



John Swinney MSP
First Minister
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
EH99 1SP

28th August 2026

Dear First Minister,

Programme for Government: Calling on the Scottish Government to include its commitment to introduce National Housing Standards for seasonal agricultural workers.

We are writing regarding the gaps in housing standards for people working in seasonal agriculture living on farms in largely mobile accommodation. As you know people picking our soft fruits and vegetables across Scotland risk living in squalid, dangerous conditions and paying high charges with no guarantee of a basic standard of housing.

As identified by the Worker Support Centre, there is currently a [gap in legislation and regulation](#) regarding the standards of seasonal agricultural housing which is exempt from national housing legislation and as such unregulated or monitored. We welcome the [Scottish Government's commitment](#) to introduce National Housing Standards to fill this gap made in November 2025. **Ahead of next week's Programme for Government, we underline the urgency of following through on this commitment.**

In 2026, many seasonal agricultural workers are still living in uninhabitable, squalid and dangerous living conditions with no protections, despite some paying around £2000 per month to share six people to a caravan. We have seen footage this year of people here in Scotland forced to sleep on floors, in mould infested, damp and draughty units.

The Scottish Government has conducted detailed research on this issue, met stakeholders and workers and committed to introduce national standards. We urge you to act now to close the gaps in protections that exist for people who are central to our food security and farming system.

We look forward to hearing the Scottish Government's plan to meet this commitment, making Scotland a country that welcomes every worker, and all workers can live in dignity and security.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline Robinson
Executive Director
Worker Support Centre

Roz Foyer
General Secretary
Scottish Trades Union Congress

Frank Jarvis
Interim Managing Principal Solicitor
Shelter Scotland

Work Rights Centre (WoRC)

Kate Roberts
Head of Policy
Focus on Labour Exploitation

Hari Byles
Union Learner Rep
Solidarity Across Land Trades (SALT)

The Workers' Observatory

Peter Kelly
Chief Executive
The Poverty Alliance