



Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Cllr James Jamieson
Chairman, Local Government Association
18 Smith Square
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3 November 2021

Dear James,

Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill

The Government's Leasehold Reform (Ground Rent) Bill has passed through the House of Lords and has had its first reading in the House of Commons. The Bill will restrict ground rents on new long residential leases to a token one peppercorn per year and, as set out in the Bill, it will be for trading standards authorities to enforce this restriction.

The Bill states that the revenue from financial penalties levied on freeholders for illegally charging ground rent can be put towards meeting the costs of enforcement.

I would be interested to learn the views of the LGA on the feasibility of this approach to funding the enforcement of this important change in the law. I would also be keen to know whether the New Burdens Doctrine has been followed. I would be grateful if you could write back to me with the LGA's views on this matter, or alternatively I would be glad to meet with you to discuss further.

Yours sincerely,

Clive Betts MP
Chair, Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee