

Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

Issue #1 • January 2024



Championing
better homes and
communities

Government News

DLUHC

DLUHC has published its [direction to the Regulator on tenant rights and complaints](#), which should form part of the Consumer Standards from April 2024.

DLUHC has published [guidance on discharging people at risk of or experiencing homelessness](#), or who have no recourse to public funds.

DLUHC has published [an update on the Government's work to improve social housing](#).

The Regulator of Social Housing (RSH)

The RSH has published its [Rent limit guidance](#) on its [Rent Standard](#) page which confirms the maximum rent increases for 2024/25.

The Housing Ombudsman

The Housing Ombudsman has published a spotlight report, [Relationship of Equals](#), about attitudes, respect and rights, and vulnerability.

The Housing Ombudsman has signed a [memorandum of understanding](#) with the New Homes Ombudsman.

Building Safety:

[The Building Safety Act 2022 \(Commencement No. 6\) Regulations 2024](#) came into force on 16 January 2024.

[The Higher-Risk Buildings \(Keeping and Provision of Information etc.\) \(England\) Regulations 2024](#) have come into force.

The BSR has published its [enforcement policy statement](#) for when issues of non-compliance or serious risk are identified.

In relation to Mandatory Occurrence Reporting, the BSR has published:

- The MOR service [start page](#)
- The MOR [Guidance](#)
- The MOR [System guidance](#)
- Updated [contact us page \(including complaints\)](#)

Other government departments

Department for Energy Security and Net Zero has published its research on [Defining and identifying complex-to-decarbonise homes and retrofit solutions](#).

The Home Office has [announced a new funding pot](#) which aims to help victims of domestic abuse who do not have the financial means to leave their abusers.

Labour

Labour has published a [campaigning document](#) for MPs and prospective parliamentary candidates to use ahead of the general election.

LUHC Select Committee

The LUHC Select Committee has published its report from the [inquiry into local authority finances](#).

Research & Useful Information

JRF has published its [UK Poverty report](#).

CIH has published its [tenth Cost of Living briefing](#).

UCL has published a [new report which calls for the abolition of Right to Buy and First Homes to help local authorities build new homes](#).

CIH has published [a guide on developing effective health and housing partnerships](#).

Independent Age has published [No place for older renters: How the geography of older private and social renters has changed](#).

Altair has published its [third learning report about the provision of floor coverings in social housing](#). This report covers landlord perspectives.

Consultations

DLUHC has launched its [consultation into Awaab's Law](#). The consultation covers plans to introduce specific timeframes for investigating and fixing hazards which pose a significant risk to the health and safety of residents living in social homes. The consultation closes on **5 March 2023**. Please send comments or your organisational responses to Lisa Birchall by 27 February 2024 to help shape the NFA response.

DLUHC has launched [a consultation on Allocations](#), which covers areas including eligibility criteria and exclusion of ASB perpetrators. The consultation closes on 26 March 2024. Please send any comments on the consultation to Lisa Birchall by **19 March 2024**.

Statistics

DLUHC has published [statistics on social housing lettings in England](#) (April 2021-March 2022).

NFA UPDATE

Conferences

The NFA annual conference is open for bookings. The conference, [Housing Knowledge: A journey, not a destination](#), will take place on Thursday 25 April 2024 at the Eastside Rooms in Birmingham.

The Chief Officers Conference in partnership with ARCH will be on 21-22 March 2024 at the University of Warwick. For further information and to book your place please contact Helen Williams: helen.williams@housemark.co.uk

Consultation responses

The NFA has responded to the [Regulator's consultation on the use of new and amended powers](#).

Letters

The NFA has joined a CIH-led sector-wide [letter](#) to the Government warning them against pursuing a 'British homes for British people' policy. The [letter was published in the Guardian](#).

We published a news story on our website and [Linkedin](#).

Media

The NFA launched [a summary of the Housemark-commissioned research](#) into ALMO TSM performance on 18 January in the Municipal Journal alongside [an opinion piece](#) co-authored by NFA board chair Mike Ainsley and TAP co-chair Bob MacDonald.