



**Angela Rayner**  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1 0AA

Dear Angela,

I am writing on behalf of the *Greener Jobs Alliance* (GJA), a coalition of trade unions, NGOs and other organisations, concerning Labour's commitment to massive investment in the green transition.

The GJA was formed in 2010 to promote skills training and job creation to meet the needs of Britain's rapidly growing low carbon sectors and to green the whole economy.

GJA welcomes your pledge for a Labour government to build 1.5 million homes in the next Parliament and retrofit 19 million existing ones. Could we ask you to clarify the following.

1. Will these homes be built to a zero-carbon standard with a sound level of insulation, heat pumps, electric cookers and hobs and solar panels as standard and with no connection to an outmoded gas grid - thereby saving the expense and resource wastage of making the connection?
2. Will they be built with essential facilities in walking distance, with integrated green and recreation space, good public transport links to the nearest towns, and car clubs to relieve people of the burden of individual car ownership?
3. Will zero environment impact assessments for the water table and sewage be a requirement for building them?
4. What proportion of these homes will be social housing for rent at genuinely affordable rates?
5. Will all these homes be built on a presumption of family or single person living, or a mixture, and what will be the situation as regards shared/collective facilities?
6. Who will build them? Is there a plan to expand Direct Labour Organisations with default trade union membership, run by Local Authorities and linked to a plan to provide the training/education of the skilled workers needed to do this work?
7. Will such training be via the new Technical Excellence Colleges promised in Keir Starmer's speech rather than the employer-based apprenticeship model that has led to the current shortage?
8. If so, what is the timescale for doing this?
9. Have you negotiated with the Shadow Treasury team on the costs of this programme, in the context of ramping up to Labour's commitment to a £28 billion a

- year investment in the green transition. Alternatively, what facility could be set up for Local Authorities to borrow against the anticipated revenue from sale or rent?
10. If the aim is to deliver these homes through existing developers, how will you prevent them blackmailing the government to water down standards to enable them to squeeze in more units, reduce the proportion of social housing, sit on land banks and refuse to develop them, or claim that necessary environmental standards impact on their profits too much?

Thank you in advance for considering these important questions, and we look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Tahir Latif  
Secretary, Greener Jobs Alliance

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