

EMAIL

Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP
Chair
Work and Pensions Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Ref: 21/CJS/KY/148

21 October 2021

Dear Chair

Re: Children in Poverty: No Recourse to Public Funds

Following on from my earlier correspondence I am pleased to confirm that our commissioned scoping paper “A Hostile Environment: children and families affected by immigration status and No Recourse to Public Funds” has now been published and is available here:

www.niccy.org/NRPF

As previously noted, we welcome the Committee’s Inquiry into Children in Poverty: No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and hope that the paper supports the Committee’s work in this area. The Commissioner has made the following recommendations based on the findings of the study calling on both the UK Government and the NI Government to:

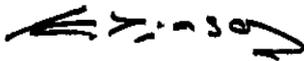
1. Undertake work to identify how many children in NI are living in a family with no recourse to public funds and to publish this data. This should include both figures held by the Home Office in regard to immigration control and legal status and by the Department of Health in relation to children who may be eligible for or are receiving support under Article 18 of the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995.
2. Develop clear pathways across and between Home Office and health and social care agencies to ensure that children and families who may be subject to no recourse to public funds are referred and that the needs and best interests of

children are assessed as a matter of urgency. This pathway information should be published.

3. Address the needs of each child, particularly ensuring that they have access to the highest standard of health care, an effective education, an adequate standard of living and all other protections afforded by the UNCRC.

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Koulla Yiasouma
Commissioner