



Tameside Independent

AN OPEN LETTER

To: The Rt Hon Angela Rayner MP

Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Subject: Your Tameside Constituents Are Still Waiting, Ms. Rayner

Dear Ms. Rayner,

This is not just a press enquiry. It is a public demand for answers.

For weeks, *Tameside Independent* has been investigating the catastrophic shortage of social housing in your own constituency of Ashton-under-Lyne. While you have remained silent, we have been getting answers from the housing providers your government funds. The picture they paint is one of systemic failure.

Here is what our investigation has confirmed so far:

- **Jigsaw Homes Group** confirmed they are building just 56 homes for social rent in Tameside, due for completion in 2026.
For context: Jigsaw built 828 homes across their operational area last year. Only 72 were for social rent — less than 9%.
- **Onward Homes** confirmed their Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) funding was used solely for retrofitting existing homes — with no new social housing planned under that allocation.
- **Three other major housing providers** have met our questions with silence. The GMCA itself requested extra time to respond — and then failed to meet its own extended deadline.

This failure is underscored by Jigsaw Homes' own admission:

“In Tameside, the demand for housing significantly outweighs supply, with more than 7,000 people on the waiting list.”

Ms. Rayner — this is happening on your doorstep. But you're not just the local MP. You're also the Secretary of State for Housing. The failures of the very funding models that housing providers cite as reasons for not building social homes land directly at the door of your department.

While you remain silent on this crisis in your own backyard, you've appeared in photo opportunities with world leaders. Your constituents, however, have received nothing. This is not an oversight — it is a choice.

We ask again, directly and publicly:

1. How does the confirmed delivery of just 56 new social homes by 2026 address a waiting list of over 7,000 of your own constituents?
2. As the minister in charge, what specific, immediate action are you taking to reform the funding models that are failing to deliver the social housing Tameside desperately needs?
3. When will you stop ignoring the housing crisis in your own constituency and provide a substantive response to the people you work for?

Your constituents and the public are waiting. This matter is now on the public record.

Sincerely,

Jason Nield

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