



HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON SW1A 0AA

Jeremy Quin MP
Minister for Defence Procurement
Ministry of Defence
Whitehall
London
SW1A 2HB

Our Ref: DK4177

15 February 2021

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your engagement with colleagues over the position of the MOD tenants facing eviction when their homes are handed back to Annington Property Services (APL) in September. Like you, we deeply regret the decision of APL to decline the offer you made to enable them to take the homes back with sitting tenants.

Given the failure of the negotiation between the MOD and APL to secure the tenancies on the return of the properties, we hope that APL will consider favourable offers from local social housing providers, including councils and their subsidiaries, to buy the homes with the current tenants in possession.

We are grateful for your assurance that you would support any such transactions. We therefore write to request the active assistance of the Ministry of Defence in facilitating negotiations between APL and social housing providers. We consider it would be helpful if a dedicated team of officials were tasked with working with APL to ensure sale of the homes with sitting tenants wherever possible.

We are copying this letter to the Chair and Chief Executive of Annington Property Services. We believe very strongly that there is an overwhelming moral case for APL to work constructively with MOD and with local providers to ensure that the hundreds of families who occupy these properties, most of them on modest or low incomes, are not evicted from their homes, especially during the current pandemic and consequent economic crisis.

The whole country is being asked to make sacrifices, to work together for the common good and to protect the most vulnerable in our society. APL has benefited greatly from the deal done 25 years ago to sell and lease back the MOD housing portfolio. As you state in your recent letter, this portfolio has appreciated in value by £5bn over this period, and APL posted profits of £770 million in 2019-20. While we recognise the legal right of APL to insist on vacant possession of its properties, we urge the Board of the company to commit to the process outlined above, of sale with sitting tenants to local social housing providers. This would be a measure welcomed by families in communities across the UK, and be a tremendous instance of a British firm working in the public interest at a time of national crisis.

Yours,

Gareth Bacon MP
Damian Collins MP
Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
John Glen MP
Rt Hon Michael Gove MP
James Gray MP

Kevin Hollinrake MP
Danny Kruger MP
Rt Hon Dr Andrew Murrison MP
Sir Gary Streeter MP
Laura Trott MP
Shailesh Vara MP