

Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

Issue #2 • February 2024



Championing
better homes and
communities

Government News

DLUHC

DLUHC has published [a progress report](#) on its work to improve the quality of social housing.

DLUHC has published [research into the flow of rough sleeping](#).

DLUHC and the Dept of Health and Social Care (DHSC) have published [the homelessness and hospital discharge guidance](#).

The Housing Secretary has published his update on the [Long-term Plan for Housing](#).

Regulator of Social Housing

The RSH has published a suite of documents related to its new regulatory regime, including:

- [A summary of the RSH's approach to consumer regulation](#)
- [Consumer Standards decision statement](#) (including Annex 3, new consumer standards and Annex 4, new code of practice)
- [Regulating the Standards](#)
- [Inspection Plan](#)
- [Decision statement of the s215 guidance consultation](#).

All documents can be found on the [Regulator's website](#).

Housing Ombudsman

The Housing Ombudsman has published its [new statutory Complaints Handling Code](#) and suite of accompanying guidance.

Other government departments

DWP has published learning from [the work undertaken so far on managed migration](#).

The Minister for Employment has also set out DWP's [plans for migrating claimants](#) after April 2024.

The Building Safety Regulator

The BSR has published a [Safety Case Toolkit](#).

Research & Useful Information

Shelter and the NHF have published [research on the financial benefit](#) of building 90,000 social homes.

The Local Government Information Unit has published [a report looking at local government finances](#).

The LGA has published [a new paper on the reforms needed to the Right to Buy](#).

Consultations

Reminder The [Consultation on Awaab's Law](#) closes on Tuesday 5 March.

DLUHC has published its consultation on the [Competence and Conduct Standard](#). The consultation closes on **2 April 2024**. Please send your views/concerns or copies of your organisational response to Lisa by the **19 March** (lisa.birchall@almos.org.uk) to help shape the NFA response.

DLUHC has published a consultation into [reforms to social housing allocations](#). The consultation is due by 26 March.

Partner updates

The researchers behind the reports 'Stigma in Social Housing' and 'It's not okay – a guide to tackling stigma in social housing' are collaborating with Tpas England, the Stop Social Housing Stigma Campaign and the CIH to evaluate the impact of the reports. They have opened three surveys to gather feedback:

- [Social Housing Residents](#)
- [Housing professionals](#)
- [Housing contractors and other stakeholders](#)

The deadline of the survey is 28 March 2024.

Statistics

DLUHC has published [SHDF measure delivery](#) to December 2023.

NFA UPDATE

Events

The NFA is hosting a free webinar on 27 March (10-11.30). The webinar, entitled [On the doorstep of Regulation](#), preparing for the new regulatory regime, will provide an excellent opportunity to hear from Jonathan Driscoll, Assistant Director of Regulatory Engagement at the RSH; and Harpreet Rayet, Managing Director at STAR Housing, talking about Shropshire Council's pilot inspection.

Places can be booked [here](#).

The NFA is hosting a **virtual roundtable** with DLUHC on Wednesday 6 (10am) to discuss the Competence and Conduct consultation. If you have not yet booked a place and would like to, please email Lisa.

Consultation responses

The NFA's [response to the Awaab's Law consultation](#) will be available on our website from Tuesday 5 March.

Letters

Michael Gove has [responded to the CIH-coordinated letter](#) – which the NFA signed – about the Allocations Consultation.

Media

The NFA has published our [Election Asks](#) alongside a Viewpoint, entitled [Election promises: show us the detail](#).