**Copy and paste the below into an email - make sure you fill in the personal details before sending!**

**To:** [mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk](mailto:mayor@teesvalley-ca.gov.uk)

**Subject line:** Give mayors power over rent controls!

Dear Ben Houchen,

My name is **[your name]** and I live in **[your town/city]**. I am deeply concerned about the issue of rising rents in Tees Valley.

As you will be aware across the country, rents continue to spiral, with private rents in England having risen by 28% over the last five years. In Tees Valley, renters are feeling the effects of a private rental market that’s spun out of control.

In just one year, private rents rose by on average [11.5% in Darlington](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/housingpriceslocal/E06000005/), [10.5% in Stockton-on-Tees](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/housingpriceslocal/E06000004/), and [10% in Middlesbrough](https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/housingpriceslocal/E06000002/). These increases are putting people at risk of being priced out of their homes, and forcing them to accept poor and dangerous living conditions.

The only immediate solution to rapidly rising rents, and the hardship they’re causing for people, is rent controls. That’s why I’m supporting a campaign from the [Homes for Us alliance](https://homesforus.org.uk/) which is calling for mayors to be given new powers to control rents regionally.

Housing affordability is a deeply local issue and mayors are well placed to understand what renters living under their combined authorities need. That’s why the government should devolve powers over rent controls to mayors in the upcoming English Devolution Bill.

Alongside other renters in your combined authority, I am joining together with the Homes for Us alliance to ask you to support this campaign. I would like you to meet with the alliance to learn more about their demands and to ask the government to give you these powers in the upcoming Bill.

I look forward to seeing your response.

Yours sincerely,

**[Your name]**