

GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION HIGHLIGHTS

October 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.

Developing a national food strategy: call for evidence – Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

Government is asking for ideas and evidence to help transform our food system. They want to hear ideas from anyone, including:

- Producers
- Practitioners
- interested citizens

They also want to hear from people in devolved administrations or abroad.

The responses will shape recommendations and actions for government to consider.

This National Food Strategy will apply to England only. The final report of the review is due in summer 2020.

This consultation closes on 25 October 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/developing-a-national-food-strategy-call-for-evidence>

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>

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>

A new deal for renting: resetting the balance of rights and responsibilities between landlords and tenants – Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

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>

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>

Proposed reforms to permitted development rights to support the deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage – MHCLG & DCMS

This consultation seeks views on the principle of amending permitted development rights for operators with rights under the Electronic Communications Code (Code Operators) to support deployment of 5G and extend mobile coverage, and the circumstances in which it would be appropriate to do so.

The consultation also seeks views on whether it is appropriate to impose specific limitations, conditions and restrictions on any amendments to permitted development rights to mitigate the impact of any new development.

This consultation closes on 4 November 2019.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/proposed-reforms-to-permitted-development-rights-to-support-the-deployment-of-5g-and-extend-mobile-coverage>

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>