



**Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities**

Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson

*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Department for Levelling up, Housing and
Communities*

***Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities***

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Clive Betts MP
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Committee
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

06 October 2022

Dear Clive,

INQUIRY INTO THE REGULATION AND QUALITY OF SOCIAL HOUSING

I am writing to you about the forthcoming government response to the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Select Committee inquiry into regulation and quality of social housing, as the recommended deadline for submission has now passed (20 September).

As the recently appointed Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, with responsibility for social housing, I want to assure you that the recommendations from the inquiry are being thoroughly reviewed. Improving the quality of social housing, including through reform of the Housing Ombudsman Service and Regulator of Social Housing, remains a priority, and I want to ensure that adequate time has been spent reviewing the recommendations by the new Ministerial team.

You will be aware that the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill continues to progress through the House of Lords, with Report Stage on 18 October. We have taken the review's recommendations into full consideration on proposed amendments.

The Regulator of Social Housing and Housing Ombudsman Service have also submitted their responses to the inquiry, addressing specific recommendations which fall within their remit. We would recommend waiting to publish the responses from the Regulator of Social Housing and Housing Ombudsman Service until we have had time to review and submit our response, as the three contributions align and provide a complete response.

We are seeking to publish our response no later than mid-November.

Thank you for your understanding and I look forward to working closely together in the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Stephenson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

RT HON ANDREW STEPHENSON MP