

Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Newid Hinsawdd
Minister for Climate Change



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ87901

Andrew RT Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

25 April 2023

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your written question of 27 March to the Minister for Rural Affairs and North Wales, and Trefnydd: What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the impact the lack of affordable housing in rural areas has on retaining young people in rural industries? (WQ87901). I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

Local authorities are best placed to understand local housing need, through the Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) and Local Development Plan (LDP) process. Welsh Government launched a new approach to undertaking LMHAs last year, which provides more consistency in how LHMA's are undertaken. This assessment in turn informs local authorities' LDPs, which include targets for the number of affordable homes the authority aims to deliver over the plan period. LDPs must also set out how and where the authority intends to provide the affordable homes to meet the target they have established.

Not every community will face the same challenges. Where local evidence demonstrates that affordable housing is a factor in the retention of young people in rural industries, it should be reflected in the LHMA and LDP.

I am committed to making housing more affordable for people in high-cost rural areas. Welsh Government funds Rural Housing Enablers (RHEs) to work with communities to identify local housing need, and then work with a variety of partners to support the delivery of local affordable housing. I have allocated £424,651 to support RHEs across Wales between 2022 and 2025.

Yours sincerely,

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.