

Focus on Influencing Scotland

AUGUST 2023



Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Scotland

There are now just two weeks to go until [Scottish Housing Day](#), which takes place on Wednesday 13 September, and this year we will celebrate 'housing as a career.'

The publication of Housing to 2040, the Scottish Government's 20-year vision for housing, makes it clear that there will be increasing expectations on landlords, letting agents, housing practitioners and developers to deliver even more value for tenants and customers in the services that they provide over the coming years. But we also know that this will only be possible if we have the right skills, behaviours and people working in the housing profession.

For this year's Scottish Housing Day, we'll be discussing how we can make housing a career of choice and how we can help to establish more routes for people to join the profession. We will also be exploring what role the Scottish Government and other relevant agencies can play in communicating the value of a career in housing, as well as asking the Scottish Government to match the recent commitment made in England with regards to mandatory housing qualifications for social housing practitioners.

We know that housing education and qualifications support improved practitioner practice and tenant outcomes - an [independent report](#) commissioned by CIH Scotland and conducted by Indigo House confirms as much - and this year's Scottish Housing Day will help us make the strongest possible case for professionalism in the sector.

You can get involved in Scottish Housing Day by coming along to our [free keynote event](#) in Edinburgh, and you can also post your support on social media using the hashtag **#ScottishHousingDay**.

For more information, please visit the Scottish Housing Day [website](#).



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Influencing Our Influencing work

Meeting with MSP

National Director Callum Chomczuk met with Ariane Burgess, MSP for the Green Party and convenor of the Local Government Housing and Planning Committee. They discussed a range of CIH member priorities including the forthcoming Housing Bill, domestic abuse and the journey to net-zero.

Housing and dementia

Ashley Campbell, policy and practice manager, gave a presentation to SFHA members on the Housing and Dementia Framework. The Framework is free to use and provides organisations with a self-assessment tool to map out what they are already doing to support people living with dementia and if there are any gaps. You can find more information about the Framework [here](#).

Improving access to the PRS

CIH has begun the third strand of work on Rapid Rehousing Transition Plans (RRTPs) in partnership with Fife Council. This project focusses on how to improve access to the private rented sector (PRS) for households who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As part of the project, we have commissioned CaCHE to carry out analysis of the affordability shortfall for private tenants in receipt of benefits and how the system could be improved. A steering group has also been established to look at wider challenges in the PRS.

Rent Better

The Rent Better project, which seeks to assess the impact of recent changes such as the introduction of the Private Rented Tenancy (PRT), has entered its third and final phase. Ashley Campbell is a member of the project advisory group and attended an update meeting in August. The project is due to be complete in early summer 2024. Find out more about the project and the findings to date [here](#).



Latest from CIH

A round up of some of our latest news, policy, blogs and publications

CIH Scotland welcomes council tax proposals to boost housing supply

Responding to the consultation on council tax for second and empty homes, CIH Scotland has welcomed proposals which could bring homes back into use and raise additional funds for affordable housing.

Read more [here](#).

Consultation briefing: Enhancing the accessibility, adaptability and usability of Scotland's homes

This new member briefing provides an overview of the Scottish Government's consultation on enhancing the accessibility, adaptability and usability of Scotland's homes, which sets out proposed updates to Part 1 of the Housing for Varying Needs design guide and to building standards and guidance.

Download the briefing [here](#).

Consultation briefing: Energy Performance Certificate review

The Scottish Government is consulting on proposed changes to Energy Performance Certificates (EPCs). This latest CIH member briefing summarises the proposals.

Read the briefing [here](#).

Consultation response: Review of the regulatory framework

Read our response to the Scottish Housing Regulator's call for views on the regulatory framework.

Read the consultation response [here](#).

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