

# GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

## July 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.*

### **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>

### **Building a safer future: proposals for reform of the building safety regulatory system – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

This consultation builds on the recommendations from Dame Judith Hackitt's Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. It proposes fundamental reform of building safety requirements so that residents are safe, and feel safe, in their homes.

The proposals span 5 broad areas:

- the scope of the new regime
- the concept of dutyholders who have clear responsibilities throughout a building's design, construction and occupation
- giving residents a stronger voice in the system and ensuring their concerns are never ignored
- plans for a new building safety regulator to provide oversight of the new building safety regulatory regime
- strengthened enforcement and sanctions to deter non-compliance with the new regime

The Home Office, alongside this document, has issued a [call for evidence](#) on the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety Order) 2005 (the 'Fire Safety Order'). This seeks views from the fire safety sector, those it regulates and enforcing authorities on the current effectiveness and application of the Fire Safety Order to provide a regulatory framework for the ongoing management of fire safety in non-domestic premises and the common parts of multi-occupied residential buildings.

This consultation closes on 31 July 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/building-a-safer-future-proposals-for-reform-of-the-building-safety-regulatory-system>

### **Inquiry into Long-Term Delivery of Social and Affordable Rented Housing – Commons Select Committee**

The Government has set a target of delivering 300,000 new homes per year by mid-2020. However only 3% of this target would be social homes built by local authorities. Housing charity Shelter has warned that over 3 million new social home would need to be built over a 20 year period to address social housing need. Amounting to 150,000 new social homes per year this is significantly higher than the Government's current plans.

The new inquiry will investigate the effectiveness of the Government's current strategies to boost social and affordable rented housing provision. This will include the adequacy of funding levels, as well as programmes and incentives for key stakeholders, such as local authorities and housing associations, to stimulate delivery.

The Committee will also look at the challenges facing different areas of the country and consider what lessons can be learnt from successful schemes in other countries.

The deadline for submissions to this inquiry is 12 July 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/housing-communities-and-local-government-committee/news/long-term-social-housing-inquiry-launch-17-19/>

### **Support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation – Mistry of Housing, Communities & Local Government**

This paper seeks views on the government's proposals for a new approach to support victims of domestic abuse and their children in accommodation-based services in England.

They are consulting on a new delivery model for accommodation-based support. This includes the introduction of a statutory duty on local authorities to provide support that meets the diverse needs of victims of domestic abuse and their children, ensuring they have access to provision that is right for them.

The government welcome views on:

- the definition of accommodation-based services and support
- leadership and responsibilities
- local and national accountability
- guidance

They would like to hear from victims and survivors, service providers, local authorities, police and crime commissioners and other public agencies, as well as other professionals who support victims and their children.

This consultation closes on 2 August 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/support-for-victims-of-domestic-abuse-in-safe-accommodation>

### **Changing Places Toilets – Ministry of Housing, Community & Local Government**

This consultation seeks views on how the government can increase provision of Changing Places toilets in specific new, large buildings commonly used by the public, as well as those undergoing building works.

The proposed approach is to introduce a mandatory requirement for Changing Places toilets in Building Regulations.

This consultation closes on 21 July 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changing-places-toilets>