

Brokenshire becomes new housing secretary as Javid heads to home office – property reacts

By [Richard Hook](#) Mon 30 April 2018

Former Northern Ireland Secretary James Brokenshire has replaced Sajid Javid as Secretary of State at the Ministry of Housing Communities & Local Government as part of a swift reshuffle following the resignation of Amber Rudd as Home Secretary.



New housing minister James Brokenshire will be the 17th with the brief in the past 20 years

Source: [Chris McAndrew/Wikimedia/Creative Commons](#)

First Javid was appointed as home secretary, replacing Rudd who resigned over the weekend after repeatedly struggling to account for her role in recent controversy surrounding Windrush-generation migrants. Prime minister Theresa May announced Javid's appointment to the Home Office on Twitter this morning, following 18 months running the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government which included

presiding over the fallout from the Greenfell Tower tragedy. In January, Javid took on the housing remit after the rebranding of the former DCLG.



He will be replaced at the MHCLG by Brokenshire, who stepped down as Northern Ireland Secretary earlier this year ahead of an operation to remove a tumour on his lung. He is reported to have recovered well and is now set to return to the cabinet.

His appointment means the [housing role has now had 17 ministers in 20 years including Gavin Barwell, Alok Sharma and Javid all within the past 12 months.](#)

Brokenshire previously served as a Home Office minister throughout May's six-year tenure leading that department. He became immigration minister in 2014 and previously worked as journalist on local radio before pursuing a career as a solicitor and then being appointed as an MP in 2005.

After his appointment was announced by May, Brokenshire said he was "looking forward to taking the government's agenda forward especially on building the homes our country needs".



Property reacts

His appointment has received mixed response from the property sector with housing leaders hoping Brokenshire provides “stability” to the position after several recent changes in the housing brief.

- **Melanie Leech, chief executive of the British Property Federation:** “While it is disappointing to lose Sajid Javid from housing, we welcome James Brokenshire and look forward to working with him to drive forward the government’s multi-tenure approach to new housing delivery and the policy changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. These changes underpin the government’s agenda on so many levels – providing the right homes in the right places will increase UK productivity, economic growth and social wellbeing in the long-term.”
- **Grant Lipton, co-founder of Great Marlborough Estates:** “The delivery of homes requires strong leadership and consistent leadership. But, it also requires innovation. By having flexibility in leadership we can cycle new ideas and bring forward the homes that are required. This can be through new delivery models across developers, architects and contractors; through technological innovation and public-private dialogue.”
- **Johnny Caddick, managing director at Moda:** “The housing crisis is not going to solve itself, it will take strong leadership from the Government and a consistent approach to oversee the changes needed to build a home for everyone. The lack of ministerial continuity should worry the entire sector, so we hope that James Brokenshire can buck the trend of past ministers and provide stability to the government’s housing approach and see through the much needed reforms. Sajid Javid oversaw the biggest policy shift towards the rental sector we have ever seen. James Brokenshire must also focus on making renting aspirational, and Moda is delighted to support that effort with a promise of family friendly tenancies, quality homes and a level of management and service that people deserve.”
- **Brian Berry, chief executive of the Federation of Master Builders:** “Sajid Javid passes the housing baton to James Brokenshire at a crucial time for the sector. We hope that Brokenshire will build on Javid’s good work, both in terms of raising the profile of housing as an issue at Cabinet level, and implementing some sound policies aimed at tackling the housing shortage. In particular, we are keen to work with the new Secretary of State to unleash the capacity of small local house builders. Last year’s Housing White Paper and the November Budget Statement that followed have given us a blueprint for change but now we need to get on and do it.”