

# GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

## April 2021

*A brief summary of current government consultations of potential interest to RSN members. This is not intended as an exhaustive list of all relevant consultations.*

### **Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport**

Through this call for evidence, the Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) wants to hear views and experiences of consumers' broadband connectivity in rural and remote areas of the UK. In addition, DCMS would also like to receive information on both the known benefits of broadband services and the current barriers to deployment and take-up.

Additional evidence, either from the UK or abroad, on technology availability, maturity, capabilities and costs, from suppliers and vendors is also welcomed.

The evidence gathered will enable DCMS to assess the options available for delivering improved connectivity to areas where the costs of delivering better digital infrastructure have so far proven to be a barrier to deployment.

This consultation closes on 11 June 2021.

[Improving broadband for Very Hard to Reach premises - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/improving-broadband-for-very-hard-to-reach-premises)

### **Environmental principles: draft policy statement – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government wants to know what you think about the draft environmental principles policy statement. The policy statement aims to ensure that environmental protection and sustainable development are included in government policy making.

The consultation asks if the statement provides enough information and guidance for policy makers to apply the principles correctly. Views are intended to help government develop the final policy statement and as a result contribute to the protection of the environment.

This consultation closes on 2 June 2021.

[Environmental principles: draft policy statement - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/environmental-principles-draft-policy-statement)

### **Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

This call for evidence seeks to understand the experience of local authorities in the whole of the UK regarding remote meetings. This includes authorities in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland.

Scottish authorities were able to meet remotely prior to the pandemic, and this call for evidence seeks to understand their experience of remote meetings since these arrangements came into force.

This consultation closes on 17 June 2021.

[Local authority remote meetings: call for evidence - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-authority-remote-meetings-call-for-evidence)

### **Waste prevention programme for England 2021 – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government wants to know what you think about their plans for preventing waste, set out in the revised waste prevention programme for England.

Views are sought on whether government have set out a strong case for action across the sectors identified, and on the measures outlined.

This consultation closes on 10 June 2021.

[Waste prevention programme for England 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/waste-prevention-programme-for-england-2021)

## **Independent Review of Destination Management Organisations (DMOs) consultation – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport**

The government has commissioned an independent review of England's Destination Management Organisations (DMOs). You can find out more about the review and read its Terms of Reference on the [Independent Review of Destination Management Organisations \(DMOs\) page](#). The review is led by Nick de Bois, with support from an expert panel, and a full programme of evidence-gathering, meetings and interviews is already underway.

This consultation closes on 28 April 2021.

[Independent Review of Destination Management Organisations \(DMOs\) consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **The Future of the New Homes Bonus consultation – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

The New Homes Bonus was introduced in 2011 to provide an incentive for local authorities to encourage housing growth in their areas. The aim of the bonus was to provide a financial incentive to reward and encourage local authorities to help facilitate housing growth.

The government state that “the consultation covers a number of options for reforming the programme to provide an incentive which is more focused and targeted on ambitious housing delivery, complements the reforms outlined in the government's Planning White Paper, and dovetails with the wider financial mechanisms the government is putting in place, including the infrastructure levy and the Single Housing Infrastructure Fund.”

This consultation closes on 7 April 2021.

[The Future of the New Homes Bonus consultation - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive: ensuring a stable scheme – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy**

This consultation sets out proposals for the closure of the domestic Renewable Heat Incentive (DRHI) scheme to new applications on 31 March 2022. Last year the government extended the deadline for new applications to the DRHI to 31 March 2022, and the scheme will close, with the last payments being made, in 2029.

The proposed reforms seek to:

- simplify scheme administration and operational delivery
- improve the consumer experience for existing participants
- ensure robust management for the remainder of the DRHI payment term
- deliver ongoing value for money to the taxpayer

This consultation closes on 7 May 2021.

[Domestic Renewable Heat Incentive: ensuring a stable scheme - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)