

Focus on Influencing Scotland

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Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Scotland

The Scottish Government's commitment to end homelessness in Scotland is laudable and the recent proposals to introduce a prevention duty will help to change the culture around homelessness and challenge the perception that homelessness is just a housing issue. If we are to truly end homelessness in Scotland, we need everyone to be working together from housing providers to health care providers, prisons and children's services. Every contact with a person who is at risk of homelessness is an opportunity to prevent homelessness.

However, while we welcome the principles of the proposed prevention duty, our response to the Scottish Government consultation raised some concerns. For the duty to be effective, staff across different public bodies will need training to ask the right questions and take appropriate actions and this has not been addressed in the proposals. We also have concerns with the suggestion that some people may be offered 12 month tenancies. This represents an erosion of the rights of homeless households who currently have the right to permanent accommodation.

We look forward to working with the Scottish Government and COSLA as the proposals are further developed to make sure that CIH member views are reflected in the legislation.



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Influencing

Our Influencing work

Housing First Scotland

CIH Scotland director, Callum Chomczuk, chaired a keynote session at Homelessness Network Scotland's Housing First conference in Edinburgh on 31 March. The discussion focussed on the need to ensure everyone has a genuine choice of social housing and what can be done to give better support, remuneration and regard to those working in the housing sector.

Shared Understanding of Affordability

CIH Scotland has joined a Scottish Government short-life working group to reach a consensus on a shared understanding of housing affordability as set out in Housing to 2040. The group will be chaired by Professor Ken Gibb, Director and Principal Investigator of the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence and Professor of Housing Economics at the University of Glasgow and will include landlord and tenant representation. The group should report within one year.

Letting agent CPD review

As part of its review into the impact of letting agent CPD on professional practice, CIH has appointed a research consultant to take on the role and now established a sounding board to provide oversight on the project. This includes representatives from Scottish Association of Landlords, Council of Letting Agents, Landlord Accreditation Scotland, ARLA, one commercial letting agent (Homes for Good), and one RSL subsidiary letting agent (Link Group). Work is ongoing looking at existing data sets ahead of tenant and stakeholder surveys and we expect to report in the autumn.

Rent Better - improving performance in the private rented sector

The Rent Better project was commissioned by the Nationwide Foundation with the aim of assessing the impact of recent changes to private sector regulation in Scotland, particularly the introduction of the Private Residential Tenancy. The Rent Better Advisory Group, of which CIH Scotland is a member, met to consider findings of the second wave of research and consider conclusions from phase two of the project. You can find out more about the research project and access all of the publications to date [online](#).

Skills to meet net-zero

We attended a roundtable chaired by Paul McLennan MSP and organised by the Housing Safety and Wellbeing Taskforce to discuss the skills needed to deliver net-zero in the housing sector. The discussion was summed up in this [blog](#) by Ashley Campbell.

Latest from CIH

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

CIH Scotland raises concerns about limitations of Prevention Duty to stop homelessness

In our response to the Scottish Government and COSLA consultation, we welcome the principles of introducing a duty to prevent homelessness but raise some concerns about how the duty will work in practice.

Read the press release [here](#).

Read the CIH Scotland consultation response [here](#).

Read an opinion piece from Callum Chomczuk, national director of CIH Scotland [here](#)

CIH Scotland welcomes National Planning Framework 4 while calling for more Government leadership on delivery

Responding to the consultation on the draft National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4) we have asked for greater direction on delivery to meet housing needs across Scotland.

Read the press release [here](#).

Read the CIH Scotland consultation response [here](#).

Read the blog from Callum Chomczuk, national director of CIH Scotland [here](#).

We need a skilled workforce to deliver net-zero

In this blog, Aslhey Campbell, policy and practice manager at CIH Scotland summarises the discussion from a recent roundtable on the skills needed to deliver net-zero emissions in housing by 2045.

Read the blog [here](#).

CIH publishes the 30th edition of the UK Housing Review

The UK Housing review of a key resource for housing professionals, leaders and policy makers across the public and private housing sectors in the UK.

Read the press release [here](#).

Read the executive summary [here](#).

CIH responds to Homes for Ukraine scheme launch

The scheme represents a positive step in supporting refugees but CIH has raised significant concerns with implementation.

Read the response [here](#).

You can access up to date information on support for Ukrainian Refugees on our Housing Rights website [here](#).

CIH Scotland announces appointment of Indigo House to evaluate the impact of letting agent CPD

The project seeks to evaluate whether regulatory requirements for letting agents have improved practice.

Read the press release [here](#)

Read the project scope [here](#).

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