

# HOUSING EMERGENCY MASS LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT 15 FEBRUARY 2011

Defend secure tenancies, Oppose up to 80% market rents,  
Stop Housing Benefit cuts, Invest in Council and other rented Housing

## Questions to ask your MP:

1. Do you agree that decent, affordable, secure housing, is vital to sustainable communities?

Yes	No
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2. Do you agree that sustainable communities are built through tenants having a right to a permanent secure home for life?

Yes	No
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3. Do you agree that genuinely-affordable rents are vital to the security and welfare of communities?

Yes	No
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4. Do you accept that means-testing, market or 'intermediate' rents will increase the poverty trap and make it harder to find a job that pays the rent?

Yes	No
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5. Do you agree that the best way to create mixed and sustainable communities is to reject threats to security of tenure, and to increase the supply of new first class, secure and genuinely-affordable rented homes for all those in need?

Yes	No
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6. Do you agree that the proposed cuts to housing benefit will disproportionately affect the elderly and the most vulnerable, and will be experienced as punishment?

Yes	No
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7. Do you agree government should ensure that the £billions received from tenants via rents and service charges, can be used for the management, maintenance and major repair of homes?

Yes	No
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8. Will you oppose/amend proposed legislation to remove security of tenure?

Yes	No
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9. Will you support increased investment in new and improved secure and genuinely-affordable housing?

Yes	No
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10. Do you agree that rents should be regulated and capped, rather than cutting access to housing benefit?

Yes	No
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## USEFUL INFORMATION

Tuesday 15th February 2011

We are demanding that MPs hold Government to their pre-election promises to respect tenants' rights. They need to understand the disastrous impact of the proposed serious cuts to housing services and housing benefit, forcing up rents and attacks on secure tenancies. Here are some useful tips:

If you haven't already arranged to meet your MP beforehand, go into the Parliament building through St Stephen's entrance. Go through security, across Westminster hall and up the steps ahead, then turn left and you will come to the room known as the 'lobby'. Ask at the security entrance for non-step access. There is a desk in the lobby where you can request to see your MP, and if they are in the building they should come out to meet you.

St Stephen's entrance is an entrance to the main Parliament building, facing Westminster Square. It is not the same as the entrance for tourists wanting to look around the building. Ask when you get there if you are not sure – don't spend hours in the wrong queue!

You can wait in the lobby and there is a public cafe and toilets off Westminster Hall.

When you meet your MP, use the 'Questions to Ask' on the front of this leaflet. Add local information if you have it, about the waiting list, and tenants' views on secure tenancies and stable mixed communities. Don't be disappointed if they have a pat answer to dismiss you – the important point is for you to let them know the strength of feeling on this issue. They will be wanting to get re-elected one day!

Let your local press know you came to the lobby, and tell them whether your MP agreed to meet you, and the results.

If you don't manage to see your MP in Parliament, arrange to see them locally. All MPs have local surgeries on a regular basis. Or write and ask them to answer the Questions overleaf. Again, it's more effective to do this through your local tenants group, trades council, trade union, than individually – or better still as a joint letter from a number of local organisations. Let us know how they answer; and tell your local press too.

**HOUSING EMERGENCY** is bringing together organisations and individuals to oppose attacks on Housing Benefit, rents and secure tenancies, and for investment in new and improved council and affordable secure rented homes

- Supporters include: House of Commons Council Housing Group, Defend Council Housing, TUC and trade unions Unite, PCS, GMB, UNISON, UCATT, PCS, South East Region TUC, Barking & Dagenham Council, Islington Council, Leeds Tenants Federation, Tower Hamlets Tenants Federation, Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations; London Coalition Against Poverty, Right to Work Campaign, Labour Representation Committee, Disabled People Against Cuts, National Tenants Council members
- Further information: [Mitchellav@parliament.uk](mailto:Mitchellav@parliament.uk) or [eileenshort@hotmail.com](mailto:eileenshort@hotmail.com)