

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

8th July 2022

Jean Contrevent

RE: SOCIAL HOUSING

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of social housing and the housing market; your comments upon which I have read with great interest.

I am fully committed to supporting the social rented sector and its four million households.

Social housing stock across England fell by almost half a million homes between 1997 and 2010, making it harder for many families to access social housing. Over 1.8 million new homes have been delivered in the last decade, including over 500,000 affordable homes and 150,000 homes for social rent. In 2019-20 alone, around 244,000 homes were delivered – the highest number of new homes for over 30 years.

More remains to be done, which is why the 2021 Spending Review confirmed a nearly £24 billion multi-year settlement for housing. This includes £300 million in locally-led grant funding that will be distributed to mayoral combined authorities and local authorities to unlock smaller brownfield sites for housing and improve communities in line with their priorities, and £1.5 billion to regenerate underused land and deliver transport links and community facilities, unlocking 160,000 homes in total.

To provide housing associations and councils with more certainty due to disruptions caused by the pandemic, the £9 billion 'Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme' (2016-21) was extended and is expected to deliver 250,000 new affordable homes by March 2023. Half of the homes delivered under the programme will be for reduced rent, including social rent.

On top of this, the new 'Affordable Homes Programme' (2021-26) has been expanded to £11.5 billion, which will leverage up to £38 billion of private finance and deliver up to 180,000 new homes across the country, should economic conditions allow. I am told that this is the biggest cash investment in affordable housing in a decade, which I believe serves to underscore the importance of the issue you raise.

Progress has already been made to deliver this programme, with £8.6 billion of funding allocated to councils, housing associations and private providers. This will deliver around 57,000 homes for affordable homeownership, 29,600 for social rent and 6,250 affordable rural homes.



However, funding alone will not solve the problem, which is why I welcome action to make the development system simpler and more robust. The commitments set out in the *Charter for Social Housing Residents* raise the standard for social housing to meet the needs and aspirations of residents around the country. I am glad that safety, quality, transparency and redress are put front and centre.

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**