
Director General for Regulation

Melanie Dawes
Permanent Secretary
Department for Communities and Local Government
(By email)

13th April 2018

Dear Melanie

I am writing to welcome the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government today publishing the analysis which underpins recent statements¹ made by the Housing Minister, Dominic Raab MP, regarding housing and immigration.

This follows an interview with the Sunday Times, published on 8 April, in which the Minister said that “Based on the ONS data, the advice to me from the department is that in the last 25 years we have seen immigration put house prices up by something like 20%”. This statement² has since featured prominently in public debate on the impact of immigration on house prices over the past 25 years.

The principle of equality of access is very important to preserve public confidence in Government statistics, data and analysis. Where analysis is quoted in public debate, we regard it is essential that it is equally available to all. This enables people to understand the analysis, to use it themselves, and to raise questions about it.

Given the importance of this principle, we contacted your officials to understand the background and the nature of the analysis. They were helpful, and I now welcome the steps taken by the Ministry to make this analysis publicly available.

I am copying this letter to the Minister of State for Housing, Dominic Raab MP.

Your sincerely



Ed Humpherson

Director General for Regulation

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/analysis-of-the-determinants-of-house-price-changes>

² <https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/tory-housing-minister-dominic-raab-warns-that-immigration-has-pushed-up-house-prices-n27b71q8j>