Dear [Candidate Name],

I am writing on behalf of [housing association name] to invite you to [meet with us/visit our housing association] to discuss the work we do in [insert constituency] and how you can support our call for a long-term plan for housing. The general election coincides with Rural Housing Week (1-5 July), and as I know you’ll be keen to meet with people across the constituency I thought now would be a good time to visit a rural affordable housing site in [insert constituency].

Rural areas are hugely impacted by the housing crisis. Homelessness and rough sleeping have increased by 24% in the past year. However, they receive 65% less funding per capita for homelessness prevention compared to urban areas. And local authority waiting lists in rural areas have increased at ten times the rate of urban areas.

Housing associations are not-for-profit social landlords. We provide homes that are affordable to people in housing need, who can’t afford to rent or buy a home on the open market.

In [constituency name], we deliver [insert number of homes provided within constituency, any services offered to residents and who uses those services. Include relevant data if you have this e.g. the number of people you help, brief figures on outcomes for those you support. Please use our general election data tool to highlight the local impact of housing associations]

Every year, social landlords in England save their tenants £18bn compared to equivalent rents in the private rented sector, meaning lower income families have more income after housing costs to spend on essentials.

Last year, housing associations built one in four new homes and have invested £31bn in their existing homes over the last five years. But with over eight million people with unmet housing need, and over a million families on housing waiting lists, we are ambitious to do more.

England is in a housing emergency. But this is a crisis that can be solved. Our plan [‘Let’s fix the housing crisis’](https://www.housing.org.uk/our-work/a-long-term-plan-for-housing/lets-fix-the-housing-crisis) sets out how this can be achieved and what it could mean for the people who need it most. By 2035, the next government can:

1. End child homelessness.
2. Halve overcrowding.
3. Give the security of a social home for one million more people.
4. Provide a warm and decent home for seven million more families.
5. Improve affordability.
6. Boost productivity by ensuring every region has the homes it needs to grow.

Housing associations must sit at the heart of any long-term plan and stand ready to work with the government to end the housing crisis. We would be delighted if you are available to [meet with/visit] us on [insert time/date] to discuss in further detail the need for a long-term plan and how housing associations can support the delivery of such a plan. Of course, if the date suggested is not possible, I would be happy to work with you to find a suitable alternative.

I look forward to hearing from you and hope that a meeting will be possible soon. In the meantime, please let me know if there is anything [insert housing association name] can do to support your work.

Kind regards,
[Insert name here]