

Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

Issue #5 • May 2024



Championing
better homes and
communities

Government News

Government and opposition

Rishi Sunak has called a General Election for 4 July, with parliament dissolved from 30 May. As a result of this, all DLUHC new social housing policy work has paused.

The Private Renters Bill did not pass before parliament closed down which means it has effectively died.

The Criminal Justice Bill – with measures around rough sleeping and scrapping the Vagrancy Act – has also died.

The Modernising Support for Independent Living: the Health and Disability Green Paper is also paused.

Government did pass the [Leasehold and Freehold Reform](#) Act.

DLUHC

A coroner has issued a warning in a [Prevention of Future Death report](#) to the Secretary of State for DLUHC about fixed window restrictors in high rise.

DLUHC has updated the [Homelessness code of guidance](#) for local authorities, in relation to Chapter 17, suitability of accommodation.

The Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee has published its [report on the Finances and sustainability of the Social Housing Sector](#).

The committee has also published a report on [Disabled people in the housing sector](#).

The Regulator of Social Housing

The Regulator has published information on its [new fee structure](#) which comes into force on 1 July 2024.

Research & Useful Information

The New Economics Foundation (NEF) has published [research on Right to Buy properties](#) and how many are now owned by private landlords.

Sheffield Hallam University has published research commissioned by Hyde Housing Association on [the gap in public service savings that the country is missing from the sale of 1.4 million social homes under the Right to Buy scheme](#).

The Learning and Work Institute has published research on skills, called [The great skills divide](#).

Sheffield Hallam University, CIH and HQN have published [research on tenancy sustainment](#) in social housing.

Savills has published its [English Housing Supply Update](#) for the first quarter of 2024.

Consultations

DLUHC has published its [Social Tenants Access to Information Requirements consultation](#). While mainly relevant for housing associations, the consultation covers all private registered providers. DLUHC has said that they are continuing with the consultation but it will be up to the new government to make future policy decisions, including about STAIRs.

Statistics

DLUHC has published [updated homelessness statistics](#).

DWP has published its new quarterly [Move to UC statistics](#).

Partners

The CIH and NHF has published its report and toolkit on [Rethinking Repairs and Maintenance](#).

The Health Creation Alliance (formerly New NHS Alliance) has published its [manifesto for whole systems change](#).

The Stop Social Housing Stigma Campaign has launched its [membership offer](#). Organisations, tenants and individual staff members can register for free.

NFA UPDATE

Meetings

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

- * Tenant Engagement Officers – 5 June
- * Temporary Accommodation meeting – 19 June
- * Roundtable for Finance Directors with Savills, on Expenditure in the HRA – 3 July
- * Tenant Advisory Panel – 3 July
- * Asset Management meeting – 10 July

- * Complaints Handling meeting – 11 July
 - * Board Away Day – 11 July
 - * Data group – 16 July
- Please contact Alli Ward if you require an invitation to any of these meetings (alli.ward@almos.org.uk)

Consultation responses

The NFA has responded to the Housing Ombudsman's [consultation on its plans to publish good practice guidance](#).

Letters

The NFA has supported a letter from the NHF to the leaders of the main political parties [calling for urgent action on the housing crisis](#).