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John Healey MP, Labour's Shadow Secretary of State for Housing, responding to new research by the National Housing Federation showing that social housing spending is at a record low, said:

"Conservative Ministers have washed their hands of any responsibility to build the homes families on ordinary incomes need.

"Under Labour in 2009/10 we started building almost 40,000 homes for social rent. By last year this had fallen by 98 per cent to fewer than 1,000.

"Ministers try to hide their failure to build more affordable homes by branding more homes 'affordable'. The Conservative definition of affordable housing now includes homes close to full market rent and on sale for up to £450,000.

"Ministers have turned their back on the millions of families struggling with high housing costs. It's no wonder that public concern about housing is around the highest level in 40 years. Only Labour has a credible long-term plan to build the genuinely affordable homes to rent and buy that our country needs."