

Please reply to: Cllr Nesil Caliskan  
Leader of the Council  
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Lee Rowley MP, Parliamentary Under  
Secretary of State  
Department for Levelling-Up, Housing  
and Communities  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

Dear Minister

### **Urgent response to the homelessness crisis**

I am writing to you regarding the huge financial pressures affecting councils across the country because of the growing homelessness crisis. In Enfield, this has forced families to live in unsuitable accommodation for prolonged periods.

The collapse of the private rented sector since the Government's 'mini-budget' has seen our borough experience the highest number of Section 21 evictions in London, alongside a 41% reduction in available properties.

Consequently, the number of homeless households approaching the Council for help is unprecedented and we currently have 290 families in costly emergency hotel accommodation.

This is just one symptom of the growing housing crisis facing this country, where the only long-term solution is to increase housing supply. In the short term, councils need help tackling the immediate emergency facing our residents and budgets.

Councils urgently need top-up funding via the Homelessness Prevention Grant and Discretionary Housing Payments funding to cover accommodation costs and prevent families from becoming homeless by stopping a build-up of rent arrears.

Second, an uplift of Local Housing Allowance rates would make more housing available for low-income residents locally. This will mean more families will be able to stay close to their support networks, schools, and employment.

We also believe a process like the current 'DSG Safety Value' would help, with a shared understanding between your department and councils to ensure a consistent approach and tie financial support to agreed action plans.

This would be a better use of the public purse than the current system which has a high reliance on expensive and unsuitable emergency accommodation which destabilises families and competition for accommodation is driving up price inflations.

Yours sincerely,



**Cllr Nesil Caliskan**  
**Leader of the Council**