

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

29<sup>th</sup> May 2018

*Dear Constituent,*  
**RE: LOCAL HOUSING ALLOWANCE RATES.**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of the Local Housing Allowance (LHA) freeze.

While I appreciate your concerns on this issue, reforms to Housing Benefit are a central part of the Government's plan to create a welfare system that supports the most vulnerable and is fair to taxpayers.

Around £24 billion a year is spent on Housing Benefit to support people with their housing costs, with over £800 million in Discretionary Housing Payments provided to local authorities to help support vulnerable claimants.

In addition, I am assured that around 30 percent of potential savings from the LHA freeze will be used to create further Targeted Affordability Funding to help tenants in those areas where Local Housing Allowance rates have diverged the most from local rents. I welcome that this has already been used to increase 48 LHA rates by 3 percent in areas with high rental costs this year. The recent Budget announced additional funding of £40 million in 2018-19 and £85 million in 2019-20. This will increase the housing benefit awards of 140,000 claimants next year, by an average of £280 in areas where affordability pressures are greatest.

Ultimately, however, I believe the key to improving affordability in the private rented sector across England is to build more homes. That is why I am glad that the Housing White Paper, which was published in February last year, outlined an ambitious plan to fix the broken housing market and build the homes Britain needs. This includes getting the right homes built in the right places, speeding up house building, and diversifying the market. I was encouraged that further proposals in the recent Budget mean the Government is on track to increase housing supply by 300,000 a year.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

*Tom*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**

LISTENING TO YOU - CAMPAIGNING FOR YOU  
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