



Ministry of Housing,
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Local Government

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Dear Sian,

05 APR 2018

Thank you for your letter of 8 March to Dominic Raab MP about property guardians. I have been asked to reply, as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

I have read with interest the Housing Committee report you enclose, which looks at the experiences of property guardians. The Government is aware that a number of people are choosing to live as property guardians.

Whilst the draft Tenant Fees Bill proposes to ban fees in licences to occupy, which cover property guardian arrangements, we do not encourage such schemes and I do not have any plans to introduce regulation in this area which could be regarded as tacitly endorsing the use of property guardianship schemes as a legitimate housing option.

People are free to make their own housing choices, and I do not have any plans to stop the use of property guardianship schemes. However, it is very important that anyone considering living in such a building clearly understands the limitations of these schemes and that they will have very limited rights.

My ministry has, therefore, committed to publishing a short factsheet on its website, which highlights the fact that Government does not endorse these schemes and draws attention to their clear drawbacks, including the fact that the buildings may frequently be unsuitable to be used as accommodation and that an occupier of such buildings has very limited rights.

SIGNED ON BEHALF
OF MINISTER IN
HIS/HER
ABSENCE

PP

MRS HEATHER WHEELER MP

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