



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP
*Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
and Local Government*

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
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Our Ref:3997829

21 January 2019

Ian Councillor Lewis,

Thank you for your letter of 13 December regarding the standard method for assessing local housing need. I would also like to thank you for taking the time to engage with our recent consultation.

The technical consultation closed on 7 December and the Government is currently considering the responses received. The response to consultation will be published in due course.

I would emphasise that a housing need figure is not a target. Local authorities should make a realistic assessment of the number of homes their communities need, using the standard method as the starting point in the process. Once this has been established, planning to meet that need will require consideration of land availability, relevant constraints, and whether the need is more appropriately met in neighbouring areas. This will then be scrutinised, as part of the examination undertaken by an independent Inspector.

Yours sincerely,

RT HON JAMES BROKENSHERE MP