

Focus on Influencing Scotland

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Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Scotland

Housing qualifications and CPD improve practitioner practice. That is the ultimate conclusion of a new [report](#) by Indigo House, commissioned by CIH Scotland, to evaluate whether the existing mandatory continuous professional development (CPD) requirements for letting agents:

- had enhanced and professionalised practice by letting agents;
- can be further improved for letting agents and tenants; and
- signals lessons for other parts of the rented sector.

Legislation passed in 2014 ensured letting agents in Scotland became the only part of the housing sector where it is necessary to hold a relevant qualification and undertake additional training. Therefore, as we approached the first re-registration period, CIH wanted to review the impact of this requirement to consider if the policy was helpful, whether it can be amended to improve outcomes for tenants and to understand if there are lessons that could be applied across the rented sector.

As such, this [evaluation](#) provides the first authoritative examination of the regulation of letting agencies in professionalising practice and their rationale for the CPD requirements. And it sets out clearly the benefits of investing in housing qualifications and ongoing professional development to improve practitioner practice.

As such, CIH Scotland believes now is the time for the housing sector and the Scottish Government to recommit to a principle of housing education and CPD, across all tenures. If we want to meet the ambition set out in Housing to 2040, we must invest in housing professionals, giving them the skills, training and knowledge to develop a more resilient and dedicated workforce which will improve outcomes for tenants and customers and create a future in which everyone has a place to call home.



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Influencing Our Influencing work

Housing to 2040

The first meeting of the Housing to 2040 Strategic Board takes place later this month. The board will provide strategic oversight of policy development and delivery and provide advice on the development of an appropriate measurement framework to track progress. The Strategic Board will be co-chaired by the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government, Shona Robison MSP and Councillor Chalmers, COSLA Community Wellbeing Spokesperson.

Damp and Mould

CIH Scotland has been working with the Scottish Housing Regulator, ALACHO and SFHA on publishing guidance for social landlords on how to manage and address instances of damp and mould in social sector properties. This will be published in February and will be accompanied by a second paper directed at boards and committees on the issue of assurance which will be published later in the spring.

Temporary Accommodation Standards

The independently chaired Scottish Government Working Group has now come to an end. The group was established to review the advisory standards for temporary accommodation and explore options for these to be made mandatory. The group's recommendations have now been submitted to the Cabinet Secretary.

HPSG Task and Finish Group

The Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group (HPSG) has set up four task and finish groups to consider and make recommendations on different aspects of the Ending Homelessness Together (EHT) Action Plan. CIH Scotland Chair Gavin Smith is co-chairing one of the groups looking at developing a Monitoring Framework for EHT. The group will report to the Cabinet Secretary later this year.

Latest from CIH

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

What you need to know about the review of emergency cost of living legislation

This member briefing replaces an earlier version published on 13 January to reflect the publication of regulations updating the emergency Cost of Living Act.

Read the briefing [here](#).

Consultation briefing: the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan

This CIH member briefing summarises the Scottish Government's consultation on the draft Energy Strategy and Just Transition Plan.

Read the briefing [here](#).



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