



Cabinet Office  
Perceval House,  
14-16 Uxbridge Road, London W5 2HL

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2023

Dear Lauren,

Thank you for your letter.

Can I first start by wishing you and your family every bit of strength and fortitude. I know all of Cabinet and the Group will share these sentiments too. At any time, all of us will undoubtedly be faced by very challenging situations either personally or professionally. Having had the chance to speak with you about the challenges you are facing, I completely understand your reasons for stepping back from cabinet.

Let me say clearly that I have thoroughly enjoyed working with you, and have appreciated greatly the rigour, discipline and attention for detail that you have brought to the portfolio since joining cabinet in 2021. I have greatly appreciated your commitment to delivering the manifesto commitments to deliver genuinely affordable housing, to improving the quality of our housing stock, and to do everything we can to end rough sleeping. This has been despite the odds being stacked against us both by the financial challenges and legal shortcomings determined by government.

You have built over the last two years strong working relationships with senior officers, to oversee and give political direction to the serious improvements both required, and now being delivered in health and safety and resident engagement. Officers have always been clear with me that they greatly appreciate the high challenge, high support culture you have built with the team to enable strong performance and accountability, and I know that they will miss working with you. As will cabinet and I.

In the coming months, we will be topping out several Broadway Living housing developments, as well as bringing on stream a number of temporary accommodation homes brought under council control through the acquisition strategy you have overseen. None of which would have been possible without you, and if the circumstances allow and you are able, I hope you will consider joining me at one or two of the topping out ceremonies.

Yours sincerely,

Peter

Councillor Peter Mason  
Leader of Ealing Council

