



Work and Pensions Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Gareth Davies
Comptroller and Auditor General
National Audit Office
157-197 Buckingham Palace Road
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Dear Comptroller and Auditor General

Exempt accommodation

I have received reports that some landlords may be changing their accommodation status to supported housing in order to benefit from higher rents, without providing the quality of accommodation and support required for people with care and support needs. This has been raised with me in relation to exempt accommodation in Birmingham but I note that the [Local Government Association](#) has informed the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee of similar concerns in other areas.¹

These reports raise questions about the regulatory framework for exempt accommodation and the value for money for the taxpayer. My Committee is particularly interested in the issue in respect of Housing Benefit.

I understand that you have been monitoring this issue and I would support an investigation by the National Audit Office into the provision of exempt accommodation. Should you decide to look into the issue I would be very grateful for information from you about the nature and timing of the investigation, and for progress updates in due course.

Yours sincerely

Rt. Hon. Sir Stephen Timms
Chair
Work and Pensions Committee

Cc Clive Betts MP, LUHC

¹ [Written evidence](#) from the Local Government Association to the LUHC Committee inquiry into *Exempt Accommodation*