



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local
Government

Ministry of Housing, communities and Local
Government
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To all Midlands MPs

www.gov.uk/mhclg

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Dear Colleague,

Voluntary Right to Buy Midlands Pilot

I am writing to inform you that we are launching a pilot of the Right to Buy scheme for Housing Association tenants in the Midlands tomorrow on Thursday 16 August. The pilot will enable thousands of tenants in the Midlands to buy their home from their Housing Association, at a discount which will be funded by the Government.

At Autumn Budget 2017, the Chancellor announced that the Government would allocate £200m to fund a Voluntary Right to Buy pilot across the Midlands. Since then, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government has been working closely with the National Housing Federation and Housing Associations throughout the Midlands to prepare for the pilot.

The pilot aims to test how the Right to Buy works for Housing Association tenants, building on a small scale pilot we ran with five Housing Associations in 2016. Tenants who are able to buy through the pilot will benefit from the same level of discount on their property as council tenants receive under the statutory Right to Buy.

In line with the voluntary agreement between Housing Associations and the Government, Housing Associations will have discretion over which properties they sell. Where the home is exempt from the pilot, the Housing Association will give the tenant the opportunity to use their Right to Buy discount to buy another housing association property. We refer to this as a "portable" discount. This is a unique feature of this pilot, which is not available to council tenants and which we will be testing through the pilot.

Supported and sheltered housing are generally not in scope of the pilot. Tenants will want to check their Housing Association's individual policy on exclusions which they will publish on their website. The pilot will also test another key aspect of the voluntary agreement which was not tested in the initial pilot – that the homes sold can be replaced by Housing Associations on a one-for-one basis overall. More details on the way in which Housing Associations will run the pilot is set out in our

joint guidance to Housing Associations, which we published in May and which can be found on the NHF website at www.housing.org.uk/resource-library/browse/midlands-voluntary-right-to-buy-pilot-guidance-published


If a tenant in the Midlands is interested in buying their home through the pilot, they must first check they are eligible and that their Housing Association is participating and then register their interest on the MHCLG website at <https://midlands.righttobuy.gov.uk>.

The registration will be open to tenants for one month until 16 September 2018. Not all eligible tenants will be able to purchase their home through the pilot as we have a fixed budget. To give all prospective purchasers an equal chance of participating, places on the pilot will be allocated by ballot. Shortly after the registration has closed, the computer ballot will randomly allocate places on the pilot, and tenants will be informed by email whether they can apply to their Housing Association to buy their home. If they are successful in the ballot, they will be issued with a Unique Reference Number which they will need to quote in their application.

It should be noted that tenants who are successful in the ballot will not be guaranteed that they can purchase under the scheme – they will need to meet the eligibility criteria and complete the application process in full.

If tenants require any further information about how the pilot will operate or whether they are eligible to take part they should go to the MHCLG website at <https://midlands.righttobuy.gov.uk> where there is signposting to further information and to the Government's Right to Buy Agent Service.

I look forward to launching the pilot in the Midlands on 16 August and to helping thousands of Housing Association tenants into home ownership.

Yours sincerely,


RT HON JAMES BROKESHIRE MP