

Housing perception survey – June 2016

Free text responses

I disagree with building more homes to house immigrants. Our own people's needs should come first. Homes need to be affordable and although we don't want to put people on the street, too often they are better off on benefits than working.

Female, South East, 45-54, Social/affordable rent

I think better controls in place to manage the private rental sector and their high costs not just in rent but admin fees etc through agents, not voluntary opt in policies but mandated.

Male, South West, 45-54, Own – mortgage

Getting on the property ladder to be a first time buyer is near on impossible despite good incomes the deposits are astronomical

Female, South East, 25-34, Social/affordable rent

Housing associations may not always get it right but they are doing their best and have a hugely important role in helping people who are usually doing their best to get on in difficult circumstances. In a country moving more towards selfishness, fear and blame, we need more affordable homes for those who can't afford to buy or rent privately. This government tries hard to make the masses forget that buying just isn't even the right option (let alone an affordable one) for many in our increasingly mobile workforce - buying and selling a home always costs.

Female, South East, 45-54, Own – mortgage

Every one deserves a home - every one has a right to be housed.

Female, South East, 55 older, Own – outright

I live in a beautiful and extremely expensive city but it is dying because ordinary people cannot afford to live here. A mixed social environment is a healthy and vibrant one. I would build a swathe of houses in a ring around the city, fuck the green belt.

Male, South East, 45-54, Own – outright

talk to the Army Families Federation about the state of military housing for the UK forces and the regrading process it is undergoing. Rents for a lot of people are increasing twofold. Yet to see any improvement in conditions though.

Female, London, 35-44, Social/affordable rent

Let councils borrow to build Council houses.

Male, South East, 35-44, Private rent

More affordable rental housing should be provided. Private rental homes should be regulated to be more affordable. The buy to let system is becoming over used and abused as a means of easy income to landlords.

Female, East of England, 55 older, Own – outright

I feel a lot is out there for first time buyers etc but not enough for those who are struggling due to divorce and the over 50's who are starting all over

Female, South East, 45-54, Private rent

There is no way the housing crisis will be solved, as no-one is doing enough to solve it (Gov/HA's or councils). House prices will only collapse when the bank of England puts up the interest rate and home owners with mortgages cannot afford the increases, leading to many defaults and repossessions.

Male, South East, 25-34, Private rent

The whole mess will not be fixed until: more housing is built; interest rates rise; and severe curbs are placed upon people already in the buy-to-let market acquiring more property. In some places, we should seriously consider rent controls in the form of a hard ceiling on the rent that can be charged per square foot. The rent in my area has gone completely insane. Four years ago we were fine, and saving toward a deposit. Today we barely make rent and the amount we save per month compared to the rate of house price rise is a joke.

Male, London, 35-44, Private rent

I think it's important for HA's not to forget their core purpose, I see them all too often looking to behave and work like big business. They are not they need to work on a more human level.

Male, South West, 45-54, Own – outright

Housing for the poorly, or struggling through I'll health is very poor with escalating rents, demeaning selection processes and reduction in housing benefits. Enough high end development.

Female, South East, 55 older, Own – outright

I'm proud to work in the affordable housing sector but frustrated that housing associations don't get the recognition they deserve. Everyone has the right to warm, safe, secure homes regardless of their circumstances. Housing associations provide a vital safety net for vulnerable people but the sector doesn't currently have a compelling, shared narrative. The government's housing policies are a joke predicated on the notion that everyone should aspire to home-ownership. This is just not a viable option for many. We need diverse housing options and for government to put more pressure on volume housebuilders to apply place-making principles and raise quality standards instead of just maximising profits. Also rent controls and some form of regulation should be in place for the private rented sector.

Female, London, 35-44, Own – mortgage

The loss of council housing is a massive problem - the UK needs more genuinely affordable, good quality, secure long term property for rent. Ideally house purchase prices would come down too, to help those wanting to buy, but that could be a natural consequence of more secure rental property.

Male, London, 35-44, Own – mortgage

Well I was homeless for 3 months last year! The b&bs around our area were bursting at the seams! My housing officer said that its the worse it as ever been since I have worked here! We could of been put an hour or over away from school etc that would of just added to the stress of not having a home we could call our own! We managed to stay with someone near school don't get me wrong we were so grateful but it was still very stressful and unsettling for my children. In the end the stress got too much so we moved back up north where it is effort able on housing benefit to rent a house. It was also about my kids feeling settled,save&secure.

Female, Yorkshire and the Humber, 35-44, Private rent

I am able to afford a 2 bedroom house with my boyfriend. But it's so hard to find a nice 4 bedroom house in Berkshire. We are now thinking about moving to be away from London so we can afford a family house and a family.

Female, South East, 25-34, Own – mortgage

I thought we had moved away from council estate which the 70s did and we've want to flatten and fix four years seems to be coming back again

Male, South East, 35-44, Own – outright

Priority seems to be political not based on real needs of local residents

Male, South East, 35-44, Own – mortgage

Affordable housing should be an essential first step on to the housing ladder.

Female, East of England, 55 older, Own – mortgage

Government need to build council or HA houses that can be affordably rented, improve private renters rights, and legislate against foreign speculators buying homes as an investment and leaving them empty. Capital gains tax on primary residences should be explored also

Male, London, 35-44, Own – mortgage

Yes, I don't believe there is enough support for middle incomes. we should encourage more controlled self builds. Too much money going to developers. Councils and housing associations could support this more to get more people into the ladder, plus generate future income to invest in those on low incomes requiring housing.

Male, South East, 35-44, Own - mortgage

Council housing, HA housing is for people in need, it's to help people get on their feet. It's not a lifestyle choice, a lifetime 'right'; neither should social housing be bought.

Female, London, 35-44, Private rent

I'd love to see councils doing more to tackle empty homes. In our area I can easily think of 10 homes that have been vacant for years. Selling them for £1 would mean families like ours could get on the property ladder, use local companies to improve the local economy and not need to build on green belt land. Also there could be lots more done to convert commercial property above shops into domestic rentals.

Female, Midlands, 25-34, Private rent

I live in my mum's house at the age of 36 and have been trying to save to buy with my partner for the past four years. I have a steady job but in the charity sector so it doesn't pay that well; my partner works freelance so is considered a bigger risk for mortgages etc. We hope to buy a place this year but I am genuinely worried about what we will be able to get for our budget. I have been totally priced out of the area I grew up in (Teddington, SW London) as it is now full of millionaires who think nothing of spending nearly £1m on a two bed terraced house and then extending it as far as is allowed (sometimes further) so that there are now fewer low occupancy residences in my area. My perception is that there has been so much focus on driving up property prices for those lucky enough to already own, and in securing foreign investment in London, that it is pushing 'normal' residents like me further out. We may have to consider moving out completely in order to buy if we can't find somewhere in our price range. We don't want to live in a plush mansion, just somewhere safe, pleasant and affordable would do.

Female, London, 35-44, Private rent

Massive topic! There's so much to do, for all levels of from investors, & those unable to buy their own property. I don't know where you would begin, so good luck

Female, East of England, 35-44, Own – mortgage

I think the homelessness in our cities is at crisis points. There needs to be much stronger collaboration between councils, mental health agencies, care agencies and housing associations. No one department can tackle this alone. Education establishments inflate prices in our cities, education should not be a lottery and all schools should offer a good standard, therefore not over inflating prices in areas and creating wealth disparities. Empty building, homes etc should be repurposed. What happened to community? The new build developments in Bristol are cramped, have few green spaces and don't engender feelings of safety or community. All of this is creating the current crisis.

Female, South West, 25-34, Own – mortgage

It's pretty terrible that people are struggling to afford a house well into their thirties, especially with the number of buy to let properties owned by older or richer people.

Male, South West, 25-34, Own – mortgage

Wish the UK's model was more like those in some other countries - where renting privately is more affordable and secure so that there is less of a fixation on owning property...highly doubt that will ever happen though!

Female, South East, 25-34, Own – mortgage

I look at the price of houses and feel it is an impossible aspiration for someone to purchase a property without some form of inherited wealth. The way mortgages work is also a case of the wealthier you are the less you pay which seem skewed. Aspiring to purchase a lovely house is 100% fine with me but when the playing field is not level it feel unfair.

Male, South East, 35-44, Private rent

it has been sad that the government has - like the NHS and schools - politicised housing and not prioritised providing affordable homes for those who most need them and has hamstrung housing associations, making them compromise on their principal purpose.

Male, South East, 45-54, Own – mortgage

I feel like I am never going to be able to buy a house and that scares me. What happens when I retire?

Female, South East, 25-34, Private rent

more homes needed, for social rent and for sale

Female, South East, 55 older, Own – outright

Housing on Tyneside has been hit by neighbourhoods being demolished (old terraces) new build is expensive beyond the reach of many and has too many bedrooms , planning for divorced, separated and children moving in between , also Oaps and downsizing is not addressed.

Female, North East, 55 older, Own – outright

In rural Cumbria, we need more affordable homes, mainly to rent, as low local wages & very high house prices. Young people leaving/left, so ageing population means reducing workforce (= big impact on economy & businesses) and less viable communities. HAs should use the economic argument more to show how we will always need people on lower wages to do important jobs (social care, tourism, agric), and they need good truly affordable secure homes in the area they work.

Female, North West, 55 older, Own – outright

Get rid of right to acquire council /social homes are family homes for people and The Area this creates community cohesion and an effective support network

Male, Midlands, 55 older, Own – outright

Customer expectations needs to match what charitable organisations can afford to provide

Female, South East, 55 older, Shared ownership

I feel very strongly that more small houses should be built. I'm single and trying to move from a flat to a house and it is almost impossible on just one wage. I think more developers should build one and two bedroom homes rather than bigger homes

Female, Midlands, 35-44, Own – mortgage

Go back to basics. Why was social housing created and do those Principles still apply? I think so

Female, North West, 45-54, Own - mortgage