Housing for prison leavers

Dear XXXX MP,

I am writing to you as my local MP to ask for your help in calling for action to tackle rough sleeping and homelessness amongst prison leavers.

Would you raise this issue with the Chancellor and ask him, ahead of the upcoming Autumn Spending Review, to ensure that everyone leaving prison has somewhere to live?

During the pandemic, the Government was successful in getting a significant number of people off the streets. Schemes such as “Everyone In” and the temporary accommodation scheme for prison leavers led to over 37,000 people being moved into emergency accommodation by January of this year.

In January, the Government then announced £20 million of funding to support prison leavers at risk of homelessness into temporary basic accommodation for up to 12 weeks. This is only a one-year funding package and will cover just 5 of the 12 probation regions across England and Wales.

Given that 53% of rough sleepers have been in prison and that over two thirds of prison leavers released into homelessness go onto reoffend, this funding is a welcome first step. But, a one-year funding settlement across 5 regions does not go far enough.

Which is why the Government must now go further and:

* Commit to rolling out this support over the long-term, guaranteeing that everyone leaving prison has somewhere to live
* Roll out the funding to all 12 probation regions at this Autumn’s Spending Review

Without this support, the Government will fail to reach its target of eradicating rough sleeping by the end of this Parliament. It will also continue to cost the Treasury huge sums of money, with reoffending costing the UK economy around £18bn a year and causing untold damage to families and communities, up and down the country.

Many thanks for taking the time to consider this letter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,
NAME
ADDRESS *(so that you can be identified as a constituent)*