



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

*Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for
Housing, Communities & Local Government*

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Our reference: MC2025/01114

Mario Ambrosi
Chair
The Housing and Aging Alliance
2 Godwin Street
Bradford
BD1 2ST

27 February 2025

Dear Mario and colleagues,

Thank you for your letter of 14 January regarding the Older People's Housing Taskforce recommendations.

I appreciate you taking the time to write on behalf of the Housing and Aging Alliance (HAA), and for sharing your 'Creating Homes We Want to Grow Old In' report. I would also like to thank the HAA and its members for their support of the independent Older People's Housing Taskforce, whose report was published in November 2024.

The Government recognises the importance of improving the housing options for older people in later life. I agree that, with an aging population, it is important for the right housing arrangements are in supporting people to live independently and well. Improving older people's housing options will not only support the well-being and independence of our older citizens but, as you highlight, can also support wider government objectives. We are giving careful consideration to the many recommendations set out in the Taskforce's report.

The Government also incentivises the new supply of supported housing for older people through grant funding for social and affordable housing. Our commitment to building 1.5 million new homes includes a commitment to the biggest increase to social and affordable housing for a generation and we will set out details of new investment to succeed the 2021-26 Affordable Homes Programme at the Spending Review.

The new National Planning Policy Framework sets a mandatory approach to assessing housing need. The new standard method strengthens local authority housing targets, aligns with the 1.5 million new homes commitment, and better directs new homes to where they are most needed and least affordable. We have also indicated our intention to consider further planning policy changes in the future and we will ensure that considerations around older people's housing inform our approach.

I also recognise that supported housing and home adaptations can help speed up hospital discharge. As part of the Government's Health Mission, we are looking at achieving wider shifts, including from hospital to home, as well as analogue to digital and sickness to prevention. Ensuring that people have appropriate housing, adapted to their needs, is clearly a factor in

keeping them out of hospital. In recognition of the important role of home adaptations in helping older people to stay safe and well at home, on 3 January Government announced an immediate in-year uplift to the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) of £86 million for the 2024-25 financial year, providing around 7,800 additional home adaptations. Additionally, the government announced at the Budget an £86 million additional investment in the DFG for the 2025-26 financial year, bringing total funding for 2025-26 to £711 million.

Our long-term housing strategy will put forward our clear, ambitious vision for a housing market that works for communities, builds 1.5 million high-quality homes, including for older people, and delivers a significant increase in social and affordable housebuilding.

We are also launching an independent commission into adult social care as part of our critical first steps towards delivering a National Care Service. This will be chaired by Baroness Louise Casey and will report to the Prime Minister. Expected to begin in April 2025, the commission will form a key part of the Government's Plan for Change. An important part of its remit will be to consider how adult social care can become truly preventative, meeting people's needs much earlier, delivering on our promise to make care 'home first'

Finally, I appreciate your invitation to meet to discuss these matters further. Unfortunately, my diary is currently committed so it will not be possible for me to do so. I do, however, welcome your continued collaboration with the Department, and I understand there is ongoing engagement between the Housing and Aging Alliance and my officials alongside officials from the Department for Health and Social Care.

Thank you again for taking the time to write.

Yours sincerely,



RT HON ANGELA RAYNER MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government