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Thank you for your letter of 21 November to the Rt Hon George Osborne MP, about the Homelessness Prevention Grant. I am replying as this falls within my Ministerial responsibilities. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

I am pleased to let you know that as part of the funding available to local authorities to provide local services, we recently announced that the Homelessness Prevention funding will be maintained and remain visible within the new local government finance settlement. This will total £315m by 2019/2020.

As part of our continued commitment to tackling homelessness, we have also made a commitment to work with local authorities, homelessness organisations and across Departments to consider options, including legislation, to prevent more people from becoming homeless.

On 25 November, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced an increase in central funding for the Department for Communities and Local Government homelessness programmes over the next four years. £139m will be available to allow us to continue to help vulnerable people at risk of homelessness.

I would like to thank you for your time and for raising this important issue.

MARCUS JONES MP