



Dear Rt Hon Michael Gove MP,

We are in the midst of a housing emergency that is going to need bold, radical action to solve.

One in three people in Britain (34%) are now impacted by the housing emergency – that's 17.5 million adults. It's a big challenge but taking it on would mean a better chance for people across the country. This is an opportunity to give renters more rights, provide more homes people on low incomes can afford and give councils the funding and means to end rough sleeping for good.

In recent years you have rightly highlighted the importance of building thousands more social homes. The lack of investment in social housing means despite having over a million people on the social housing waiting list, **only 7000 social homes were built last year**. This has led to worsening overcrowding, with 192,000 more children growing up in overcrowded social homes than five years ago.

Decades of failure to build social homes is at the very root of our current crisis, it is why so many families are stuck in insecure, expensive and often shoddy private rented homes, or unsafe or unsuitable temporary accommodation.

Despite a Renters' Reform Bill being announced, we still don't know when it will come to parliament. The cost of renting has skyrocketed, and the protections for renters just aren't there – **we hope you will commit to bringing this bill to parliament, to end section 21 and introduce a landlord register**.

The Everyone In programme saved lives during the pandemic. Yet, we know many have not been helped into long-term, stable accommodation. With winter just around the corner, we don't know what funding will be available to house everyone at risk of sleeping on the street, so they won't have to choose between the cold and Covid. **Funds must be made available so the Everyone In programme can be continued over the winter**.

That's why we're asking that in your first 100 days you commit to three things:

- **Improve the rights of renters** by bringing forward an ambitious Renters' Reform Bill to create a fairer renting system
- **Build more homes people can afford** by committing to more social housing and fixing the planning system to make developers deliver more

- **Help people at risk of sleeping rough** by funding the 'Everyone In' initiative to protect people who are homeless this winter

Yours sincerely,