

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee

House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

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The Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

5 July 2018

Dear James,

As you know, the Committee has taken a keen interest in the Government's work related to leasehold reform. I have corresponded with Ministers a number of times over the last nine months on the issues, and members have also questioned the Government on the subject during various oral evidence sessions.

While the Government's plans announced in December relating to banning leases on the sale of new homes is very welcome, it remains unclear what exactly the Government now plans to do, and when. I note that the response stated that you would bring forward legislation "as soon as Parliamentary time allows to prohibit new residential long leases from being granted on houses, whether new build or on existing freehold houses" alongside other "solutions by summer recess 2018".

However, questions still remain regarding what can be done to support people who have been sold houses already subject to such onerous leases. The Committee has discussed this issue on a number of occasions, and I have also met with the APPG on leasehold reform to discuss what more can be done. While the Law Commission's 2-3 year project on residential leasehold law, which is focusing on commonhold, enfranchisement and regulation of managing agents is very welcome, steps do need to be taken sooner to resolve the position for those currently affected by these leases.

In this context, I am looking forward to you appearing before the Committee on Monday, and it is quite likely members may wish to question you on this subject. What would be incredibly helpful, if at all possible in advance of the session, would be if you could list specifically each area within the field of leasehold reform the Government now plans to take action on before the end of 2018, and the likely timing. I would in particular like to know if you have any plans to bring forward proposals to support those people already affected by such leases.



Clive Betts MP
Chair, Communities and Local Government Committee