



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Mrs Heather Wheeler MP
Minister for Housing and Homelessness

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Dear Mr Sharrocks,

9.4.19

Thank you for your letter of 15 March to Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP about selective licensing. I am replying as this matter falls within my ministerial responsibilities.

I am pleased to hear about the recently completed review into the selective licensing scheme in Middlesbrough and that it has demonstrated the initiative was extremely beneficial for the area. Selective licensing is an effective, targeted, tool to deliver improved standards and safety in the private rented sector for areas suffering from serious problems.

It is encouraging that you are considering a further designation. If you require Secretary of State approval, please contact my officials at: selectivelicensing@communities.gov.uk who can support you through the entire process.

Regarding your specific comment on financial support for start-up costs, the expectation is that the local authority would factor this into their fee structure. The rate at which fees are set can be based on a number of factors such as the set-up costs of the scheme, the cost of assessing applications and issuing licences, and the cost of inspecting properties where necessary. It is for a local authority to decide how it structures its fees and what sum it must charge to recover costs.

Thank you for raising this important matter.

MRS HEATHER WHEELER MP