

**LETTER FROM COSLA REGARDING PETITION PE1496: BEDROOM TAX MITIGATION –
17 DECEMBER 2013**

I refer to your letter of 4 December regarding COSLA's position on the proposal contained in Petition PE1496 by Alan Wylie on behalf of the N0.2 Bedroom Tax Campaign. I can advise that at the COSLA Council Leaders' meeting on 27 September 2013, Leaders supported the call for £50m to be made available by the Scottish Government to mitigate the impact of the bedroom tax in Scotland.

Our Leaders are of the view that any saving to the UK Government arising from the Bedroom Tax is, as COSLA predicted, being passed on in increased rent arrears and administrative burdens to councils and Registered Social Landlords and increased distress to tenants. This is occurring across all council areas. COSLA Leaders feel very strongly on this.

While COSLA recognises and appreciates the funding made available to date by Scottish Government, Leaders are of the view that this is an area where more could be done to mitigate the impact of the Bedroom Tax which COSLA considers unfair and unworkable.

I trust that this clarifies COSLA's position.

Michael McClements
Policy Manager