



**Damian Hinds**  
*MP for East Hampshire*

News release

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## **Damian Hinds Highlights Need for Family Housing**

Damian Hinds has drawn attention to the high cost of renting a home in East Hampshire. Earlier this week Shelter published its report into the affordability of private rented accommodation across the country. This was the first in a series of reports examining local rent levels and affordability compared to average earnings in each local authority.

According to the report's findings, the average rent on a two bedroom home in East Hampshire is £731 with the cost rising to £921 for three bedroom accommodation. This is compared to £660 as an average for a two bedroom home in England.

A household would be spending 37% of the local median wage in East Hampshire on rent for a two bedroom home versus an, average of 33% across England, and 44% for a three bedroom home.

Commenting on the figures, Damian Hinds said

*"What this clearly shows us is that, for many families in East Hampshire, private accommodation is very hard to afford.*

*"This highlights the real need for more affordable family housing. There are more than 1 million families with children renting their homes in this country. Having families of all income ranges living in our towns and villages is essential for us to keep a vibrant community and healthy local economy.*

*"There is a lot of discussion, both at local and national level, about 'sustainable development' and what this means. I think it is clear that it must include space for family homes that are affordable on the average income.*

*"Between 1997 and 2007, private rents increased at one and a half times the rate of wages and our public housing resources are already stretched. We need clear thinking if we are to avoid a widening gap between those who can afford a family home and those who simply cannot."*

ENDS

Notes to editors:

For the full text of the report please see [Shelter's Rent Watch](#) or contact Shelter's public affairs team at [public\\_affairs@shelter.org.uk](mailto:public_affairs@shelter.org.uk).

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