



Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities

Baroness Scott of Bybrook
*Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Levelling Up, Housing and Communities*

**Department for Levelling up, Housing
and Communities**
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

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

2 February 2023

Dear Clive,

THE LEVELLING UP, HOUSING AND COMMUNITIES SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON THE REGULATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING

I write in relation to the Levelling up, Housing and Communities Select Committee report (July 2022) on the *'Regulation of Social Housing'*.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delayed response to this Select Committee report. The Secretary of State and I are grateful for the committee's excellent work, and we have asked the department to take forward work in several areas addressed by the report. We are both dedicated to improving the quality of social housing, most immediately through the Social Housing (Regulation) Bill, and important decisions around the Bill will feed directly into the response to the July 2022 report.

In November 2022, the appalling circumstances surrounding the tragic death of Awaab Ishak highlighted the need for the Government to go further in its mission to reset the relationship between social housing tenants and their landlords. Following the Coroner's report, a campaign was launched by Shelter, the Manchester Evening News and Awaab Ishak's family for 'Awaab's Law'. The Secretary of State has listened and has given his backing to Awaab's law.

We have worked closely with campaigners and representatives of Awaab Ishak's family on what needs to change, and we are exploring how we can best implement 'Awaab's Law' as soon as possible. We have also announced a review of guidance on the health impacts of damp and mould and will work with the Department for Health and Social Care to develop sector-wide guidance on this by the summer. It is important to get this right, and we have delayed our response to your committee to ensure it fully reflects the new measures now being introduced.

The quality of social housing is a key priority for the Government – I thank the committee for their work on this important issue and I look forward to discussing the committee's report at the evidence session on 6 February. I can also confirm that the Government's response will be published in the weeks following the evidence session.

Yours ever,

BARONESS SCOTT OF BYBROOK OBE