Dear Chi Onwurah,

My name is Joe Bloggs and I am a constituent of Newcastle Central.

I am writing to you to share how the rising cost of living is affecting me, including my ability to obtain secure housing.

I currently live in supported accommodation run by Changing Lives. When I moved here I was struggling with addiction, poor mental health and really low self-confidence but I have made great progress and look forward to securing permanent accommodation for myself. I feel ready to move on but right now I am extremely concerned that I will not be able to afford my own place. Private rent is unaffordable and even if I make it to the front of the queue for social housing I am concerned that I will not be able to afford the bills on Universal Credit.

As I live in supported accommodation if I got a job now I would have to pay £XX a week which is currently covered by the enhanced rate of housing benefit. This is simply not affordable so I have to find somewhere else to live before I can get a job, but I am worried about how long I would be able to afford to live even in social housing if I am just on Universal Credit. If I could be given a buffer period between starting a job and becoming liable to pay the enhanced rent in my supported accommodation, that would give me enough time to find housing which I know I will be able to afford long-term.

I am ready to work and ready to have my own home, but feel stuck in the system. I would like to hear what you as my MP can do to ensure that people can afford to move out of homelessness services into their own home, and I would like to push for a buffer period for people who get a job whilst living in supported accommodation so they are not immediately liable for enhanced rent.

I look forward to hearing your response.

Yours sincerely,

Joe Bloggs

Bentinck Terrace, Newcastle, NE1