



# Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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Dominic Raab MP  
Minister of State for Housing

10 January 2018

Dear Dominic,

Firstly, may I congratulate you on your new ministerial post; myself and the Committee look forward to constructively engaging with you on a variety of housing related issues in the future.

I am writing specifically on the issue of our pre-legislative scrutiny of the Draft Tenant Fees Bill, and the 'assessment of impact' that the Department provided to the Committee appended to its written evidence. As you may be aware the Committee reported to the House and published these documents, alongside all the other written evidence pursuant to the inquiry at its meeting on Monday.

However, I am concerned that the Department did not publish a standard Impact Assessment (IA), using the government IA template, alongside the publication of the draft Bill in November. As you will know, publication of an IA alongside a Bill allows all stakeholders to consider the Government's assessment of the Bill in a range of areas, and may have informed some of the written evidence the Committee received to the inquiry. Equally, the process of producing such a formal IA ensures that the Regulatory Policy Committee is able to provide its opinion on the quality of analysis and evidence presented in the IA in order to inform the decisions of ministers as to whether or not they should proceed with the proposal. In this case I do appreciate that the non-monetised benefits of the draft Bill may have been of particular importance in bringing forward the draft legislation, however I note that the government IA template clearly provides for non-monetised benefits and costs to be taken into account.

I would therefore encourage you to complete and publish a full Impact Assessment of the draft Bill with both monetised and non-monetised costs and benefits, as well as a list of assumptions in the various scenarios, in advance of the Committee completing its pre-legislative scrutiny in order that it may be fully taken into account during this important element of the legislative process. I would also be interested to know whether the Department plans to complete an Equality Impact Assessment.

Finally, I understand Committee staff have been in contact with the Bill Team to arrange for you to give evidence to the inquiry on Wednesday 21 February. Such a date will allow the Committee to report and complete its scrutiny in time to meet the Government's timetable for bringing forward the primary legislation.

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