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LONDON ASSEMBLY HOUSING COMMITTEE REPORT - NO GOING BACK: *BREAKING THE CYCLE OF ROUGH SLEEPING AND HOMELESSNESS*

Thank you for your letter of 12 August enclosing a copy of the London Assembly's report.

This Government is committed to tackling and preventing rough sleeping and homelessness and over £1 billion has been made available over the spending round to do this and support vulnerable households affected by welfare reform. This includes £34 million to the Greater London Authority to tackle rough sleeping across London and I commend the efforts of the Mayor's Rough Sleeping Group for their pioneering work.

Our funding helps to ensure that local authorities and the voluntary sector are able to provide the support people need to get off the streets – through schemes such as No Second Night Out and Streetlink.

In terms of aiming high on rough sleeping, I want all local authorities to ensure that they continue to offer a No Second Night Out service. Clearly the success of the project in London, with around three-quarters of new rough sleepers only spending one night on the streets, and the adoption of the NSNO standard in other local authorities across the country is the way forward.

I do not believe that anyone should have to sleep rough in the 21st century. Clearly local authorities play a key role in helping to prevent people ending up on the streets in the first place. They are required to provide advice and assistance and I do not envisage further legislative change. However, I recognise that some ought to do more and I want to encourage all local authorities to raise their game. That is why I have made available £8 million Help for Single Homeless funding so local authorities can do more together to improve services.

This additional funding is on top of the existing £14 million provided to Crisis to help single people access private rented sector accommodation. This scheme has helped around 8,000 single people into a tenancy in the private rented sector.



KRIS HOPKINS MP