
From: Town Clerk
Sent: 14 April 2026 10:02
To:
Subject: Fw: Fairer Housing, Stronger Communities campaign open letter
Attachments: Joint Open Letter calling for Fairer Housing_Short.docx

From: Leanne Parr <leanne.parr@fld.org.uk>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 13:56
Subject: Fairer Housing, Stronger Communities campaign open letter

Hello,

Further to my recent email introducing our Fairer Housing, Stronger Communities campaign, please find attached our open letter to Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government which will be published on 11th May. If your organisation would like to be a signatory to the letter, please let me know by **6th May** at the latest.

We would also be grateful if you would share and sign our petition if you haven't done so already. This is available on our website at: <https://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/news/fairer-housing-petition/>. I know some of you have meetings planned to discuss the campaign further.

If you'd like any additional information, please let me know.

Kind regards, Leanne

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Joint Open Letter calling for **Fairer Housing, Stronger Communities**

To Steve Reed MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

We, the undersigned organisations are united in our belief that the proliferation of short-term holiday lets and second homes is having a distortionary effect on the housing market in and around tourist 'hotspots', with significant negative impacts on local communities. House prices have increased and the number of properties available for long-term rent has sharply decreased in areas like the Lake District, Devon and Cornwall as well as in cities like York. Properties given over to holiday lets and second homes are underused and often empty. The consequent decline in an area's permanent population renders local schools and services unviable, all the while local people are priced out of the areas that they grew up in and have little choice but to move away, taking with them the very fabric of the community.

Addressing this problem hinges on tightening the rules on short-term letting, (further) disincentivising second homes and bringing underused properties back onto the housing market. Not only will this restore community vibrancy in affected areas by making homes available to live in once again, but it will also reduce the amount of new build needed and ease the pressure to put new homes in less sustainable locations.

We urge you to expedite the introduction of a **mandatory national register for short-term let visitor accommodation**. This must apply retrospectively, that is, to existing as well as new short-term lets.

To make the register an active tool for reducing the community impacts of short-term letting, new legislation should be introduced **requiring short-term holiday lets to secure a license** from the relevant Local Authority. Local authorities should be empowered to refuse new licences where a significant proportion of properties are already given over to holiday letting or to remove a license where there are adverse impacts on neighbouring residents.

Making dwellings, holiday lets and second homes **separate use classes** with a requirement for planning permission to change from a permanent dwelling to a holiday let or second home would give Local Planning Authorities the power to refuse planning permission where such changes in uses threaten to hollow out communities.

Finally, introducing a requirement for holiday lets to **pay council tax (including any premium in place) rather than what tend to be, certainly in rural counties like Cumbria and Cornwall, much lower business rates** would close the loophole by which holiday let owners are, in effect, rewarded for the negative social impacts of having converted their property. In doing so, it should encourage owners to rent their property out to people who want to make a home in, rather than just visit, the Park and so make more efficient use of properties.

Delivering these measures would bring a better balance between the value that tourism brings to local economies, the needs of those wanting to stay in, and enjoy, Britain's most beautiful towns and countryside, and the needs of permanent residents.