



Together we serve the interest of more than a million homes in England

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

19th July 2018

Dear Minister

We are writing to congratulate you on your appointment as Minister of State for Housing and offer our help and support in meeting the Prime Minister's commitment to fix our broken housing market, including, a fundamental rethink of social housing aiming to create a sector that "we could all be proud of whether we lived in it or not". This, of course, includes doing whatever is necessary to make sure that all residents in social housing, tower blocks or low rise, are safe from fire. We have been impressed by the energy and commitment shown by your predecessors, in seeking out the views of both tenants and landlords on the current state of social housing and their openness to fresh thinking about what needs to be done. We are sure you will want to finish what they have started in the same spirit.

ARCH represents 69 councils that have chosen to retain ownership of council housing and manage it directly. The National Federation of ALMOs represents 33 Arms-Length Management Organisations managing council homes in 36 local authorities. Together we own or manage, working closely with our tenants, more than a million homes in England.

We have been working closely with MHCLG officials in both developing the ideas for the Social Housing Green Paper as well as trying to ensure that councils have the financial framework in which to make long term plans to build a new generation of council homes. We believe councils are well placed to help deliver on the government's manifesto commitment to build a million homes by 2020 and a further 500,000 by 2022 if current limitations are removed. We very much welcome your appointment to this brief given your past experience in local government and your previous role as an ALMO Board member at CityWest Homes.

We, and our members, look forward to promoting, with your Department, the additional HRA borrowing announced in Autumn Budget last year as well as the promised consultation on the use of Right to Buy receipts, both of which should start to help remove some of the barriers to further council house building.

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We have enjoyed a productive dialogue with your officials on these questions over the last couple of years and very much hope this will continue while you are Minister.

Given the importance for our members of both the Social Housing Green Paper and the need to build more homes, we would like to go further and ask also to meet you as soon as possible to discuss how ARCH and the NFA may best be of practical support in relation to all these issues.

Yours sincerely



John Bibby
CEO of ARCH



Hugh Broadbent
Chair of NFA
Chair Six Town Housing (Bury)

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