

Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

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Championing
better homes and
communities

Government News

MHCLG

MHCLG has provided [a short update on its plans](#) for the Decent Homes Standard consultation, Awaab's Law, and Competence and Conduct Standard, following the Labour party conference.

MHCLG has announced there will be changes to [social housing allocations](#), with UK Armed Forces Veterans to be exempt from local connection rules. Care leavers and victims of domestic abuse will also be exempted. We expect further information in due course.

Government has published the [Renters' Rights Bill](#), which will ban Section 21 no-fault evictions, extend the DHS and Awaab's Law to the private rented sector, and stop agents from encouraging tenant bidding wars. CIH has published [a members' guide to the bill](#).

MHCLG has written to all local authority chief executives with [new updates to Approved Document B \(Fire Safety\)](#).

MHCLG has also published [a fully searchable PDF of all the Approved Documents](#).

MHCLG has also confirmed the [allocations of new burdens funding](#) for collection of TSM data (2024-2025).

HCLG Select Committee

Florence Eshalomi, MP, has become the new chair of the HCLG Select Committee.

DWP

DWP has announced that the [Household Support Fund has been extended](#) until April 2025. Updated guidance is available [here](#).

DWP has published [guidance for claimants](#) on how the transitional element of transitional protection is calculated.

DESNZ

DESNZ has announced [Wave 3 of the Warm Homes: Social Housing Fund](#) (previously known as the Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund), which opened for applications on 30 September. Government has also confirmed it will consult by the end of this year on proposals for social rented homes to achieve EPC C or equivalent by 2030. DESNZ has relaunched the council scheme, Warm Homes: Local Grant.

Housing Ombudsman (HOS)

HOS has published [a severe maladministration report focusing on temporary moves](#). It has also published an [insight report on shared ownership](#), and is hosting a webinar on 20 November on this subject.

HOS is also hosting [a workshop](#) on 17 October on the Knowledge and Information Management spotlight evaluation.

Other Government or related

The Grenfell Tower Public Inquiry has published its [second and final report](#).

The Prime Minister submitted [a written statement to Parliament on the inquiry findings](#). As part of this, he has committed to respond in full to the Inquiry's recommendations within six months.

Research and useful information

The NHF and RICS have announced [plans to develop a new stock condition survey standard](#). The NFA, along with other local authority partners, has been supporting the development of this work.

Tpas has published an updated [set of standards for social landlords](#).

Stop Social Housing Stigma has published its [Tackling Stigma Journey Planner](#) to support landlords to reduce social housing stigma.

The JRF has published [analysis on the impact of economic growth on poverty](#), concluding that economic growth alone will not be enough to reduce poverty levels.

The LGA has published its [consultation response on the National Planning Policy Framework](#).

Savills has published [research looking to the potential impact of 10-year rent increases of CPI+1% on the differential between social rents and market rents](#).

Campbell Tickell and the Disruptive Innovators Network have published [a report on Artificial Intelligence and social housing](#).

Statistics

DWP has published [statistics on the number of households that have had their benefits capped to May 2024](#).

DWP has published [Move to Universal Credit statistics](#) up to June 2024.

MHCLG has published statistics on [new housing supply in England](#) (April – June 2024); and [annual homelessness statistics](#).

Submissions

The NFA and ARCH have sent a submission to the Autumn Budget and spending review, which highlights the main challenges the local authority housing sector is facing, and what needs to change to re-balance HRAs and deliver a new generation of council homes.

Publications

The NFA has published a summary of the Housemark research into [ALMO performance in the Tenant Satisfaction Measures](#).

NFA UPDATE

Board Members Event

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

This ALMO-only event is a unique opportunity for ALMO board members to come together virtually and get the latest updates.

Speakers include:

* Bernesai Homes providing insight on their experience as the first NFA member to complete the regulatory inspection;

* Cornwall Housing talking about how to re-set the relationship with a council after a failure, how to strengthen the board and the role of tenants in this;

* Steve Partridge from Savills and Stockport Homes, talking about HRA expenditure pressures and the role of board members in scrutinising performance

* And Lisa Birchall from the NFA, giving a general overview of the policy landscape and look into the next six months/year.

Places can be booked [here](#).