

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

August 2019

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.

Advancing our health: prevention in the 2020s – Cabinet Office & Department of Health & Social Care

Government are seeking views on proposals to tackle the causes of preventable ill health in England. They state: “We know that our health is shaped by the environment in which we live, the choices we make, and the services we receive. We need to take action on each of these.”

This consultation closes on 14 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s>

Fuel poverty strategy for England – Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Fuel poverty is defined in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 as: a person [who] is a member of a household living on a lower income in a home which cannot be kept warm at reasonable cost.

In 2014, the government introduced in legislation a fuel poverty target for England to improve as many fuel poor homes as is reasonably practicable to a minimum energy efficiency rating of Band C, by the end of 2030.

They are looking to update the fuel poverty strategy for England. This consultation has 2 aims:

- to publish an assessment of the implementation of the 2015 fuel poverty strategy so far
- to seek views on proposals to update the fuel poverty strategy

This consultation closes on 16 September 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/fuel-poverty-strategy-for-england>

Flood and coastal erosion: call for evidence – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government is asking for evidence that can be used in developing policy on flood and coastal erosion. This will allow government to develop a policy direction that better prepares the country and manages the risks of flooding and coastal erosion. In particular, they are seeking evidence on these key issues:

- what we understand by the term “resilience”
- describing outcomes, driving action and monitoring progress
- adapting to coastal change
- corporation tax relief for business contributions
- local funding initiatives for flood risk management
- developer contributions
- managing financial risks from flooding

This consultation closes on 19 August 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flood-and-coastal-erosion-call-for-evidence>

Electric vehicle chargepoints in residential and non-residential buildings – Department for Transport

Government are proposing to:

1. Alter building regulations for new:
 - residential buildings to include requirements for electric vehicle chargepoints
 - non-residential buildings to include requirements for electric vehicle chargepoint infrastructure
2. Introduce requirement for existing non-residential buildings to have electric vehicle chargepoints

This consultation closes on 7 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/electric-vehicle-chargepoints-in-residential-and-non-residential-buildings>

Homelessness Reduction Act 2017: call for evidence – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

The Homelessness Reduction Act is the most ambitious reform to homelessness legislation in decades. It is a key lever for reducing homelessness and helping to halve rough sleeping by 2022 and ending it altogether.

This call for evidence seeks to gather evidence on:

- the impact the Act has had and the outcomes that are being achieved
- how has the Act changed the approach of local housing authorities and their partners to tackling homelessness and supporting those in need
- the experience of people approaching their local housing authority for help
- how the implementation of the Act has been resourced, including the level of new burdens funding to assist this
- what elements of the Act and processes are working well, and which might need adjustment

This consultation closes on 15 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/homelessness-reduction-act-2017-call-for-evidence>

The government states that it is committed to modernising the rented sector, and intends to introduce a new, fairer deal for both landlords and tenants.

On 15 April 2019, the government announced that it will put an end to so called ‘no-fault’ evictions by repealing section 21 of the Housing Act 1988. Under the new framework, a tenant cannot be evicted from their home without good reason. This is intended to provide tenants with more stability, protecting them from having to make frequent moves at short notice, and enabling them to put down roots and plan for the future.

The government also proposed to strengthen the section 8 eviction process, so landlords are able to regain their property should they wish to sell it or move into it themselves. This will provide a more secure legal framework and a more stable rental market for landlords to remain and invest in.

This consultation seeks views on how section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 has been used in the past, and the circumstances in which landlords should be able to regain possession once it has been abolished, including what changes may be necessary to the existing grounds for possession in Schedule 2 of the Housing Act 1988.

They are also inviting views on the implications of removing the ability of landlords to grant assured shorthold tenancies in the future, how the processing of repossession orders through the courts could be improved, and whether the reforms should be extended to other types of landlords, most notably, to housing associations.

This consultation closes on 12 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/a-new-deal-for-renting-resetting-the-balance-of-rights-and-responsibilities-between-landlords-and-tenants>

Tenancy deposit reform: a call for evidence – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

This call for evidence seeks to understand the barriers tenants face providing a second deposit when moving from one tenancy to the next. It looks at what can be done to speed up the return of deposits to tenants at the end of the tenancy.

It considers whether existing initiatives to address deposit affordability are meeting tenants' needs and whether the market can offer improved products. It also explores innovative approaches that could be taken to help tenants move more easily, including allowing tenants to passport their deposit between tenancies.

The call for evidence builds on the work of the Tenancy Deposit Protection Working Group, which has been looking at whether improvements can be made to deposit protection to the benefit of tenants and landlords.

This consultation closes on 5 September 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tenancy-deposit-reform-a-call-for-evidence>

Redress for purchasers of new build homes and the New Homes Ombudsman – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

This consultation seeks views on a New Homes Ombudsman and the detail of proposed legislation to provide better redress for purchasers of new build homes.

This includes the design and delivery of the New Homes Ombudsman, its powers, remit and how to fund it. The consultation also seeks views on whether a Code of Practice should also be underpinned in statute.

This consultation closes on 22 August 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/redress-for-purchasers-of-new-build-homes-and-the-new-homes-ombudsman>