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Jocelyn Davies AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Dai
Deputy Minister for Housing



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MB/JAD/0159/09

Jenny Randerson AM
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Dear Jenny,

During Oral Assembly Questions in Plenary on the Wednesday 17th June, the Minister for Environment Sustainability and Housing, Jane Davidson AM said that I would write to you further regarding my recent statement on the new Housing Legislative Competence Order.

I am sure you share my disappointment that the legislative process has not achieved the outcome we expected when we put forward the original LCO on affordable housing almost two years ago. I recall that 'giving Local Authorities the power to suspend the Right to Buy' was also included in the Welsh Liberal Democrats' Manifesto for the last Assembly election. However, the legislative process has been a learning experience for all concerned and there have been a number of significant developments since 2007 which we will reflect in our proposals for a new strategic Housing LCO. Our intention is to ensure that the scope of the new Order will be broad enough to provide this flexibility to meet current and future needs.

If passed, the new LCO will enable us as a Government to propose legislation to the Assembly to implement the policy aims of the National Housing Strategy and to respond to the Essex Review into the delivery of affordable housing. We are also finalising a new Homelessness Plan and Supporting People Strategy for Supported Housing and a strategic LCO will give the Assembly competence over these and other areas.

The work we are doing with housing partners in response to the Essex Review has highlighted the need for legislation in the field of regulation of social landlords. We are also looking at policy over the Right to Buy and tenure more generally.

However, the first step as you know is to seek the competence for the Assembly and to that end we are discussing with the UK Government the potential content of the new LCO.

Yours sincerely,

Jocelyn Davies AM