Dear Dominic Raab MP, be the last Housing Minister.

Actually, can we call you Dom? Your full title is a little formal, and you must already get loads of formal stuff every day. We just want a minute of your time to have a friendly chat about our views on your role. Dom, you are, as we hope you know, the housing minister. In fact, you're the 11th housing minister in just 10 years. Seems like it's a hard job to keep. You can't really make a big difference in less than a year, can you? This is why we suggest that you should be the last housing minister. Sounds scary right? But bear with us on this one, we think that by the end of this you'll agree.

What is 'home' to you? It's a place filled with love, family, friends and memories. It's a safe and secure place where you can relax and be yourself. It is comfort. It is happiness. It is great. So, what is a "house" to you? Hmm. It's not quite the same is it? A house is a structure. A building. A shell. True, a home can be nurtured and developed within a house, and that makes houses pretty important. But simply just having a house, a building to live in, doesn't mean that a person has a home.

We certainly agree that it's important to give everyone a house, and we're very pleased to hear that you're "committed to get the country building again". People need places to live. But that's not all they need. People need love, and safety and all those other great things. People need homes not just houses.

A person's home is a reflection of them. If a home is in a good condition, doing well you may say, then the homeowner is doing well. Take your home for example. A spacious 4 bed house in Thames Ditton, filled with family love. It's a lovely home. You deserve it, you're doing well. But doesn't everyone deserve to have a nice place to live? What might life be like if your home wasn't as good? If your home was just a house? Your life would have gone pretty differently, you wouldn't have had the same opportunities. We wouldn't be asking you to listen. You'd already be on our side.

It's quite clear that house and home are two different things. Doesn't it make sense that if there's a difference between house and home, then surely there's a difference between housing and homing? See where we're going now? Housing people is very important, and is of course a huge responsibility, but it would seem, that after 11 housing ministers in just 10 years, yes that fact again, it's not a job that people have been getting right. What is more serious, more important, more worthwhile than housing? Homing of course.

Back to what we said about you being the last housing minister. The role of housing minister could be so much more. You could be known for so much more. You could make a real difference to people's lives. You could be responsible for giving people a place of safety, a place of love, a place to make memories. You could give people a place to call home. You could be the first homing minister.

How? Start simple. Yes, build the 200,000 new houses you've said you can this year. But as well as just creating more buildings, you can help make current houses into homes. With more people than ever living in private rented accommodation, where better to start than here? Help make people living in the private rented sector feel safe. Re-evaluate the regulations on short-term contracts, and short eviction notice periods. Make it so people feel more secure in their rented houses, and not like that with very little notice they could be left with nowhere to live. Make it so people's rented houses can become their rented homes.

That would be great, but there is so much more to be done. Rogue landlords, lack of affordable housing, lack of suitable homes, just to name a few. How about it then? Be the last "housing minister", but become the very first homing minister? Doesn't that sound better? We'll leave you with that thought, and we look forward to hearing your response soon. If you want to make a change then we're more than willing to help.

Sincerely,
Your friends at Shelter and Nationwide.

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Shelter Nationwide

Working together to provide homes.

View and share this letter online at www.LastHousingMinister.co.uk
#LastHousingMinister