



Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

Rt Hon Andrew Stephenson MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Housing and Communities)
Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

19 October 2022

Dear Andrew,

The Regulation of Social Housing, First Report of Session 2022–23

Thank you for your letter, dated 6 October, relating to our report into the Regulation of Social Housing.

The Committee discussed the letter and your request that the Committee not publish the responses it has received to that report from the regulators (The Housing Ombudsman and The Regulator of Social Housing).

The Committee was understanding of your point, that there is a new Ministerial team, and that some time is required to review the recommendations in the report. With that in mind, we are grateful that the Department has been able to take the report's recommendations into full consideration when proposing amendments to the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill.

However, the Committee's view was that the responses from the regulators set out their view as at the end of September. If the Committee was to wait to publish the responses there is a risk that they become out of date. Additionally, while you have committed to publishing your response by no later than mid-November, we thought that there could be circumstances which mean that this commitment was missed. Furthermore, it is generally understood in the stakeholder community that responses to reports from Select Committees are produced within two months. Therefore, the responses will be anticipated by those who contributed to the inquiry, and therefore we did not think it was right to hold the information we have received for any longer than necessary.

I trust you will understand the Committee's reasons for publishing the regulators responses now. They should be published within a week, but we will let officials in the Department know when the publication dates are confirmed.

We look forward to receiving the Government's response in due course.

Best wishes,

Mr Clive Betts MP
Chair, Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee