

# GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

## April 2022

*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.*

### **UNESCO World Heritage Sites: UK Tentative List Review – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport**

Government are preparing a new Tentative List of natural, cultural and mixed sites for potential nomination for inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List, to be submitted to UNESCO later this year, with a view to putting forward nominations to the World Heritage Committee from 2024. They are inviting applications for sites to be included on the new Tentative List.

They are also inviting expressions of interest from experts to be part of the Independent Expert Panel who will assess the applications.

The closing date for submitting the expression of interest form is Friday 6 May 2022.

The closing date for submitting the application form is Friday 15 July 2022.

[UNESCO World Heritage Sites - UK Tentative List Review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/unesco-world-heritage-sites-uk-tentative-list-review)

### **Storm overflows: reducing sewage discharges – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government want to know what you think about new government targets to tackle the issue of sewage discharges.

The government is introducing new targets to eliminate ecological and public health harm from storm overflows. The consultation will set out details of how the government expects water companies to achieve these targets.

This consultation closes on 12 May 2022.

[Storm overflows: reducing sewage discharges - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/storm-overflows-reducing-sewage-discharges)

### **Local air quality management policy guidance – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government want to know what you think about proposed changes to the local air quality management policy guidance.

These changes are being proposed to strengthen the local authority air quality action planning process and to provide guidance around designating relevant public authorities.

New areas have also been considered including:

- air quality disparities
- community engagement
- air quality and climate change

This consultation closes on 6 June 2022.

[Local air quality management policy guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-air-quality-management-policy-guidance)

### **Environment Act 2021: environmental targets – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government want to know what you think about their plans to introduce new environmental targets under the Environment Act 2021. These targets will help meet the government's vision of leaving the environment in a better state than it was found.

This consultation sets out their proposals for:

- biodiversity on land and in the sea
- water quality and availability
- resource efficiency and waste reduction
- air quality

This consultation closes on 11 May 2022.

[Environment Act 2021: environmental targets - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/environment-act-2021-environmental-targets)

## **Nature recovery green paper – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs**

Government wants to know what you think about their initial policy proposals regarding protected sites and species. Their targets are to protect 30% of land and sea by 2030, and to halt species decline by 2030.

Feedback from the consultation is intended to help put changes in place that deliver on government goals for nature restoration.

This consultation closes on 11 May 2022.

[Nature recovery green paper - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/nature-recovery-green-paper)

## **Ending the sale of new, non-zero emission buses, coaches and minibuses – Department for Transport**

The Department for Transport (DfT) is seeking feedback on proposals to progress ending the sale of new non-zero emission buses.

DfT is also launching a call for evidence on phasing out the sale of new, non-zero emission coaches and minibuses. They are inviting views on:

- the challenges of transitioning to zero emission coaches and minibuses
- what would need to be true or in place to withdraw the sale of these vehicles
- what government could do to accelerate the transition to zero emission coaches and minibuses
- setting a realistic date to end the sale of these vehicle

This consultation closes on 21 May 2022.

[Ending the sale of new, non-zero emission buses, coaches and minibuses - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ending-the-sale-of-new-non-zero-emission-buses-coaches-and-minibuses)

## **Consultation on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse – Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities**

During the passage of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 concerns were raised relating to local connection tests for domestic abuse victims who apply for social housing.

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities is seeking views on:

- Proposals to introduce regulations to enable victims of domestic abuse who need to move to another local authority district to qualify for an allocation of social housing in the new area, and;
- How local authorities are making use of the existing legislation and guidance to support victims of domestic abuse who wish to move within and across local authority boundaries.

This consultation closes on 10 May 2022.

[Consultation on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/consultation-on-local-connection-requirements-for-social-housing-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse)

## **Consultation on the impacts of joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse – Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities**

During the passage of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, concerns were raised over the current rules on joint tenancies, which mean that victims of domestic abuse who are in a joint tenancy with their abuser can be vulnerable to the threat of being made homeless by their abuser. Should the victim want to stay in the family home, there is currently no straightforward means to remove the abuser from the tenancy and remove the risk of homelessness.

The government has been considering these issues and this consultation aims to enable them to better understand the complex legal and practical issues.

The Department is seeking views on the impacts of the law on joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse in the social rented sector. They are interested in whether:

- perpetrators are using their ability to end a joint tenancy to threaten the victim with homelessness;
- victims feel trapped in their joint tenancy with the perpetrator;
- the current guidance for social landlords is sufficient to support victims in joint tenancies; and
- the law on transferring joint tenancies is functioning successfully for victims.

Government are gathering evidence from victims, landlords, the legal profession, advisory services and other organisations and individuals associated with the domestic abuse sector with an understanding of the issues impacting victims in joint social housing tenancies.

This consultation closes on 10 May 2022.

[Consultation on the impacts of joint tenancies on victims of domestic abuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/consultation-on-the-impacts-of-joint-tenancies-on-victims-of-domestic-abuse)

### **Landscapes review (National Parks and AONBs): implementing the review – Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs**

Government want to know what you think about their response to the landscapes review. Implementing some aspects of the response to the review will require changes to legislation, subject to securing parliamentary time. Government are seeking public views on support for these proposed legislative changes, and their potential effects on different groups and interests. They are also interested to hear any wider views on other aspects of our response to the review.

This consultation closes on 9 April 2022.

[Landscapes review \(National Parks and AONBs\): implementing the review - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/landscapes-review-national-parks-and-aonbs-implementing-the-review)

### **Mobility as a Service: code of practice – Department for Transport**

Government are seeking views on the content that could be included in a mobility as a service (MaaS) code of practice.

They are proposing that a MaaS code of practice could be used to:

- provide guidelines for new entrants to the market and incumbent MaaS platform providers to aid navigation around the relevant legislation
- support new businesses in the MaaS industry to make decisions in line with government goals
- encourage MaaS platform providers to include carbon data for each route offered, helping consumers choose lower carbon journeys
- provide best practice examples of MaaS solutions
- assist local authorities in developing or considering MaaS platforms to operate in their areas, developing local solutions that build on nationally agreed standards

They want to gain further evidence on the development of the content of the code of practice.

This consultation closes on 3 May 2022.

[Mobility as a Service: code of practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/mobility-as-a-service-code-of-practice)