

PRESS RELEASE

Acis supports call for action on homes 'crisis'

Housing association Acis Group has supported a call for government action to address the homes 'crisis'.

Home ownership in England is set to fall to its lowest level since the mid-1980s because of a shortage of new homes, price levels and tighter mortgage lending, a report by the National Housing Federation (NHF) has warned.

NHF, a body representing housing associations, believes the housing market will be plunged into 'crisis' without government action to address the 'chronic under-supply of homes'. The NHF said the shortage was hitting home ownership rates.

And Acis, who own and manager over 5,200 homes across Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and South Yorkshire, has backed the calls for more support for affordable housing.

Michelle Sleight, Property Sales Officer for Acis, explained:

"The NHF report that the rate of home ownership has declined in recent years due to the level of house prices, the need for larger deposits and stricter lending criteria set by banks. We have definitely seen the impact on customers looking to purchase homes through our shared ownership scheme, which is part buy part rent, as they still require a mortgage, albeit at a reduced percentage."

The NHF state that more government investment in affordable housing would stimulate a wider, faster economic recovery and help fix the 'broken' housing markets.

Michelle continued:

“Over the past 12 months we have been able to buck the market trend and help more people on to the property ladder than in the year previous. We have achieved this through various means, including a concerted sales and marketing effort and relaying the benefits of our shared ownership scheme to potential customers. Shared ownership has proven to be a very popular option, especially in the current economic climate. However, we are aware of the challenge of ensuring home ownership does not become out of reach to those that need it. The difficulty of raising a deposit and obtaining a mortgage will be an issue going forward.”

The government says it has made more public land available for building. It is also investing £4.5 billion in new lower-cost homes over four years. But the NHF said this represented a cut of 63%. And research commissioned by the NHF suggests that the proportion of home ownership in England, currently 67%, could decline further to 63.8% over the next 10 years.