

Committee of Public Accounts

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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17 November 2020

Dear Ms Henderson, Mr Lloyd,

RE: Windrush compensation scheme: vulnerable persons and working with local authority housing

On 20 October I received a letter from Matthew Rycroft CBE, Permanent Secretary at the Home Office, responding to questions from myself and Yvette Cooper MP, chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee, following a Public Accounts Committee session on the Windrush compensation scheme.

We suggested that the Windrush compensation scheme should be used to fund local authorities to buy houses for individuals who have lost permanent council housing tenancies as a result of Home Office action, rather than making them join long local housing queues.

In his response, Mr Rycroft stated:

“Statutory responsibility for providing housing to those who require it lies with local authorities and we believe that the best way to provide support for those with urgent housing needs is to engage with local authorities, housing providers and homeless charities to help secure temporary and permanent accommodation through the Vulnerable Person’s Team. This approach has been successful to date and has resulted in finding accommodation for over 280 people.”

As a London MP I am acutely aware of the pressures on the supply of council housing and was struck by this figure.

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I am writing to ask whether you or any of your members were involved in or consulted on the process described by Mr Rycroft, as well as for any further information that your organisations could provide regarding the Windrush compensation scheme and its implications for the work of local and housing authorities.

I would be grateful for your response within one month.

I am copying this letter to Yvette Cooper MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Meg Hillier'.

MEG HILLIER MP
CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS