



BME London Landlords Spending Review Submission

Rationale for Submission

The disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BME communities and the Black Lives Matters cause have served to highlight the ongoing inequalities that BME communities face living in this country. BME London Landlords as the foremost community driven and community facing social businesses, believe it is only right and proper that we present the facts as we see it. The unique nature of BME registered social landlords in the social housing sector, working in the heart of their communities means we have a unique understanding of BME communities' housing and related needs.



We call on the Government to ensure the Comprehensive Spending Review is used as a strategic opportunity to address the disparities that have come to light in recent months. BME London Landlords stands ready to work with sector stakeholders to be part of the solution in relation to London's housing needs.

We welcome Prime Minister Boris Johnson's action to set up a commission to look into Race and Ethnic Disparities. Data collected by No.10's Race Disparity Unit, on the ethnicity facts and figures website provides the evidence that the disparities and disadvantage faced by people from BME backgrounds; economically, in unequal health outcomes, housing, school exclusions, unemployment, negative criminal justice outcomes and deprivation are stark. The data demonstrates there is a clear need for targeted investment in addressing long-term social, economic and health needs amongst BME communities.

There is an imperative for the Comprehensive Spending Review to pave the way for targeted investment at both, national and local levels. We ask that the Comprehensive Spending Review's settlement ensures that BME organisations become central to any delivery infrastructure and continue to play a part in monitoring impact, including ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion is at the core of the Government's levelling up agenda for UK society.

Ben Laryea - Chief Executive Ekaya Housing Association
Chair of BME London Landlords



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National Housing Federations - Lets End The Housing Crisis Spending Review

Invest in building the homes our country needs
Invest in places to bring the country together
Invest in the support people need to thrive
Invest in safety

Whilst we fully support the 'ask' from NHF, the social housing sector trade body, we wish to see the following principles built into any Comprehensive Spending Review's delivery mechanism so that the Government does not let this once in a generation opportunity slip away to make a real difference to the lives of BME communities up and down country:

Incentives for health service providers to work closely with BME housing and other BME voluntary and community organisations;

Develop a new and fitting definition for key workers and with a delivery mechanism that recognises their un-met needs;

A local needs based approach to delivery and where clear targets are set to meet BME and other protected characteristics of the equality act 2010 – this should remain a key ambition for all Government funding whether it is the proposed Shared Prosperity fund or other earmarked funding;

A local capacity building fund that will place BME voluntary and community sector, BME housing associations at the centre enabling the local authorities and larger mainstream housing associations to effectively engage their local BME communities to co-produce social impact projects from design to delivery.

**BME London Landlords
September 2020**

