



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Sian Berry AM
Chair
London Assembly Housing Committee
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Dear Ms Berry,

Marcus Jones MP
Minister for Local Government

*Department for Communities and Local
Government*
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Tel: 0303 444 3460
Fax: 020 7035 0018
Email: marcus.jones@communities.gsi.gov.uk

www.gov.uk/dclg

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Thank you for your letter of 27 September to the Rt Hon Greg Hands MP about homelessness. I am replying as homelessness falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

You may already be aware that we recently published guidance setting out how local authorities should implement the Homelessness Reduction Act. This guidance is subject to an 8-week consultation, and more information can be found here:

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/homelessness-code-of-guidance-for-local-authorities

We also announced an additional £11.7 million in new burdens funding for local authorities to implement the Act, taking the total amount to £72.7 million over 2 years. £30.2 million of this has been allocated to London. The full breakdown of new burdens funding can be found here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-reduction-act-new-burdens-funding

The Government has committed to reviewing the implementation of the Act, including the resourcing of it and how it is working in practice, concluding no later than two years after commencement of the substantive clauses of the Act. We will also carry out, in the same time-frame, a post-implementation review of the new burdens, to review the robustness of our assessment of the estimated costs to local authorities and the underlying assumptions.

We also announced £3 million of funding to local authorities to support them in upgrading their data systems to allow them to assess how the Act is changing homelessness prevention in their areas. This will include improved recording of household support needs such as domestic abuse.

Domestic violence and abuse is unacceptable and addressing this issue is a priority for the Government. We have committed to introduce a landmark Domestic Abuse Bill to protect and support victims, recognise the life-long impact domestic abuse has on children and make sure agencies effectively respond to domestic abuse. This will include measures to:

- Enshrine a definition of domestic abuse in law;
- Create a consolidated new domestic abuse prevention and protection order regime;
- Introduce a new aggravated offence if behaviour involves a child;
- Establish a Domestic Abuse Commissioner;

- Enable ratification of the Istanbul Convention on preventing violence against women and domestic violence;

We will consult widely with partners and will also work up a suite of non-legislative policy options to support the aims of the Bill.

I hope this addresses the points that you raise in your letter and assures you that the Government is committed to preventing homelessness and addressing domestic violence and abuse.

Yours sincerely,



MARCUS JONES MP