



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Rt Hon Christopher Pincher MP**  
*Minister of State for Housing*

**Department for Levelling up, Housing and  
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Cllr Jo White  
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Our Ref:12737733

4 November 2021

*Dear Cllr. White,*

Thank you for your email of 21 October to Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, regarding the Bassetlaw District Council's local plan housing requirement. I am replying as Minister of State for Housing. Due to the quasi-judicial role of Ministers in the planning system I am unable to comment on individual areas or plans, however I do hope you find the following information helpful.

The full text of the Prime Minister's response to the oral question from Brendan Clarke-Smith can be seen in Hansard at: <https://hansard.parliament.uk/Commons/2021-10-20/debates/C7F11738-673D-4738-874E-0718BD4AF330/Engagements?highlight=bassetlaw#contribution-6F1D9673-B421-42C5-866D-FA9486A8CA14>.

I would like to reiterate the Prime Minister's comments by stating that the standard method does not provide a target. It is the minimum starting point in the process of planning for the right number of homes, but it is not the housing requirement (target). Housing requirements are decided by local authorities when they write their local plans, and they take account of factors such as:

- economic growth strategies, which might indicate a higher number of homes are needed;
- constraints which are faced locally, such as the Green Belt;
- and co-operation with neighbours, to see if needs are best met elsewhere.

Indeed, Paragraph 010 of the Housing and Economic Needs Assessment planning practice guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-and-economic-development-needsassessments>, is clear that there will be circumstances where it is appropriate to consider whether actual housing need is higher than the standard method indicates.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your efforts to deliver housing in Bassetlaw. The Government is clear that to help make home ownership affordable for more people, and to help more people rent their own home, we need to deliver more homes. I am pleased to see the ambition in Bassetlaw to ensure that everyone has a home that meets their needs.

Thank you again for your email. I hope you find this information helpful.

*Yours Sincerely,*

**RT HON CHRISTOPHER PINCHER MP**