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Rt Hon Fiona Mactaggart MP  
House of Commons

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10 August 2016

*Dear Fiona,*

Thank you for your email of 20 July on behalf of a constituent who contacted you regarding the cap of Housing Benefit at the Local Housing Allowance rate for people who live in supported accommodation.

We understand the importance of ensuring that both those living in supported accommodation, who are generally the most vulnerable members of our society, and those who provide this type of accommodation receive appropriate protections. The Government's view has been that there needs to be a considered approach on any changes affecting the sector, and that any change proposed needs to be aimed at protecting housing providers, users, and be fair to the taxpayer.

In March this year, the Government announced a year-long exception from Local Housing Allowance rates in the social sector for all tenants of supported accommodation, so that this measure will only apply to these tenancies from April 2017. This period allows us to consider the findings of the evidence review on supported housing, expected to be completed shortly.

We understand the concerns of the sector about the potential implications of the Local Housing Allowance cap on supported accommodation providers. However, there is a need for more robust evidence about the sector, which is where the evidence review will help. The findings of this review will assist the Department in ensuring that support is focused on the most vulnerable, and appropriate groups are safeguarded. Alongside our evidence review, we are continuing to work with and listen to the supported housing sector as part of developing a long term sustainable funding regime.

*Yours,  
Damian*

**The Rt Hon Damian Green MP**

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS