

Robert Jenrick MP
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Date:

Dear Mr Jenrick,

The UK's housing crisis, growing for decades, is in danger of reaching catastrophic proportions with COVID-19. As part of a national campaign, Homes for All, I am calling on the government to take urgent, decisive action to prevent an explosion of homelessness and millions more being condemned to housing misery.

We call on you to:

1. Open up hotels and empty homes to house the homeless. We recognise some progress was made towards this through "Everyone In" and we are extremely concerned that the programme funding has been curtailed.
2. Ensure there are no evictions or repossessions due to the pandemic. The current moratorium on court action is welcome, but its imminent lifting is a massive threat to people who have fallen into arrears, through no fault of their own.
3. Cancel rent for all tenants who can't afford it. While homeowners and landlords are benefiting from deferred mortgages, it is iniquitous that tenants in financial hardship should have to continue to pay rent. We would also like you to stop Housing Associations from raising rents, as Notting Hill Genesis and others are at this particularly difficult time.
4. Scrap the five week wait for Universal Credit/Housing Benefit and suspend all benefit sanctions.
5. Halt all proposed demolitions of council estates, reassess options to refurbish them and open up empty homes on these estates to people in housing need, with social rents and secure tenancies.
6. Provide government funding for building (and repurposing) 100,000 energy efficient, high-quality council homes a year, to meet housing need, create jobs and help rebuild our economy using historically low interest rates.

My personal experience of the housing crisis in my area is:

I look forward to your reply on these very urgent matters. I am copying this letter to my local MP and Council leader

Yours