

Stop leasehold Help to Buy sales, says Brokenshire

By [Mitchell Labiak](#) Thu 27 June 2019

Housing secretary James Brokenshire wants to stop all leasehold houses being sold through the Help to Buy scheme, according to an interview in The Times.



James Brokenshire

Housing secretary James Brokenshire wants to stop all leasehold houses being sold through the Help to Buy scheme, according to an interview in The Times.

Brokenshire is also considering an obligatory housebuilders code of conduct which developers would need to sign up to if they want to benefit from Help to Buy.

He said: "There is thought that is being applied as to how we can make this [enforcing better build quality standards] work effectively with the refresh of Help to

Buy post-2021 to ensure that there is that focus and people will know that there is the right for redress and equally to ensure that we are dealing with some of these quality standards upfront.”

He also issued a warning to housebuilders expecting Help to Buy to continue after 2023, saying that housebuilders will have to adapt to a new reality.

“We’re very clear it’s through until 2023,” he added.

During the interview, Brokenshire also touched upon the removal of flammable cladding on tall residential buildings.

“Ultimately it is for the industry, for builders, for those responsible for those high-rise residential blocks, to take steps to ensure that appropriate remediation is carried out to make them safe,” he said.

Dean Clifford, co-founder of Great Marlborough Estates welcomed Brokenshire’s comments.

He said: “It is right housebuilders shouldn’t receive public subsidy if they’re not delivering good quality homes,” he said. “However, the government needs to think more carefully about how it stimulates the housing market. Stoking demand without concurrent supply-side reforms will just push up prices.”