

Rental Reform - MP Engagement Toolkit

Ask your MP to back responsible landlords!

The Government has released its long-awaited [Rental Reform White Paper](#) with many of its proposals set to fundamentally alter the relationship between landlord and tenant. While the NRLA welcomes some of the proposals, we are concerned about five major areas. You can read more about our response [here](#).

We have already started campaigning for change at the highest level but to make sure Government really considers our members' views on rental reform we need your help. As part of our wider lobbying push, we are now asking you to **add your voice to our campaign**.

The Government needs to support landlords and put an end to the anti-landlord rhetoric. Your story will help them understand that. Whether you want to write them, talk to them on social media, or speak to them in person – it's all effective.

Your local MP is there to help you and represent the concerns of their constituents to the Government. They likely receive a lot of correspondence, so keep your ask simple and powerful.

Key points that you could raise with your MP:

1. Call for a stop to the anti-landlord rhetoric. Ask whether they agree with the hostile language that has been directed at landlords by Michael Gove. Emphasise that such rhetoric fuels a lack of confidence among responsible landlords and will further worsen housing supply issues.
2. Highlight how you, as a landlord, under the prospective plans would be left powerless in tackling anti-social tenants. Ask your MP to press Ministers to go beyond the vague commitments outlined in the White Paper. Call for them to support efforts to ensure local authorities and the police have the necessary powers to act against anti-social tenants.
3. If you are a student landlord, draw attention to the impact the proposals would have on the student housing market. Ask your MP if they are aware of the consequences indefinite tenancies will have on both students and landlords. Ask them to support an exemption for student properties, like the one given to purpose-built student accommodation.
4. Express your concern about the limited financial support those on benefits are receiving and explain how this affects you as a landlord. Request that your MP presses the relevant Minister to unfreeze the Local Housing Allowance.
5. State that the White Paper does not address the shortage of rented housing in England. Ask your MP if they will review the tax and regulatory environment to encourage landlords to stay in the market long term.



Quick and easy ways to engage with your local MP

Write a letter/email

You can write to your MP using our handy [online tool](#). Once you are logged into your membership account, the tool will automatically find your MP and ensure your letter follows parliamentary protocol. If your MP replies to your email, please let us know by emailing policy@nrla.org.uk. We have written a [template you can follow](#). Ultimately though, it is more powerful if you write to your MP about things that concern you personally as a constituent and a landlord.

Use social media

These days, most MPs are on Twitter and Facebook. Social media is an easy and highly effective way to engage with your MP.

Tweet @ your MP

1. Tag the appropriate MP ([You can find a list of MP handles here](#)), SoS (@EddieHughes4WN), Gov Department (@luhc).
2. Identify yourself as a constituent (but please don't post your address).
3. Talk about how the proposed rental reform would impact you and ask for action.
4. Pose a question if you want to get a dialogue going.
5. Use the hashtags #RentalReform #ResponsibleLandlords and include our handle @NRLAssociation
6. Post your tweet.

Use your Facebook network

Facebook is a great way to contact your MPs by tagging them in your posts, messaging them directly or writing on their wall. Since there is no character limit your posts can be longer, but we recommend you keep your messages concise. Here are some top tips:

1. Tag the appropriate MP (your MP's @), SoS (@Eddie Hughes MP), Gov Department (@Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities)
2. Identify yourself as a constituent.
3. Talk about how the proposed rental reforms would impact you and request that they take action.
4. Pose a question if you want to begin a conversation with them.
5. Use the hashtags #RentalReform, #ResponsibleLandlords and our handle @NRLANews.
6. Ask landlords to share and interact with your post.

Meet your MP

You can also speak to your MP in person and attend one of their constituency surgeries (they usually happen on a Friday). Make sure you plan what you want to say to them beforehand – prepare three key points and an ask. It's normal to feel nervous but just remember your MP is here to serve you. Give them an overview of the issue and explain why it is of particular concern to you. Make your point, but don't get into an argument. Not all MPs will agree with your point of view, but a balanced and reasonable approach will make much more of an impact than a one-sided outburst. Keep it brief, ask them to act, and request to be kept informed about their progress.

You can find more information on how to attend a local MP surgery on their websites. If your MP has a high profile, it may prove harder to get a meeting but don't take no for an answer.

