



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

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Dear Geoff,

Thank you for your letter of 25 January to the Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP on various Right to Buy issues. I am replying as Minister of State for Housing.

The Government remains committed to the Right to Buy, which gives people from a broad range of the community the opportunity to own their home, encouraging stronger links and a wider interest in their local communities. I believe that anybody who works hard and aspires to own their own home should have the opportunity to realise their dream and do not, therefore, have any plans to allow Local Authorities to suspend the Right to Buy.

We do, however, recognise concerns over the supply of affordable housing, and have taken steps to help councils build more homes. The measures we have taken include removing the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap; providing long-term rent stability for social landlords; committing to repeal the legislation in the Housing and Planning Act which, if implemented, would have led to local authorities' selling off vacant, high value council homes; and, most recently, consulting local authorities on options to afford them greater flexibility in how they can use their Right to Buy receipts to help them build faster. This included options around the 30% limit.

The consultation responses, including those submitted by Brighton and Hove Council, are being analysed and the Government is considering its policy response, which will be published in due course.

Thank you again for your letter. I hope you find this information helpful.

KIT MALTHOUSE MP

