

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

10th March 2020

Dear Constance,

RE: AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of affordable housing, with specific reference to the forthcoming Budget announcement; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I am fully committed to supporting the social rented sector and its 4 million households. With social housing stock across England plummeting by almost half a million homes between 1997 and 2010, I recognise that this has made it harder for some families to access social housing. Welcomely, 1.5 million new homes have been delivered in the last decade, including almost 500,000 affordable homes and over 300,000 affordable homes for rent.

I agree, however, that more funding is needed to build social housing and that barriers to development must be addressed. In particular, the £9 billion 'Affordable Homes' programme will help deliver more affordable housing and socially rented homes.

However, funding alone will not solve the problem, which is why I welcome action to make the development system simpler and more robust. A new 'Housing Infrastructure Fund' will be established to unlock more homes by putting in place vital infrastructure in high-demand areas.

Waiting lists for social housing increased 73 percent in the past, rising from just over a million households in 1997, to almost two million households by 2009. I am therefore encouraged that social housing waiting lists have declined by 34 percent since then to 1,200,000 households.

That said, of course I agree that more needs to be done to improve housebuilding and affordability, which is why I welcome that the recent Spending Review promised continued support through 'Help to Buy' loans and other housing programmes designed to deliver more homes where people need them.

With that in mind, I will most certainly relay your views on this to Treasury Ministers in advance of the Budget.

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 PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE