

Councillor Linda Beresford – Cabinet Member for Housing

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Please Ask For

Councillor Linda Beresford

12 June 2025

Councillor Ball

Via email: simon.ball@rotherham.gov.uk

Dear Councillor Ball

Council Meeting – Wednesday 21st May 2025

Thank you for your question raised at the Council meeting on Wednesday 21st May 2025. As portfolio holder with responsibility for selective licensing since 22nd May I would like to formally respond to the question submitted which I have set out below along with my response.

Labour insists that selective licensing is the solution to poor housing conditions, yet even after a decade of costly schemes, your own report admits continued high levels of property failure. Isn't it time to admit that punishing decent landlords while driving up rents for low-income families is simply failed Labour dogma?

At last month's Council meeting most Members present including all your colleagues agreed with the principle of selective licensing.

That's because your party colleagues, like us, agreed that proactive inspections of private rented properties are better than reactive ones, and in areas where category one hazards are common, they are also justified in protecting tenants.

And we should be clear about the question of cost too: The fees of the previous selective licensing scheme, if passed on to tenants in full, could only justify a rent increase of £8.68/month. Any rent increases beyond this level could not be attributed to selective licensing fees.

Yours sincerely,

Cllr Linda Beresford

Labour Member for Greasbrough Ward

Cabinet Member for Housing