

NFA and ARCH welcome Minister's decision not to make Pay to Stay Compulsory for Councils

I am sure you have picked up by now that in a statement to Parliament yesterday the Housing Minister, Gavin Barwell MP, announced that the compulsory pay to stay policy was being dropped.

This unexpected but very welcome u-turn was alluded to in our meeting with him yesterday but as it hadn't been presented to parliament at that stage Gavin could not say what it was.

I am very pleased that the new Minister has taken the time to listen to colleagues in the local authority sector including the NFA, ARCH and the LGA as well as individual councils and I would like to thank you all for your time and support on all of the lobbying we have done so far on elements of the Housing and Planning Act and in particular, at the present time, for all of the work you and your staff did on the issues around the implementation of pay to stay as I am sure it was this sort of evidence that helped persuade the Minister that this just wasn't a sensible policy to pursue.

I attach a link to the statement in the House for your information.

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/publications/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2016-11-21/HCWS274/>

We had a positive meeting with Gavin Barwell MP yesterday and we are expecting further statements this week following the Autumn Statement tomorrow and a Housing White Paper later this year. I will do a quick summary of that meeting later today but we were not given any specific detail on the other outstanding issues such as High Value Voids or flexible tenancies but he did say things would start to become clearer after this week.

Now that we have had a constructive meeting with the Housing Minister I am looking forward to a more positive relationship with him and the department over the coming months and the NFA and ARCH will endeavour to build on this first meeting and keep up the lines of communication between the sector and the Minister.

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