

# Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

Issue #4 • April 2024



Championing  
better homes and  
communities

## Government News

### Government

As part of a wider announcement on [disability policy](#), the Prime Minister announced bringing forward the move of Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and ESA with Housing Benefit customers to Universal Credit. This has been moved from 2028 to the current programme rollout. He has also announced a consultation on the [Personal Independent Payment](#).

### DLUHC

DLUHC has published its [update on work to improve the quality of social housing](#) (April).

DLUHC announced that [social housing rent increases will be limited to CPI+1% until 2025/26](#).

DLUHC and the Health & Safety Executive has published [guidance on Building completion certificates](#).

DLUHC has updated its [Capital finance: guidance on minimum revenue provision \(5th edition\)](#).

DLUHC has announced [changes to Compulsory Purchase Orders](#) to allow councils to buy land in certain circumstances without the hope value.

### Housing Ombudsman

HOS has published its [Complaint Handling Failure Order report](#).

HOS has published its [learning from severe maladministration report](#).

HOS has published its evaluation into its [Spotlight report on noise complaints](#).

### Other government departments

DWP [has produced a range of assets to help organisations communicate the move to UC](#).

The Work and Pensions Select Committee has published [a report on Benefit levels in the UK](#).

The Grenfell Tower Inquiry has [published an update on its work](#).

### Research & Useful Information

Trowers & Hamlins has published [an insight piece on the Heat network regulation](#) and what it means for social landlords.

Anthony Collins has published a blog on the [Procurement Act 2023 – Go live date released plus transitional guidance](#).

Homeless Link has updated its [Autism and Homelessness Toolkit](#).

The Housing Forum has published [research on Right to Buy reform](#).

The Institute for Employment Studies has published its [latest Labour Market Statistics](#) analysis (April 2024)

The Church of England has published its [long-term vision to fix the housing crisis](#).

The Home Builders Federation has published an update to the [2004 Barker report on house building](#).

The NHF has published research on the [numbers of supported homes that are needed by 2040](#).

The Holding onto Home project, led by Professor Paul Hickman from University of Sheffield has published its [findings about tenancy sustainment in social housing](#).

### Consultations

The Housing Ombudsman is consulting on its [approach for issuing Good Practice](#). The deadline for responses is 21 May 2024. Please send any responses or comments to Lisa ([lisa.birchall@almos.org.uk](mailto:lisa.birchall@almos.org.uk)) by 2 May.

### Statistics

The ONS has published [data on house building](#) (quarter four, 2023).

## NFA UPDATE

### Meetings

The NFA is hosting the following meetings over the next few months:

- Housing Management – 8 May
- Press & Comms meeting – 21 May
- Chief Officers meeting – 22 May

### Consultation responses

The NFA has submitted a response to the [Housing Ombudsman's consultation on its business plan](#).

### Publications

The NFA published our Annual Report at the conference this year. [The ALMO Journey](#) summarises our policy work, survey data and membership services across 2023.

The NFA has also published [a short briefing on the new Regulation system](#).

### Viewpoints

The NFA published [two Viewpoints](#) linked to our annual conference:

- **John Harris**, Chair of Cornwall Housing's Tenant Forum on tenant empowerment and the new TSMs.
- **Eamon McGoldrick**, NFA MD, on the new approach to Regulation and the possibilities for sector-led improvement.