



HOUSE OF COMMONS

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020

Dear local resident,

Thank you to those who have contacted me about social housing and the housing market.

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. You will be encouraged to hear, then, that over 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.

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

I do, however, agree that more needs to be done to improve housebuilding and it is clear that more funding is needed and that barriers to development must be addressed. The Government has, therefore, introduced the £9 billion Affordable Homes programme which will help deliver more affordable housing and socially rented homes. The Government is also taking action to make the development system simpler and more robust, and a new Housing Infrastructure Fund will be established to unlock more homes by putting in place vital infrastructure in high-demand areas. Finally, I welcome that the recent Spending Review promised continued support through Help to Buy loans and other housing programmes to deliver more homes where people need them.

I hope that this information is helpful. If you have any further concerns about this, or any other issues, please do get back in touch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Hunt', written over a faint circular stamp.

Jane Hunt MP