

Policy Update

NEWS AND VIEWS OF THE HOUSING WORLD

Issue #12 • December 2024



Championing
better homes and
communities

Government News

Government

Government has published its [Plan for Growth](#).

Government has published its [English Devolution White Paper](#) which contains details on wide-ranging reforms to local government. These will be delivered in part through the English Devolution Bill, which will be tabled 'when parliamentary time allows.'

Government has announced its [Remediation Acceleration Plan](#) to expediate the removal of unsafe cladding from residential buildings across England.

Government has committed to publish a long-term social housing remediation strategy in Spring 2025.

Government has published its [response to the consultation on planning system reforms](#), the revised NPPF.

It has also announced [a consultation on Compulsory Purchase Process and Compensation Reforms](#).

Government has announced that councils will receive nearly [£1bn of new funding next year to tackle, reduce and prevent homelessness](#). There will also be a new inter-ministerial group chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister to develop a long-term strategy to end homelessness.

Government has published its [provisional Local Government Finance Settlement](#); including an explanatory note on the [NIC compensation](#). It has also published [a consultation on LA funding reform for 2026/27 onwards](#).

MHCLG

MHCLG has published [the Rent Standard from 1 April 2025](#).

MHCLG has published the [Local Authority Housing Fund: Round 3 prospectus and guidance](#).

MHCLG has updated [the statutory guidance on improving access to social housing for members of the Armed Forces](#) as a result of the Allocation of Housing (Qualification Criteria for Armed Forces) (Amendment).

The Housing Ombudsman

The HOS has published a report on [learning from severe maladministration relating to hazards](#).

The Regulator of Social Housing

The Regulator has launched its [annual stakeholder survey](#) which closes Friday 10 January 2025.

Research and useful information

The LGA, SOLACE and CIPFA have published a report on the urgent need for reform of [England's local government funding system](#).

The Resolution Foundation has published its final [Housing Outlook report](#) for 2024.

The CIH and NHF have published their [two year update on the Better Social Housing Review](#).

Consultations

MHCLG has launched a consultation on [Reforms to the Energy Performance of Buildings Regime](#). The deadline for responses is 26 February 2025. Please send any comments/concerns by **5 February** to help decide the NFA response.

The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero also has an open consultation on [Heat Networks regulation: implementing consumer protections](#). This consultation closes on 31 January 2025.

Statistics

MHCLG has published [headline findings for the English Housing Survey](#).

The Regulator has published its [Quarter 2 survey on Fire safety remediation in social housing](#).

MHCLG has published its [housing supply statistics for 2023/24](#) and [social housing lettings statistics](#).

DWP has published [Benefit cap statistics](#)

MHCLG has published data on [the use of Discretionary Housing Payments](#) (April – Sept 2024)

NFA UPDATE

Consultations

The NFA, ARCH and CWAG have submitted a response to the [Government's consultation on Social Housing Rent policy](#).

We have also published [analysis undertaken by Savills](#) on behalf of sector partners, including the NFA, which analyses the impact of the Government's proposals on HRA sustainability and long-term capacity to build new homes.

Minister meetings

The NFA met with **Baroness Taylor, MHCLG Minister**, in December to discuss the ALMO model and our asks for ALMOs and the local authority housing sector.

Officer meetings

The NFA will be hosting the following **meetings for officers** in January and February.

- * Governance meeting – 23 January
- * Chief Officer meeting – 28 January

- * Press & Comms – 29 January
 - * Data meeting – 5 February
 - * Asset Management – 6 February
 - * Complaint Handling – 12 February
 - * Housing Management – 26 February
 - * Finance Directors – 27 February
- For further details, please contact Alli Ward (alli.ward@almos.org.uk)