



Sian Berry AM
Chair of the Housing Committee

Robert Jenrick
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government
3rd Floor, South East Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF
(Sent by email)

18 June 2021

Dear Secretary of State,

The London Assembly Housing Committee investigates housing issues that matter to Londoners. I am writing in my position as Chair of the Committee to express our ongoing concern about no-fault evictions of tenants in the private rented sector.

The ban on bailiff-enforced evictions, enacted through the provisions of the Coronavirus Act 2020, was rescinded on 31 May 2021. Tenants are again facing the possibility of enforced evictions on grounds of Section 21 – the clause of the Housing Act 1988 that allows private landlords to evict tenants without reason.

The London Assembly previously passed, by majority, a motion to back the campaign to abolish Section 21. The motion emphasised that the threat of a no-fault eviction causes insecurity and stress for Londoners who rent privately. Section 21 can also discourage tenants from complaining about substandard housing due to the fear of a no-fault eviction. We continue to push for reform in this area.

We were pleased to see that the Queen's Speech committed to putting the Renters' Reform Bill on the agenda for 2021, and that the response to the 2019 consultation on this topic will be published later this year. We ask you to bring this forward urgently, fulfilling the commitment to permanently abolish Section 21 evictions and providing greater security for tenants. In this time of immense

uncertainty, private renters are already facing significant levels of worry, and the prospect of no-fault evictions must not add to this.

I would welcome a response to this letter by 2 July 2021, outlining specific timelines for bringing forward the Renter's Reform Bill and abolishing Section 21.

The Committee looks forward to your response on this pressing issue, and working with you in the coming years to improve housing for Londoners.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sian Berry', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sian Berry AM
Chair of the Housing Committee