



GOVERNMENT WHIPS' OFFICE
HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM
0207-219-3778

Telephone 020-7219 3131
www.lordswhips.org.uk
holgovernmentwhips@parliament.uk

24th July 2019

Thank for your contribution in the recent oral question on affordable housing. I am writing to address the concerns you raised over tax premiums on empty homes.

Last year, the Government introduced legislation which increases the maximum level of the council tax premium on homes that have been empty for more than two years. From 1 April this year, we have increased the maximum level of the premium that councils can charge from 50% to 100% (on top of the "standard" council tax for the property). This maximum level will be increased, from 1 April 2020, to 200% for properties empty for more than five years and, from 1 April 2021, the maximum premium will be increased to 300% for properties empty for more than ten years.

I hope that this letter addresses your concerns.

I will place a copy of this letter in the Library of the House.

LORD YOUNG OF COOKHAM CH