

**From:** The Right to Buy Team <righttobuy@mail.communities.gov.uk>  
**Sent time:** 07/01/2016 03:00:19 PM  
**To:** simon <re\_wired@ymail.com>  
**Subject:** Right to Buy update for all the ones going out from now onwards



Department for  
Communities and  
Local Government

Dear Simon,

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## Right to Buy update

It's been a while since our last update and we wanted to bring you up to speed with some exciting new changes. Helping people own their own home through Right to Buy is at the very top of our agenda. We are also firmly committed to making sure that more affordable homes are being built to meet demand.

## Right to Buy discounts

The discounts for 2016/17 will be the same level as they are now – that's **up to £103,900** if you live in London and **up to £77,900** everywhere else in England.

## Housing associations take up Right to Buy

In October we announced the historic voluntary agreement with housing associations, which will give 1.3 million more households the chance to buy their home at Right to Buy level discounts.

Ahead of the main scheme, five housing associations – L&Q, Riverside, Saffron, Sovereign and Thames Valley – have just launched a voluntary Right to Buy pilot for tenants in 25 areas.



Tenants eligible for the pilot should register their interest now as there will be a limited number of sales under this pilot. Successful tenants will be able to progress up to the point of sale, but will not be able to complete until the Housing and Planning Bill (see below) becomes law.

If you think you, or someone you know could be eligible to buy their Housing Association home under this pilot [click here](#).

## Housing and Planning Bill 2015

The Housing and Planning Bill began going through Parliament in October. It sets out the major legal changes that the Government is proposing to encourage both home ownership and home building. This includes the changes needed so that the Right to Buy level discounts can be offered to more

housing association tenants. We will keep you up to date as the Bill passes its key milestones.

## Help to Buy: ISA

The Government's new Help to Buy: ISA, set up to help people save for a deposit for their first home, launched on 1 December. If you're a first-time buyer you can save up to £200 a month towards your first home with a Help to Buy ISA and the Government will boost your savings by 25%. That's a £50 bonus for every £200 you save, up to a maximum Government bonus of £3,000 towards buying your first home. In practice, this means if you save £12,000, the Government will boost your total savings to £15,000.

You can also save an additional £1,000 when you first open an account, meaning you can save £1,200 in the first month and get a top up from the government of £300.

You can find all the information you need on the Help to Buy [website](#).

## Own your home campaign

If you find that you're not eligible for Right to Buy, have a look at other government schemes available to help you own your own home. [OwnYourHome.gov.uk](#) has information on schemes such as Help to Buy, shared ownership and Self Build.

This website is part of a campaign to make sure people know about all the schemes available to help them onto the housing ladder. Commenting on the campaign, Housing and Planning Minister Brandon Lewis MP said:

"We want to ensure that anyone who works hard and aspires to own their own home has the opportunity to do so. Already more than 230,000 households have been helped into homeownership through Government-backed schemes since 2010, but we want to go further."

"That is why we have launched the new Own Your Home campaign, so you can find out what Government support may be available to help you own a home of your own. And I would urge anyone who believes ownership is out of reach to visit the Government's [Own Your Home website](#) and take a second look. There is a wide range of support on offer."

## Spending Review 2015

In the Spending Review at the end of November the Government announced the biggest affordable house building programme since the 1970s. The affordable housing budget will be doubled to £8bn from 2018/19 and the Government will deliver at least 400,000 affordable homes over the next few years, including:

- 200,000 Starter Homes
- 135,000 new Help to Buy Shared Ownership homes and
- 10,000 Rent to Buy homes.

The Government will also create a London Help to Buy scheme with a 40% equity loan maximum (elsewhere the limit is 20%), release enough land owned by public bodies to build 160,000 homes, and provide £310 million of funding to deliver 15,000 homes at Ebbsfleet, the first garden city in the UK for nearly 100 years.

## And finally...

Why not have a look at whether you could become a homeowner through Right to Buy in 2016? There is plenty of help available and we've just released three online videos about Right to Buy that might give you the start you need: [Own Your Home Youtube Channel](#)

Yours sincerely,

**The Right to Buy Team**

 For more information visit our website or call  
one of our Right to Buy advisers on:  
**0300 123 0913** 

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