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PhD Researcher

Scottish Government

National Planning Framework Call for Ideas 30.4.2020

I am writing regarding the call for early ideas on the National Planning Framework. I am a final year PhD researcher and have just submitted a thesis on policy relating to Scottish Showpeople.

Scottish Showpeople have faced several issues over the last 30 or so years regarding forced relocations and the segmentation of Showman's Yards in areas of multiple deprivation, which I have documented in my thesis. Many Showmen's Yards are routinely denied permanent planning status despite the nature of travel changing drastically and the vast majority of Showpeople residing in permanent sites. Many Show-children have excelled in education and Showpeople in general being valued members of the local communities they reside in. While they do not share the same poor health outcomes as Gypsy/Travellers, their accommodation needs are no less important than any other community in Scotland.

Yet, without any legal status as an ethnic community this community has not been given any consideration in past National Planning Frameworks. Indeed, in the Integrated **Impact Assessment (IIA): Screening / Scoping Report, Appendix B: Society and Equalities baseline information**, only Gypsy/Tarvellers are mentioned, leaving the Scottish Showpeople community excluded from any conversation at an early stage.

Considering Scotland's National Performance Framework¹⁰ now includes the human rights outcome – 'We respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination' it is important the Scottish Government recognised Scottish Showpeople in the next Scottish Planning Framework as not doing so would be a dereliction of moral duty.

There are a number of practical issues that could be put forward and the Scottish Showmen's Guild and other members of the community could be involved in:

- Workshop for Showpeople: where policymakers learn more about the specific accommodation needs of Showpeople
- Policy Review: A review of all current planning provisions under the Public Sector Duty Act
- Special provisions in planning in 'buffer' zones: This would be special planning status where Showpeople could own yards in-between residential/business – where the need so both business and domestic needs are met.
- Sale of individual plots: Individual Showpeople are no different than other members of the community and therefore should have a range of options to pursue their lifestyle.
- Community owned sites: This would provide more security of tenure for many families who are currently on waiting lists

These suggestions are not exhaustive, and many could be discussed in the suggested Workshop. Last, I would reiterate the commitment from the Scottish Government to create "An economy that benefits everyone" and therefore there is no reason why Showpeople should be excluded from any framework and the Scottish Government should recognise Showpeople's contribution to the cultural heritage of Scotland.

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