

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government  
Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Regent Road  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

[CabSecFLG@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecFLG@gov.scot)

Date: 3 December 2024  
Our reference: SHRC2024011

Dear Cabinet Secretary,

## **The Place Based Fund - Castlemilk**

I am writing on behalf of the Scottish Human Rights Commission to request further information regarding the decision-making criteria for awards on the Place Based Fund.

On the 14th of October 2024, Commissioner Dr Clare Methven O'Brien and I met with members of the Castlemilk Lived Experience Housing and Human Rights Lived Experience Group. At this meeting we heard from the group about poor housing in Castlemilk having a direct impact on people not being able to enjoy their rights to food, transport, and health.

We also heard from group members about their concerns around having no progress on supermarket development in Castlemilk, despite funds being awarded for its development by Scottish Government to Glasgow City Council for 2021/22.

The right to food in international law is part of the right to an adequate standard of living. The key international provision on the right to food is protected in Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). As you may be aware, the Commission is currently collecting evidence to inform its reporting to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights to support its examination of state compliance with ICESCR across Great Britain and Northern Ireland in early 2025.

In pursuit of the Commission's general duty to promote human rights we are undertaking a small-scale scoping exercise to better understand why no progress has been made in facilitating the right to food for people living in Castlemilk.

To the Commission's knowledge, the Place Based Fund made an award of £3.7 million pounds to Glasgow City Council which was awarded to nine projects. We understand that one of these was a project to fund environmental improvements to the Braes shopping centre in Castlemilk, and to encourage further commercial development. As of May 2024, it was reported<sup>1</sup> that £450,000 of this funding had been released for developments in Castlemilk to the Scotsman Group, however no progress on establishing a well-known brand supermarket in Castlemilk has occurred to date.

The lack of opportunity to access affordable food has had a significant impact on the rights realisation of Castlemilk Residents. Figures shared with the Commission showed that in Q1 of 2023/24 members of the local food pantry used the service 2092 times, and in Q2 1989 times, a total of 3,984 uses in six months. Housing associations responsible for the running of the food pantry have reported to us that they are overwhelmed by demand.

As the Scottish Government were the initial awarders of the funding we would appreciate a response to the following questions:

- What steps have the Scottish Government taken to protect the right to food for residents in Castlemilk?
- What overarching human rights-based assessment was applied to the award of the Place Based Fund?
- How are the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business (GuidingPrinciplesBusinessHR\_EN.pdf (ohchr.org) included in the procurement process of allocating funds from the Scottish Government, including the Place Based Fund and the development of the Braes shopping centre?

---

<sup>1</sup> See: No supermarket for Castlemilk despite promises - BBC News

3

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'A. O'Hagan'.

**Angela O'Hagan**  
**Chair, Scottish Human Rights Commission**

cc: [jacqui.mills@ardenglen.org.uk](mailto:jacqui.mills@ardenglen.org.uk)

[James.Dornan.msp@parliament.scot](mailto:James.Dornan.msp@parliament.scot)