

Rt Hon Sir Oliver Letwin MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 1AA

REVIEW OF BUILD OUT

I am grateful to you for agreeing to undertake the Review announced in the Budget into build out of planning permissions into homes.

I have agreed the following terms of reference for your review with the Prime Minister and Chancellor:

“The Review should seek to explain the significant gap between housing completions and the amount of land allocated or permissioned in areas of high housing demand, and make recommendations for closing it. The Review should identify the principal causes of the gap, and identify practical steps that could increase the speed of build out. These steps should support an increase in housing supply consistent with a stable housing market in the short term and so that over the long-term, house prices rise slower than earnings. The review will provide an interim report to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in time for Spring Statement 2018 and a full report for Budget 2018.”

We have agreed that you will chair a “Panel” to support this work. The Panel members will be Richard Ehrman, Lord Jitesh Gadhia, Lord John Hutton, Baroness Usha Prashar and Professor Christine Whitehead.

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government will provide support to the Review including a base for you in 2 Marsham Street and a review team of 2-3 officials. The Housing Minister will chair a fortnightly steering group with Her Majesty’s Treasury and No. 10 Downing Street teams to provide you with appropriate support. My officials, with Simon Gallagher as Senior Responsible Officer, will support this with an officials’ group. Should it prove necessary to involve other departments I would be happy to expand to cover broader groups.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and to Sir Jeremy Heywood, and will make this letter available on my department’s website.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Javid', with a small comma at the end.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP