# Concerns raised over impact of Right to Buy scheme on public housing



A member of the tenants’ union Acorn has raised concerns about the impact of the Right to Buy scheme on public housing and its unintended consequences for the private rental market. In a recent post on the social media platform X, Nick Ballard, the head organiser of Acorn, stated that an alarming 40% of council houses sold through the Right to Buy scheme are currently owned by private landlords. This revelation underscores growing worries regarding the loss of affordable housing options.

Ballard articulated that the majority of former council homes bought under Right to Buy have not been replaced, with “very few” new homes entering the market to compensate for these losses. The Right to Buy scheme, which has been in effect in England and Northern Ireland, permits council tenants to purchase their homes at a discounted price. Discounts can be substantial, reaching up to 70% of a property's value, depending on various factors, including the type of property and its geographical location.

Describing the scheme as a “disaster,” Ballard expressed that “Housing still costs the state money; it’s just this public money now subsidises private landlords.” His comments highlight concerns that public resources intended to support affordable housing are being redirected to benefit private entities at the expense of the availability of council housing.

The debate surrounding the Right to Buy scheme has attracted political attention, particularly from figures like Angela Rayner, who, while serving in Parliament, previously noted that over the last five years, there has been an average of 9,000 Right to Buy sales per year, contrasted with only about 5,000 homes being built as replacements annually. Rayner suggested the need for a comprehensive review of the discounts offered to buyers and a wider examination of eligibility criteria and protections for newly constructed homes.

As discussions continue, the implications of the Right to Buy scheme remain a focal point for local communities, policymakers, and housing advocates alike. The varying interpretations of its success and impact on housing markets will likely shape future policies related to public housing in the UK.

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

## References

* <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/right-to-buy-sales-and-replacements-england-2023-to-2024/right-to-buy-sales-and-replacements-england-april-2023-to-march-2024> - This URL provides data on Right to Buy sales and replacements in England, highlighting a significant reduction in replacements and detailing how many Local Authority properties have been sold since the scheme's inception.
* <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/right-to-buy-sales-and-replacements-england-2023-to-2024/right-to-buy-sales-and-replacements-england-april-2023-to-march-2024> - The data here includes the average receipt per dwelling and the variation in sales across different regions, supporting concerns about the scheme's impact on affordable housing.
* <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/5.151%20LGA%20arch%20nfa%20-%20rtb%20research%20-%20AA.pdf> - This report discusses the challenges in replacing homes sold under the Right to Buy scheme, with specific details on how few new homes are built compared to those sold.
* <https://www.local.gov.uk/sites/default/files/documents/5.151%20LGA%20arch%20nfa%20-%20rtb%20research%20-%20AA.pdf> - It further explains the average discounted price and the significant net decline in local authority housing stock due to the scheme.
* <https://www.kent.gov.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/7357/Right-to-buy-sales-in-Kent.pdf> - This document provides specific statistics for Right to Buy sales in Kent, illustrating regional variations in sales rates and receipts.