



The Scottish Parliament

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Shona Morrison
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Dear Shona

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the amendments on HMOs currently being voted on in the Scottish Parliament's Planning Bill.

1. As socialists we do not accept that the market, i.e. landlords, should be able to decide. We are in favour of local communities having a say in planning through their elected representatives who should decide whether private landlords can set up shop wherever they like.
2. The amendments do not reduce the number of HMOs already in existence; instead they restrict the unregulated creation of new ones.
3. Unregulated development of HMOs allows private landlords to create HMO ghettos. HMOs rip off migrant workers and other low-income families by providing poor quality, over-crowded accommodation and charging rent worth a great deal more than the property is worth.
4. There is a fundamental problem here because of the shortage of good quality, affordable housing. We should be focussing on getting the Scottish Executive and local authorities to provide more, not arguing that anybody should be allowed to set up as landlord without seeking planning permission.

I hope this answer is helpful.

Yours in solidarity and socialism

RP F. Sami

ROSIE KANE MSP

[dictated & signed in her absence]