



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Alison McGovern MP

*Minister of State for Local Government and
Homelessness*

2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Your reference: 2025/October/SR/PS/MH

Our reference: MC2025/29533

Sir Peter Soulsby
City Mayor
Leicester City Council
115 Charles Street
Leicester
LE1 1FZ

10 November 2025

Dear Sir Peter,

Thank you for your letter of 21 October to the Secretary of State, the Rt Hon Steve Reed OBE MP, regarding homelessness. I am replying as the Minister responsible for this policy area.

I note your comments about the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's recent letter to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. My Department does not interfere with the Ombudsman's investigations or how local authorities choose to respond to their findings, and it would not be appropriate for me to comment on this specific matter.

I do recognise that Leicester City Council are experiencing significant homelessness pressures. I understand that the council is working on delivery of a B&B elimination plan with my Officials, with notable progress being made across a number of actions and interventions over the previous 12 months. This has resulted in the number of families in B&B for 6 weeks or more in Leicester falling by 94.7% from 243 on 30th June 2024 to 13 on 30th June 2025. I am pleased to hear that the recruitment and acquisitions programme in particular is yielding results, and hope that this, along with wider actions in Leicester's B&B elimination plan, will support you to achieve and sustain 0 hotel placements for families. However whilst there are still families in hotels, numbers remain too high.

The Government has no intention of changing the law so that families can be placed in B&B accommodation for more than 6 weeks. B&B accommodation is not suitable accommodation for families to live in, and the Government is determined to tackle this issue. We are addressing this through our Emergency Accommodation Reduction Pilots programme, of which Leicester City Council is one pilot area. We will work with your council to identify solutions that work for your area and share the learning across the country.

The Government is providing £950 million of investment for the fourth round of the Local Authority Housing Fund - the largest investment in the fund to date - to support local authorities

in England to increase the supply of good quality temporary accommodation and drive down the use of costly bed and breakfasts and hotels. This follows an expanded £500 million third round of the Local Authority Housing Fund, supporting local authorities to obtain better quality temporary accommodation.

To tackle the root causes of homelessness and reduce the number of families in temporary accommodation, we must build more homes. The Government confirmed £39 billion for the Social and Affordable Homes Programme, running from 2026 to 2036 at Spending Review. Our ambition is to deliver around 300,000 social and affordable homes over the programme's lifetime, with at least 60% of homes for Social Rent. This follows £800 million in additional programme funding for the Affordable Homes Programme 2021-2026.

Thank you again for writing on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Alison', is centered on the page. The signature is fluid and cursive.

ALISON MCGOVERN MP

Minister of State for Local Government and Homelessness