

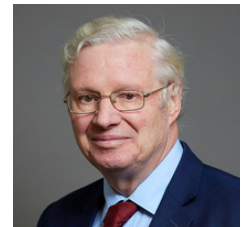


Roundtable on the Healthy Homes principles with Lord Crisp KCB, Crossbench Peer

Thursday 20 July 2023

Introduction

The APPG convened a highly insightful roundtable discussion with Lord Nigel Crisp KCB. The primary focus of the meeting was to explore the Healthy Homes principles and to examine their potential implications for the housing sector. Participants from various organisations and sectors engaged in a thought-provoking dialogue concerning the intersection of health and housing.



The conversation centred on the urgent need for establishing mandatory minimum standards to ensure healthier homes for all. Lord Crisp voiced concerns about the lack of coherence and common theme in current government guidance on healthy homes, stressing the necessity of a more consistent and comprehensive approach.

Key takeaways

- Lord Crisp highlighted the intimate connection between health and housing, emphasising the significance of secure and sociable homes for physical and mental wellbeing. He underlined the need to focus on the underlying causes of health, beyond just disease, to create a stable foundation for people's lives.
- Participants recognised the lack of coherence in existing government guidance on healthy homes, most of which are not mandatory. Lord Crisp stressed the importance of setting minimum standards to ensure healthier homes and advocated for their inclusion in the Levelling Up bill.
- The discussion addressed concerns about the cost of implementing healthy homes principles. Lord Crisp compared this to maintaining a car's roadworthiness, emphasising that the short-term costs are outweighed by long-term savings and benefits to individuals and society.

Issues raised

- Participants discussed the pressing issue of housing shortages and the challenges of meeting the demand for affordable and quality homes. There was a recognition of the competing demands between increasing housing quantity and ensuring health and wellbeing considerations are adequately addressed.
- The Covid pandemic brought to light the critical importance of homes in terms of resilience and the need to create spaces that can withstand future challenges. It emphasised the significance of healthy homes in safeguarding public health during crises.
- Participants highlighted the need to bridge the gap between health and housing policies, and underscored the importance of integrating health considerations into the planning and development process.
- The complexity of current housing regulations and guidance was acknowledged, and there was a call for simplification and coherence in the system.

We would like to thank the members of our Advisory Board for their contributions and continuing support.



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To get involved, please contact

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