



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Rachel Maclean MP**

*Minister of State for Housing and  
Planning*

*Department for Levelling Up, Housing  
and Communities*

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Clive Betts MP  
Chair of Levelling Up, Housing and  
Communities Committee  
House of Commons  
London SW1P 3JA

6<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Dear Clive,

I am writing to you in your capacity as chair of the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee, following the publication of your recent report as part of your inquiry into Reforming the Private Rented Sector.

I very much enjoyed meeting you last week to discuss aspects of the report and would like to extend both the government's and my own thanks to you and the Committee for your continued engagement and scrutiny of these important issues.

As we discussed last week, we are currently limited in the detail we can give publicly in response to your recommendations as we have not yet published our Bill. We would like to give full responses to the points you raise, including detail on what steps we will take where we do not fully agree with the actions you propose. For that reason, we intend to delay the response to the report until the introduction of the Bill, which we anticipate will be in the next few weeks.

Please be assured we intend to respond fully to the report and each of your recommendations and look forward to working with the Committee further as we bring forward our legislation.

Separately, I thought it might also be helpful to update you on the government's work to address problems with damp and mould in the private rented sector, as I am aware of Members' interest in this issue. Following the Secretary of State's direction letter to councils, we have received returns from all local housing authorities detailing their assessment of damp and mould hazards in their areas and setting out their approach to addressing the issue. Analysis of the returns is still underway, and the variation in approaches among local authorities presents some challenges in interpreting the data, but I would be very happy to discuss our preliminary conclusions with you, and would welcome the Committee's views on further action. If

you would be interested in arranging an informal session with members of the Committee to review our findings, my office would be happy to arrange this with you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Maclean', with a small dot at the end.

**RACHEL MACLEAN MP**  
Minister of State for Housing and Planning