



## Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

**Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE**  
**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Social Housing and Faith)**  
**Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities**  
**2 Marsham Street**  
**London, SW1P 4DF**

25 March 2024

Dear Jane,

### **Reforms to Social Housing Allocations**

I write in response to your letter regarding proposed reforms to how social housing is allocated in England, [dated 30 January 2024](#). In your letter, you set out your proposals for a new set of tests which local authorities would have to apply when deciding to allocate social housing stock where demand exceeds supply. These tests would make changes to who is eligible and who qualifies for social housing. The six proposed new tests are:

- UK connection test,
- local connection test,
- income test,
- anti-social behaviour test,
- terrorism test, and
- false statement test.<sup>1</sup>

I note that the proposals in your letter are subject to an [open consultation](#) which closes on 26 March 2024. I would be grateful for your answers to the following questions:

#### **Regarding the proposed UK connection test:**

- What is your Department's assessment of the number of households currently on social housing waiting lists in England that would be affected by the proposed UK connection test, if exemptions for those arriving via safe and legal resettlement schemes and Ukrainian visa schemes are applied?
- What is this figure as a proportion of the total number of households on social housing waiting lists in England?
- Has your Department conducted an impact assessment (or similar analysis) of the proposed UK connection test? Will you publish this?
- Has this impact assessment considered which specific local authorities which may be acutely impacted by the proposed UK connection test? Which local authorities has your Department identified as being at greater risk?
- Has your Department conducted an equality impact assessment (or similar analysis) of the proposed UK connection test? Will you publish this?

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<sup>1</sup> Full definitions of each of these proposed new tests are set out in the letter [dated 30 January 2024](#).



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### Regarding the proposed local connection test:

- What is the Department's assessment of the number of local housing authorities that already operate a form of local connection or residency test, without a national requirement for a local connection test?
- Will the definition of 'local connection' will be the definition in [section 199](#) of the Housing Act 1996?
- How will the proposed local connection test account for people seeking social housing across two or more local housing authorities' administrative boundaries?
- Has your Department conducted an equality impact assessment (or similar analysis) of the proposed local connection test? Will you publish this?

### Regarding the proposed anti-social behaviour test:

- Has your Department conducted an equality impact assessment (or similar analysis) of the proposed anti-social behaviour test? Will you publish this?
- What exemptions may apply for people with a condition or disability that is a contributing factor to perceived anti-social behaviour?
- What exemptions may apply for domestic abuse survivors, where domestic abuse was a mitigating factor in perceived anti-social behaviour?

### Regarding the consultation and legislation:

- When do you expect to respond to the [Consultation on reforms to social housing allocations](#)?
- You have indicated that several of the above tests may be implemented using secondary legislation under [Part 6](#) of the Housing Act 1996. Which of the proposed new tests will require secondary legislation, and which (if any) may require primary legislation?
- When will you lay the secondary legislation?

I would be grateful for your response by 15 April 2024.

Best wishes,

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