



# Business, Innovation and Skills Committee

House of Commons London SW1A 0AA

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Sadiq Khan  
Mayor of London  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

14 September 2016

*Dear Sadiq,*

## **Temporary property lets and the sharing economy**

You will be aware that a number of investigations into temporary property letting companies such as Airbnb have found that many landlords appear to be operating illegally by letting properties out for more than 90 days per year. Several of these report that the current law is unenforceable.

During my Committee's recent inquiry into the Digital Economy, we heard evidence that while companies such as Airbnb can enable homeowners to unlock economic value by temporarily letting spare rooms, extensive use of Airbnb by professional landlords, contrary to the current law, can help to drive up property prices, compounding issues of affordability in the capital. Organisations such as the British Hospitality Association have also expressed concern that companies such as Airbnb enable landlords to circumvent tax, food, health and fire safety regulations thereby securing an unfair competitive advantage over other providers of accommodation.

Although I understand that enforcement of the 90-day rule is the responsibility of individual London councils, I would welcome your own assessment of the impact of companies such as Airbnb on London and your views on whether the existing law should be amended. I am also keen to understand what discussions you have had with representatives of London councils on enforcement of the 90-day rule.

I am copying this letter to Cllr Claire Kobler, the chair of the London Councils umbrella body, the British Hospitality Association and Airbnb.

*Yours etc,  
Iain*

**Iain Wright MP**

Chair

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