

News Round-up

The latest news from CIH and across the sector

JULY 2022



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Institute of
Housing

CIH news

CIH and NHF have announced the establishment of **an independent panel** to look into the reports of poor housing conditions and quality that have emerged recently. The panel will talk to social housing residents and a broad range of people to understand how these issues have arisen and what the sector needs to do to improve housing conditions and the experience for people living in social housing. It will be led by Helen Baker, whose career has spanned housing, health, social care and education. More about the panel can be found [here](#).

CIH influencing

Gavin Smart, CIH's chief executive, recently gave evidence to the Public Bill committee on the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill. You can watch Gavin's evidence session by following this [link](#).



This follows previous oral evidence given to the Levelling up, Housing and Communities Committee on social housing regulation, by James Prestwich, director of policy and external affairs, and on exempt accommodation by Sam Lister, policy and practice officer.

[Watch](#) James give evidence. Follow Sam's evidence [here](#).

Gavin represents CIH on the government's review of professionalism. Sam Lister has recently been involved in a series of workshops run by DLUHC on exempt accommodation.

At Housing 2022, CIH and ITN Business launched the latest series of films exploring the impacts of the pandemic and other challenges on the housing sector, and how housing providers are responding in [Reinventing Homes](#).

Publications, blogs and consultation responses

CIH has launched a **series of briefings focused on the cost of living crisis** and its impacts. The first paper explores why and how the crisis is growing and the impact it is having on social housing tenants, as well as exploring what help the government is giving. Read the [first edition](#), and find out more about what's next in the series in our [news article](#).

CIH, in partnership with the NHF and Homes for Cathy, has published a **compendium of good practice for housing associations on preventing homelessness**. With examples from across England, it highlights what housing providers are doing to prevent homelessness. Read more in our [news release](#) and download the [publication](#) from our website.

The latest member exclusive **What you need to know** briefings have been published on the [Social Housing \(Regulation\) Bill](#), the [Renters Reform Bill](#), and the [White paper for a fairer private rented sector](#).

CIH was a signatory to an open letter to Therese Coffey, expressing our concerns about the managed migration of people on legacy benefits to Universal Credit, and the need for safeguards. Read our concerns and the open letter in this [article](#).

CIH's policy and practice officer, Annie Field, blogged about her visit to Midland Heart's Project 80, developing homes to the Future Homes standard that have 80 percent less carbon emissions than standard new builds. Read all about it [here](#).

Sarah Davis [wrote](#) about why CIH continues to support TCPA's Healthy Homes campaign.

The policy team submitted evidence to All Party Parliamentary Groups: on Ending Homelessness - [on progress on the government's target on rough sleeping](#) - and on Housing and care for older people - [on making retirement housing affordable and the role of shared ownership](#).

We also submitted responses to government consultations around domestic abuse, specifically [on local connection requirements for social housing for victims of domestic abuse](#) and [the impact of joint tenancies](#), and on homelessness regarding [proposed replacement legislation](#) for the Vagrancy Act.

Our consultation responses and evidence submissions are shaped by input from you, our members, so many thanks to all who gave comments and case studies. There are also more opportunities to comment on forthcoming consultations as below.



Shaping CIH consultation responses

CIH is responding to two government consultations linked to resident safety – on [Emergency Evacuation Information Sharing](#) and [electrical safety in social housing](#). We would like to incorporate member views in our response as much as possible. Please complete the surveys linked below to share your views.

- Emergency Evacuation Information Sharing – supporting disabled and mobility impaired residents in the event of a fire: <https://cih.research.net/r/EEISCIH>
- Electrical safety in the social rented sector: <https://cih.research.net/r/ElecSafetyCIH>

Please respond by 25th July.

Any further comments or questions to [Annie Field](#) or [Sarah Davis](#).

Other news from the sector

Crisis has published a report looking at the experiences of people over three years since the Homelessness Reduction Act. [A Foot in the Door: experiences of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2018-2021](#) explores some positive changes that it has brought in but also the limitations and negative experiences.

Leading sector bodies gave their responses to the government's proposals to extend the right to buy to housing associations, in which all expressed concerns about the likely loss of affordable homes at a time of housing and other costs of living crisis. CIH's response is [here](#), including links to our analysis on the impact of Right to Buy to date. See comments from [LGA](#), [NHF](#), [National Federation of ALMOs](#) and [Association of retained council housing \(ARCH\)](#).

The Housing Ombudsman has published a [podcast](#) that looks in detail at a recent repairs case concerning damp and mould to provide some learning and improvement tips for social landlords. It has also [called](#) for

housing providers to resource and respect their complaints teams after issuing more complaints handling failure orders in January to March 2022 than any previous quarter.

Statistics and data

Homes England has published its [statistics](#) on housing starts and completions for 2021-2022. Whilst overall activity was up from 2020-2021, when housebuilding was impacted by measures to manage the pandemic, the number

of affordable housing starts overall was 2 per cent lower, with social rent starts down 23 per cent down on the previous year. However, completions of affordable homes was up by 11 per cent, with social rent completions up by 62 per cent, delivering 3,077 homes compared to 1,896 completions the previous year.

The GLA have [recorded](#) 18,722 affordable home starts and 10,252 completions for the year, with 9,698 social rent starts and 3,291 completions.

