

# GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

## June 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.*

### **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/>

### **Inquiry into Rural Broadband and Digital Only Services – the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee**

Broadband, mobile infrastructure and access to digital services remain a central issue for rural communities.

The EFRA Committee intends to hold a short inquiry, following up on its 2014-15 inquiry into rural broadband and digital-only services to examine the government's current proposals and delivery of digital connectivity to rural areas.

The deadline for submissions to this inquiry is 24 June 2019.

<https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2017/rural-broadband-inquiry-launch-17-19/>

### **Social Value in Government Procurement – Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport**

This consultation looks at how government should take account of social value in the award of central government contracts.

The government welcomes responses to the proposals in this consultation from suppliers to government, their representatives, public bodies and those otherwise involved in public procurement.

This consultation closes on 10 June 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/social-value-in-government-procurement>

### **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>