



Thank you for taking the time to engage with the Simon Communities.

We believe that significant progress can be made in the lifetime of the next government on the issue of homelessness.

This can only be achieved if it is a political priority and reflected as such in the next Programme for Government.

That programme must include a comprehensive plan on homelessness that has three pillars.

1. Actions to prevent homelessness.
2. Support to those experiencing homelessness.
3. Commitment to build the social housing we need to support people out of homelessness.



You can help us achieve this! In the coming weeks and months general election candidates will be calling to your door asking for support. Let's let them know that homelessness is a priority! As a supporter of the campaign, you can ask three straightforward questions which will allow you to assess how serious they and their party are about addressing the issue.

Question 1.

What will you do to prevent homelessness?

Answers to look out for:

- We need to implement the Simon Homeless Prevention Bill.
- We need to put a duty to assist in place, like they have in Wales and Scotland, to ensure that Local Authorities are responding as soon as someone presents to them as homeless.
- Complementing that we need to support local authorities to do more of the prevention work they are doing and make sure that we are sharing best practice where that work is not happening or not effective.

Question 2.

How will you support those experiencing homelessness?

Answers to look out for:

- A commitment to increasing the HSE budget for bespoke health services including mental health and addiction services for those experiencing homelessness.
- A commitment to ensure that every child experiencing homelessness has access to a trained support worker if they need it.
- A commitment to significantly reduce the length of time individuals and families are residing in emergency accommodation.

Question 3.

How are you going to ensure the homes are there for the single people, couples and families to move quickly out of homelessness?

Answers to look out for:

- A commitment to increase supply of social housing to at least 15,000 homes per year.
- A commitment to implement the Housing Commission recommendations on social housing supply and financing.
- A commitment to expand the housing first programme in Ireland.