

# Employer nominated housing: more housing, affordable rents

There are not enough houses being built. Developers say they can build them but they can't sell them. Can employers help?

**A solution:** Employers take a bigger role in meeting staff housing needs

Typically, build costs and land costs are givens. Developers preserve their margin by achieving a sales price high enough to provide their return.

Market absorbtion pricing in the second hand market means that if the developer over-supplies the market, the price falls. That's the main reason supply is constrained.



## rent instead?

Building for rent means developers must swap a cash receipt on sale for a stream of less certain future cash flows. They offset that risk by charging a gross yield higher than their cost of financing, typically six percent. But what if a tenant's employer assumed some of the risk? Could the developer achieve the same risk – adjusted return but charge less rent?

Cost of finance is the risk free return

### **Tenant credit risk** covers for losses when tenants default on rent

Void risk covers loss of

rent when

occupied

property is not

If employers took on some of the risks, could that help reduce the yield and lead to lower rent? Let's look at a hypothetical example.

## **Gross rent is**



Taking off administration. collection costs and maintenance gets to:

## Net rate (the yield) is





## Goverment is an employer too, with a credit risk equivalent to gilt rates.

Could housing be part of a new deal for public sector workers?

AND, could government-backed build to rent be a new way to stimulate social housing developments





Reduction in market rent payments for participating employees, depending on employer's credit worthiness

## Contacts



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