To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the planning implications of the housing need represented by the (a) upper and (b) lower limits of the population projections by the Office for National Statistics for 2050.

Andrew Stunell (Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government; Hazel Grove, Liberal Democrat)

The Department does not estimate housing need. However, the Department publishes household projections, which are a trend-based view of the number of households that would form given a projected population and previous demographic trends. Local authorities should use the projections as a part of the evidence base for assessing future housing demand.

Household projections are based on the Sub-national Population Projections published by the Office for National Statistics, the most recent of which are 2008-based. The 2008-based Household Projections show that, by 2033, there will be a projected 27.5 million households in England, an additional 5.8 million households compared to 2008. This decreases to 26.3 million projected households in 2033 using the low population variant projection (an additional 4.6 million households compared to 2008), and increases to 28.7 million projected households in 2033 using the high population variant projection (an additional 7 million households compared to 2008).