# UK government’s building acceleration package fails to address deepening housing crisis



The UK government's so-called "building acceleration package" is yet another attempt to paper over the cracks in a failing housing system pushed to the brink by ineptitude and overregulation. With housing and planning figures for England showing a sharp decline in applications and approvals—excluding London, where the slowdown is even more pronounced—it's clear that this government’s empty promises are failing the very people they claim to serve.

Housing Secretary Steve Reed, who only recently took office, dismisses the current planning system as "archaic," as if bureaucratic red tape is the main barrier, rather than Labour’s own policies that choke off development at every turn. The latest figures reveal a troubling 5% drop in applications between April and June 2025, with approvals stagnating at just 83% in London—the lowest on record. Instead of addressing the root causes of this stagnation, Reed's response is to “work closely” with London Mayor Sadiq Khan—a politician whose policies have only worsened the housing shortage—while promising an overhaul that amounts to little more than empty rhetoric.

The reality is that under Labour’s watch, housing permissions have plummeted to their lowest levels ever. In the same period, just 7,609 projects received planning consent—a stark 5% decline from the previous year. Factors such as rising costs, sluggish sales, and bureaucratic delays are making it increasingly difficult to build homes, especially in regions like London and the East Midlands where approvals have fallen by around 12%. Yet Labour continues to double down on their failed approach, blaming market conditions rather than acknowledging that their overregulation is to blame.

Reed claims that reforms will kickstart the "biggest era of house building" in history, but such promises ring hollow. The government’s focus remains on superficial tweaks rather than tackling the systemic issues of planning inertia and excessive regulation that hinder growth. Their failure to cut through red tape and obstacles means more families are left waiting in limbo, unable to secure affordable homes.

Meanwhile, opposition critics—like the Conservative shadow housing secretary—rightly blame Labour for the housing crisis, citing excessive taxation, bloated regulation, and poor economic management. Labour’s approach has long been a barrier to growth, and this latest announcement is just another sign of their inability to deliver real solutions.

In reality, only a radical shift towards less regulation and a commitment to cutting costs and delays will reverse this downward trend. These empty promises won’t build homes—only free-market reforms and decisive action can do that. As the housing crisis deepens, it’s clear that Labour’s policies have no place in solving it; the time for real change is long overdue.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## Bibliography

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2. <https://www.irishnews.com/news/uk/housing-secretary-to-speed-up-building-in-light-of-latest-slow-planning-figures-FB3RLKVEMBNYHGUKCXCNBLPXS4/> - Housing Secretary Steve Reed has announced a 'building acceleration package' to expedite house building across the UK. This decision follows recent housing and planning figures indicating a decline in applications received and decided compared to the previous year. Between April and June 2025, 80,400 applications were received, a 5% decrease from the same period in 2024. Planning authorities decided on 80,800 applications, down 1% from the previous year. Despite these declines, 70,800 applications were granted, marking a 1% increase from the previous year. Reed described these figures as 'unacceptable' and emphasized the need for planning reforms to achieve the Labour Party's pledge of building 1.5 million new homes before the end of the current Parliament. He stated, 'I will leave no stone unturned to build 1.5 million homes, so families have the key to home ownership in their hands.'
3. <https://www.knightfrank.com/research/article/2024-09-26-governments-housing-challenge-as-permissions-hit-new-low> - Recent data reveals a significant decline in housing planning permissions in England. Between April and June 2024, only 7,609 housing projects were granted permission, the lowest level since records began. This marks a 5% decrease compared to the same period in 2023. The total number of planning applications across all sectors, including residential and commercial, was down 9% in Q2 compared to the previous year. The decline is attributed to factors such as higher finance costs, a weaker sales market, rising build costs, and planning delays. London and the East Midlands recorded the steepest falls, both down 12% compared to the previous year. The Home Builders Federation also reported that London experienced the sharpest drop in housing units securing permission in the past year.
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