

The Rt Hon Michael Gove,
Secretary of State for Levelling Up,
Housing and Communities

Date: 14th December 2021
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Dear Secretary of State,

I am writing to you in advance of the Renters' Reform Bill, to raise the priorities of residents in Brighton and Hove, which are shared by the council.

As you will know, many private renters across the country, and in Brighton and Hove, are suffering because of the housing emergency.

Unaffordable rents, insecure tenancies and poor conditions mean that too many people are without a decent place to call home. Recent Shelter research showed that 45% of private renters have been victims of illegal acts by their landlord or letting agent. Local councils have had to spend time, and money, picking up the pieces. However, underinvestment, coupled with the impact of the pandemic and staff shortages has also affected the resources available to support enforcement.

We believe a centralised National Landlord Register could help professionalise the private rented sector – and crack down on landlords who flout the law. It would save our enforcement teams a huge amount of time and resource and crucially give us the ability to share information more easily between local authority areas - properly holding negligent landlords to account.

England is the only nation in the UK without a landlord register. We believe it is vital accountability is introduced into the sector to drive up conditions, reward good landlord behaviour, weed out the bad and ultimately secure a better rental market for all.

I hope you will ensure that the Renters' Reform Bill, which we are expecting a White Paper for soon, will deliver a centralised National Landlord Register so we can work together to fix the private rented sector.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Phélim Mac Cafferty
Leader of the Council
Green Party Councillor for Brunswick and Adelaide, Brighton and Hove City Council