total of £571,000 was spent from this covid-related fund before the scheme was wound up in May 2022. The Covid Hardship Fund included a number of funding streams for both the local authorities' increased costs and for programmes they were administering on behalf of the Welsh Government, such as the Tenancy Hardship Grant. Although individual elements may have been allocated an initial budget, the fund as a whole was managed as one funding stream to support the response to the pandemic. The spend to date on the hardship fund additional costs for 2021-22 was £369m and for loss of income £71m.

Part of this funding in both 2020-21 and 2021-22 was for the additional costs associated with preventing homelessness and the 'no-one left out' approach. The total costs claimed under the homelessness category in 2021-22 were £41,463,999.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

WQ86218 asked: *What assessment has the Minister made of the likely impact of rent controls on the supply of homes for private rent?*

This is a highly complex area, with the potential for negative impacts on the sector if not properly considered. Therefore, I am commissioning independent research into the subject, the first stage of which has commenced. This research will provide me with a stronger evidence base on the impact of rent controls. This evidence will be further strengthened with extensive engagement with landlords, tenants, and organisations. Both the research and engagement will help to inform the content of the wider White Paper on the right to adequate housing in Wales, which we have committed to publishing during this term of Government and which forms part of the Cooperation Agreement.

Yours sincerely



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