



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Rt Hon George Howarth MP
House of Commons
London
SW1 0AA

Alok Sharma MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning

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

Tel: 0303 444 3430
Fax: 020 7035 0018
Email:

www.gov.uk/dclg

Our Ref:3444957

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Dear Mr Howarth

Thank you for your letter of 26 July, to the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP, about existing leaseholders and their onerous lease terms. I am replying as Minister for Housing and Planning.

I am pleased to note that you have already notified your constituents regarding the new consultation on unfair lease terms. Leasehold reform is something we have been looking closely at for some time. The Housing White Paper highlighted the Government's aim to improve consumer choice and fairness for leaseholders. The Secretary of State and I are determined to crack down on unfair, unjust and unacceptable abuse of the leasehold system. The full paper can be downloaded for free at: www.gov.uk/government/collections/housing-white-paper.

It is for these reasons that the Government launched the public consultation, '*Tackling Unfair Practices in the Leasehold Market*', to look at a range of measures to help tackle unfair and unreasonable abuses of the leasehold system. Of particular interest to you and your constituents, is question 17 of the consultation, which specifically seeks views on how the Government could support existing leaseholders with onerous ground rents.

As you will appreciate, I am unable to pre-determine the consultation's outcome, but I look forward to announcing its findings in due course. In the meantime I encourage you to continue asking your constituents to contribute to this consultation by visiting: www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tackling-unfair-practices-in-the-leasehold-market.

PP

ALOK SHARMA MP

SIGNED ON BEHALF
OF MINISTER IN
HIS/HER
ABSENCE