

MAYOR OF LONDON

Date: 8 March 2019

Kit Malthouse MP
Minister of State for Housing
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local
Government
2 Marsham St
London, SW1P 4DF

Dear Kit,

Improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces, Veterans, and their families

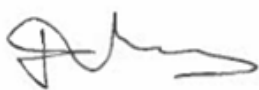
I write in response to the Government's current consultation on the above topic.

The Mayor's London Housing Strategy makes clear that he considers it essential that current and former armed forces personnel in need of housing receive the help they need and deserve. We consider the proposals on which the Government is consulting a welcome step towards ensuring that is the case.

We agree with the Government that the practical changes proposed will help clarify for local authorities their obligations towards current and former service personnel and their families. We welcome their focus on helping to ensure that local authorities both identify these individuals and recognise any mental health conditions that may affect their priority for social housing. We agree that the spouses or civil partners of armed service personnel who have had to leave Ministry of Defence accommodation because of relationship breakdown should not be subject to residency or local connection requirements when applying social housing.

While we welcome these proposed changes in guidance, current and former members of the armed forces and their families would also clearly benefit from there being far more social housing available. We therefore look forward to continuing our discussions with you about far greater long-term investment in social housing, and the additional powers that we and London councils need to build the homes that all Londoners need.

Kind regards,



James Murray
Deputy Mayor for Housing and Residential Development