

## Call for Evidence: Empty homes

June–July 2026

The London Assembly Housing Committee has launched an investigation into empty homes in London. This investigation aims to:

- Understand the scale of the problem of empty homes in London and to what extent this is contributing to the city's housing shortage.
- Identify the key factors driving the increasing number of empty homes, including both social housing and private housing.
- Examine how boroughs are addressing empty homes, assess the effectiveness of these approaches, and determine what additional support is needed to bring empty homes back into use.
- Scrutinise the Mayor's work to reduce empty homes in London, including the commitments and policies set out in the London Housing Strategy, the London Plan, and acquisitions through the Affordable Homes Programme.
- Explore what further action the Mayor, boroughs and central government could take to reduce the number of empty homes in London.

Below is information about the investigation and call for evidence, as well as key questions the Committee is interested in hearing about.

### Why is the Committee exploring this topic?

There is a severe shortage of housing in London, yet the level of empty homes is increasing. The Committee's investigation aims to understand the key factors driving this increase, to explore the challenges with addressing empty homes - particularly for local councils - and to identify recommendations for the Mayor and Government to reduce the level of empty homes in the capital.

### Who can submit evidence?

This call for evidence open to anyone with knowledge or views on empty homes in London that they would like to share with the Committee. We would particularly welcome submissions from policy experts, academics, campaign groups and London boroughs.

### Key questions

The Committee would welcome submissions addressing any of the following questions. If you would like to share information or views on other, related issues please feel free to do so.

1. How would reducing the number of empty homes help to tackle the housing crisis in London?
2. What are the key factors driving the increasing levels of empty homes in the capital?
3. How effective are the mechanisms available to boroughs to tackle empty homes?
4. What are the challenges with the monitoring and transparency of empty homes in London and how do these challenges impact efforts to address the issue effectively?
5. How could the Mayor and/or government reduce the level of empty homes in London?

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*Additional questions for London boroughs:*

6. What are the main challenges in tackling empty homes in your borough?
7. How do you measure the level of empty homes in your borough and what are the challenges in doing this?
8. What changes or resources would allow you to better address empty homes in your borough?
9. Are there any specific challenges around empty social housing in your borough, and what action are you taking to bring these homes back into use?
10. How could the GLA and/or government better support local authorities to tackle empty homes?

### How to submit evidence

**Please send evidence in as an email attachment to:**

**[scrutiny@london.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@london.gov.uk)**

**Please use 'Housing Committee call for evidence' as the subject line.**

**The deadline for submission is 7 July 2026.**

You can also use this email address if you would like more information about the Committee's investigation or have suggestions for the Committee.

### Further information

### Will responses be published?

Yes, in most cases we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Committee has received.

Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

### What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this call for evidence will be used to support the Housing Committee's investigation into empty homes in London. They may be used or quoted in the Committee's output from the investigation, which may take the form of a report. If information and/or quotations from submissions to this call for evidence are used in this output, we will cite you. We inform those who have submitted evidence about the outcome of the investigation in the form of a link to a report or output when it is published.

### Where can I find your privacy notice?

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The London Assembly and the GLA are committed to protecting your privacy and personal data when you contact us or submit evidence. You can find the GLA's privacy notice [here](#).

### **Do I need to answer all the questions?**

No, you are welcome to answer the questions that are most relevant to you or your organisations and for which you have the most expertise or experience.

### **About the Committee**

The Housing Committee examines matters relating to housing in London and takes a lead on scrutiny of the Mayor's Housing Strategy. To read more about our previous work, please [visit our website](#).

### **Committee Members**

- The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM (Chair)
- Sem Moema AM (Deputy Chair)
- Andrew Boff AM
- Leonié Cooper AM
- Elly Baker AM
- Benali Hamdache AM