



Department for Levelling Up,
Housing & Communities

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP
Minister of State for Housing and Planning

**Department for Levelling Up, Housing and
Communities**
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

www.gov.uk/dluhc

Our reference:23338641

Richard Morton
Retirement Housing Group UK
179 Rutland Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham
Nottinghamshire
NG2 5EA

20 January 2023

Dear Mr Morton,

Thank you for your email of 15 December about how the planning system can be used to increase provision of older people's housing.

Thank you also for sharing RHG UK's new report on planning for retirement and the outcomes of your member survey, both of which will be valuable resources for the Department and help inform our policy thinking.

This Government is committed to the provision of suitable homes for older people, including extra care housing, which contributes to levelling up across communities. Housing-with-care allows individuals to choose where they want to live and how best they can be supported.

Our aim is to make sure that older people can live in homes which suit their needs, help them to live healthier lives for longer, and, crucially, preserve their independence and their connections to the communities and places they hold dear.

As you will know, the planning system must provide for a diverse range of housing needs, including retirement properties, and the Government is considering how to ensure this through the upcoming changes to the planning system. Our National Planning Policy Framework states that local authorities should assess the types of specialist housing needed for older people in their areas, and this should be reflected in their local planning policies. In 2019, the Government published guidance to help councils implement the National Planning Policy Framework policies. An announcement with further detail will be made in due course.

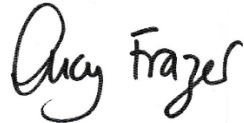
The Adult Social Care Reform White Paper reiterated the Government's commitment to the important role of supported housing. This included the continuation of the Care and Support Specialised Housing (CASSH) Fund.

On funding, to promote much needed new supply, the Department's new £11.5bn Affordable Homes Programme also includes delivery, within the programme, of new supported housing for older, disabled and other vulnerable people, including for extra-care housing, alongside other investment in new specialist supported housing through the Department for Health and Social Care.

I hope that the older people's housing taskforce will be an opportunity for us to work collaboratively with stakeholders and colleagues across government to make real improvements for older people

and examine some of the issues you have raised in your report. As I have outlined in Parliament recently, I am very supportive of the taskforce, which we will formally establish as soon as possible. The outcomes and recommendations from your report will be important in informing this work, so I thank you again for passing it over.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

RT HON LUCY FRAZER KC MP