

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

November 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.

The Future Homes Standard: changes to Part L and Part F of the Building Regulations for new dwellings – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

This consultation sets out government plans for the Future Homes Standard, including proposed options to increase the energy efficiency requirements for new homes in 2020. The Future Homes Standard will require new build homes to be future-proofed with low carbon heating and world-leading levels of energy efficiency; it will be introduced by 2025.

This document is the first stage of a two-part consultation about proposed changes to the Building Regulations. It also covers the wider impacts of Part L for new homes, including changes to Part F (ventilation), its associated Approved Document guidance, airtightness and improving as-built performance of the constructed home.

This consultation closes on 10 January 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-future-homes-standard-changes-to-part-l-and-part-f-of-the-building-regulations-for-new-dwellings>

The planning system for electricity storage: follow up consultation – Dept for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

In January 2019 government held a consultation on the treatment of electricity storage within the planning system.

Based on the responses and evidence received, they are now running a follow up consultation on proposals to carve out electricity storage, except pumped hydro, from the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) regime in England and Wales. This new consultation contains a summary of responses and the government's response to the first consultation.

Under the proposals this type of storage would generally be consented by the relevant Local Planning Authority in England. Decisions for such projects of any size in Wales would generally fall to be consented by the relevant Local Planning Authority under the TCPA regime, whereas currently this is only the case for electricity storage (except pumped hydro) below 350MW.

The proposals outlined within this consultation apply to England and Wales only.

This consultation closes on 10 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/the-planning-system-for-electricity-storage-follow-up-consultation>

Industrial Energy Transformation Fund: finalising the design – Dept for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The £315 million Industrial Energy Transformation Fund (IETF) will support businesses with high energy use to:

- cut their bills and emissions through increased energy efficiency
- reduce their emissions by decarbonising industrial processes

This consultation seeks views to help us finalise the design of the fund. It outlines our proposals for:

- who will be eligible to apply
- which technologies we will support
- providing support for feasibility/FEED studies

- different types of funding support
- the delivery of the fund

Those interested in responding to the consultation are likely to include large businesses, SMEs, trade associations, academics, thinktanks, environmental NGOs and local government.

This consultation closes on 21 November 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/industrial-energy-transformation-fund-finalising-the-design>

Non-domestic Private Rented Sector minimum energy efficiency standards: future trajectory to 2030 – Dept for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

The government has committed to support businesses to reduce their energy use by at least 20% by 2030.

This consultation seeks views on how best to improve the energy performance of non-domestic private rented buildings through tighter minimum energy standards. Acting now to set a clear long-term trajectory to 2030 is designed to provide time and certainty to non-domestic landlords, businesses and the energy efficiency market in delivering the energy savings to support a zero-carbon future.

This consultation closes on 7 January 2020.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/non-domestic-private-rented-sector-minimum-energy-efficiency-standards-future-trajectory-to-2030>

Smart meter policy framework post 2020 – Dept for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

Government is consulting on a number of proposals to help inform the policy framework for energy suppliers to continue installing smart meters after 31 December 2020, when the current rollout duty ends. This includes proposals for changing the Smart Energy Code (SEC) to modify the way in which the Data Communications Company (DCC) charges for its services after 2020.

Additionally, they are seeking more general views on:

- the future of coordinated consumer engagement activity beyond 2020, in the context of increasing numbers of households and small businesses having smart meters
- potential future policy measures to complement any policy framework post 2020 including initiatives to ensure that consumer benefits are maintained.

This consultation closes on 11 November 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/smart-meter-policy-framework-post-2020>

Statutory guidance review for local youth services: have your say – Dept for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport has committed to review the guidance which sets out the statutory duty placed on Local Authorities to provide appropriate local services to improve young people's wellbeing.

The review is designed to highlight the positive role Local Authorities should play in the provision of youth services. It began with a series of sector-led roundtables, including the DCMS Youth Steering Group and the National Advisory Board of the National Youth Agency. About this call for evidence

They want to have an open conversation about the statutory guidance document, what is working well, and what government can do to strengthen it further. They want you to share your ideas on how government can create guidance for Local Authorities that helps them to make the best decisions around how best to provide services to young people.

They also want to hear about how this guidance can be clearer and more useful for young people and the organisations that work with them.

This consultation closes on 1 December 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/statutory-guidance-review-for-local-youth-services-have-your-say>

Review of local authority financial reporting and external audit: call for views – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

This call for views, for Sir Tony Redmond's review of local authority financial reporting and external audit, invites views, information and evidence on, in particular:

- definitions of audit and its users
- the expectation gap
- audit and wider assurance
- the governance framework
- audit product and quality
- auditor reporting
- how local authorities respond to audit findings
- the financial reporting framework

The call for views is aimed at anyone with a direct or indirect interest in local authority audit and financial reporting.

This consultation closes on 22 November 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/review-of-local-authority-financial-reporting-and-external-audit-call-for-views>