



Department for Communities and Local Government

Kris Hopkins MP
Minister for Housing

**Department for Communities and Local
Government**
Eland House
Bressenden Place
London SW1E 5DU
www.gov.uk/dclg

Campbell Robb
Chief Executive
Shelter
88 Old Street
LONDON EC1V

Dear Campbell

I am delighted to have been made Housing Minister and look forward to working closely with Shelter to ensure we get Britain building and safeguard the most vulnerable in our society.

I've written a more detailed response privately, but I want to make clear how I've been getting stuck into the job during my first month, and what my priorities are going forward.

A key issue for me is ensuring people have the chance to live in a decent home. As Leader of Bradford Council I led the transfer of housing stock to unlock the investment needed to do just that, and we're giving tenants across the country the power to do the same, unlocking more investment to deliver affordable, decent homes. This is on top of the £1.6 billion we've already put towards our Decent Homes programme, to bring social homes across the country up to standard.

Although homelessness is at around half the rate it was under the previous administration, I am far from complacent on this issue and want to make sure we maintain the strong safety net we have in place to help people facing the frightening prospect of sleeping rough.

We must never lose sight of the need to ensure that housing and support for older people is available, which is why we're working to find new ways to help older people to live independently and with the dignity they deserve.

It's clear we need to build more homes, which is why our affordable housing programme has already delivered 84,000 of the 150,000 homes we've planned to build by 2015, and our ongoing plans will lead to the fastest rate of affordable housebuilding for 20 years.

The numbers of first time buyers are at a five-year high, but I want to go further and help aspiring homeowners who for too long have been locked out of home ownership. Through schemes like Help to Buy, we're offering a valuable alternative to the Bank of Mum and Dad by enabling people to buy new homes with a fraction of the deposit they would normally require.

And for the millions renting homes privately, we're investing £1 billion in our Build to Rent fund to build new homes specifically for private rent, and taking measures to crack down on rogue landlords who make their tenants' lives a misery.

I look forward to having a more in depth discussion with you on these issues when we meet soon.

KRIS HOPKINS MP, MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND LOCAL GROWTH