

# Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

Issue #7 • July 2024



Championing  
better homes and  
communities

## Government News

The new parliament opened on 17 July with the King's Speech which set out 40 bills. Of note:

**Renters' Rights Bill** – to reform the private rental market; **Planning and Infrastructure Bill** – to streamline the planning system; **Great British Energy Bill** – to establish a public body that will own and operate clean power projects across the UK.

**The Chancellor** has set a Budget date for 30 October, and a multi-year Spending Review to conclude in Spring 2025.

### Ministerial Taskforces

A new [ministerial taskforce on child poverty](#) has been set up.

A [new ministerial taskforce on New Towns](#) has also been set up, with Sir Michael Lyons chairing.

## MHCLG

DLUHC has been renamed the **Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG)**. Ministers in MHCLG include:

- **Rt Hon Angela Rayner**, Secretary of State and Deputy Prime Minister.
- Matthew Pennycook**, Housing Minister; **Jim McMahon OBE MP**, Minister; **Alex Norris MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State; **Rushanara Ali MP**, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State

**Angela Rayner** has [announced](#) a range of [planning reforms as well as information relating to other social housing policy reform](#), including Right to Buy and the long-term rent settlement.

**Updated RtB guidance** is available [here](#).

## NFA UPDATE

### Board Members Event

**The Board Members event** will take place online the mornings of 23 and 24 October. Please save the date.

### Meetings

The NFA has the following meetings over the next few months:

NFA Board – 10 September  
Governance group – 12 September  
Press & Comms – 17 September  
Repairs – 19 September

## DWP

Ministers in the [Department of Work & Pensions](#) have been confirmed as:

- **Rt Hon Kiz Kendall**, Secretary of State
- Alison McGovern**, Minister for Employment;
- Rt Hon Sir Stephen Timms**, Minister for Social Security and Disability; **Emma Reynolds**, Minister for Pensions; **Andrew Western**, Minister for Transformation.

**The Secretary of State for Work & Pensions** has given a speech setting out the new [Government's approach to 'getting Britain working'](#).

**The Chancellor** has announced that the government will bring together the administration of Pension Credit and Housing Benefit. She has also announced that they will move to means testing Winter Fuel Allowance.

**DWP** has announced [changes to the Minimum Wage so it keeps in line with cost of living](#).

## The Regulator of Social Housing (RSH)

**RSH and the Housing Ombudsman** have updated their [Memorandum of Understanding](#).

**RSH** has published its [Consumer Regulation Review](#).

**RSH** has also started to publish its proactive regulatory inspections, which will continue to be published over August/September. Judgements can be found [here](#).

## Housing Ombudsman (HOS)

**HOS** has written to landlords with [urgent concerns about window safety in social housing](#).

**HOS** has published [FAQs for residents](#).

## Communications

The NFA has signed [a letter authored by Southwark Council on behalf of the sector](#), (as a result of the Southwark Summit) calling for an urgent meeting with Angela Rayner to discuss the sustainability of social housing finances.

**The NFA** has [written to Matthew Pennycook and shared a briefing](#) on the NFA and ALMOs. We will also be writing to MPs with ALMOs in their areas in September.

**The HOS** has also opened bookings for the [2024 Member Responsible for Complaints conference](#).

**HOS** has published its learning from [severe maladministration report](#) on leaks; data on [non-compliance with Complaint Handling Failure Orders](#); an [insight report](#), showing that 47% of complaints determined by the HOS were from London postcodes.

## Other - government

**The National Audit Office** has published [a report on the effectiveness of the last government's approach to tackling homelessness](#).

## Research & Useful Information

**The CIH** has published a briefing on the [HRA debt settlement, written by Savills](#).

**The Institute of Fiscal Studies** has published its [annual report on poverty and living standards](#).

**The LGA** has published [a report on five-year local housing deals](#)

## Consultations

**MHCLG** is consulting on [proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework](#) and other changes to the planning system. Responses are due by 24 September 2024.

**HOS** has opened its next [call for evidence on Repairs and Maintenance](#).

## Statistics

**MHCLG** has published [statistics](#) on Right to Buy sales and replacements (2023/24)

**DWP** has published [statistics on the 2 child policy](#); and statistics on the use of [Discretionary Housing Payments \(2023/24\)](#)

**The English Housing Survey** has published [a range of 2022-23 reports](#).

**The NFA** has supported an NHF-authored piece to civil servants on key asks for the Decent Homes Standard review.

**The NFA** has published [a blog written by Megan Hinch at the CIH](#) on its research into re-opening the debt settlement.

The NFA has shared with members **the results of the Housemark analysis of TSM performance** in local authorities with ALMOs versus stock-retained local authorities. We have also shared with MHCLG civil servants and the Regulator. Please email Lisa if you would like a copy of the report.