

Kickstart the economy by investing in jobs and people: The National Federation of ALMOs signs open letter to the Prime Minister

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In partnership with over 200 organisations across the UK, The NFA has signed an open letter to the Prime Minister that calls on the Government to invest in jobs through the new Opportunity Guarantee.

Tomorrow - Tuesday 16 June – the latest official figures are expected to show that the UK has its highest unemployment rate in over 100 years.

The new Opportunity Guarantee scheme is backed by some of the UK's biggest employers, including many in the housing sector. The NFA's members have a proven track record for creating quality apprenticeship programmes and targeting upskilling and employability initiatives at disadvantaged communities.

The Opportunity Guarantee aims to kick start the UK's economic recovery by investing in the jobs of the future, helping everyone access the jobs market, and providing new and high-quality opportunities for young people.

It promises to:

- Promote job creation by investing in the jobs that we need for the future
- Double the capacity in services that help people into jobs, with greatest support for those facing disadvantage
- Provide an education place, apprenticeship, or job for every young person

The open letter has been signed by The Prince's Trust, Heathrow Airport, Asda, universities, charities and cross-industry partners and has political backing from Metro Mayors Steve Rotheram (Liverpool City Region), Dan Jarvis (Sheffield City Region) and Jamie Driscoll (North of Tyne Combined Authority).

Commenting on the open letter, former Civil Service head Lord Bob Kerslake said: *"The message to Government is clear – with the Jobs Retention Scheme winding up, we must invest in an Opportunities Guarantee. We need to create opportunities for people to skill up, and have a guaranteed role in our economic recovery, and we must put these plans in place now."*

Eamon McGoldrick, Managing Director of the NFA, said: *"The Opportunity Guarantee is an initiative that echoes the best of the ALMO housing management model, and I very much hope that policymakers will see huge advantages to be gained by every part of the economy through this kind of investment."*

The open letter to the Prime Minister can be read here:

<https://www.communitiesthatwork.co.uk/opportunity-guarantee/>

First established in 2002 as part of the Government's Decent Homes programme, ALMO companies now work with their parent councils to deliver diverse housing services. These range from new-build development to support for residents' employability, their financial resilience and better health and well-being.