

Focus on Influencing Scotland

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Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Scotland

Last month, we celebrated Scottish Housing Day, and more specifically, housing as a career. The day was a huge success, with housing organisations, individuals and tenants across the country hosting and taking part in a number of events, as well as sharing their stories of housing professionalism via blogs and social media.

The aim of this year's event was to make the case for housing to be recognised and valued as the profession it is and the need to work collaboratively with government to ensure the structures are in place to develop the next generation of housing leaders.

Now this is a big ask but we as a sector would like the government to recognise housing as a career, to recognise the need for more pathways to bring in new talent, and to work with us to improve practice in the sector. At a special round table on Scottish Housing Day, we were delighted that Housing Minister Paul McLennan MSP, when presented with this request, responded that the Scottish Government was open to working with CIH and the rest of the sector to explore and potentially develop a workforce strategy for our profession.

We all know that despite the lack of any national strategy on recruitment, retention or talent development, Scotland's housing sector employs tens of thousands of practitioners, working in every community in the country.

Imagine the impact if we took the steps to bring in new talent in a strategic and thoughtful way, and in a way that recognised the talent and skills gap and addressed them long in advance of a labour shortage arising.

In the coming months, CIH will be working with our members on what these steps might look like and will be hosting a round table discussion in November to help to build a foundation for an agreed sector position on housing professionalism in Scotland.



Callum Chomczuk

National director, CIH Scotland
callum.chomczuk@cih.org

If you would like to discuss any aspect of this work in more detail, please get in touch, and we will continue to keep you updated on future developments.

Influencing Our Influencing work

Scottish Housing Day

This year Scottish Housing Day took place on 13 September and focussed on supporting careers and professionalism in housing. To mark the day, we hosted a special event at the Wheatley Academy in Edinburgh which was attended by Housing Minister Paul McLennan MSP. We are now following up by drafting a Workforce Development Plan for the sector – help us by sharing your views with this short [online survey](#).

HPSG Measuring Impact Task and Finish Group

CIH Scotland Chair Gavin Smith has been co-chairing a task and finish group established by the Homelessness Prevention Strategy Group (HPSG) to make recommendations on a new framework to measure progress of the Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan. The draft report is awaiting final sign off from the group later this month so look out for a new publication soon.

Housing Bill

The Scottish Government has launched a new consultation on the rented sector aspects of the Housing Bill. It is aimed at tenants and practitioners and will remain open until 27 October. You can access the consultation [here](#) and Crisis and Living Rent have teamed up to produce a [“Plain English” version](#) to help tenants respond – please feel free to share.

Latest from CIH

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

CIH Scotland welcomes new Fund to Leave for victims of domestic abuse

Scotland's First Minister Humza Yousaf MSP has announced a £500,000 fund to help women fleeing domestic abuse. Speaking at the SNP conference in Aberdeen, the First Minister set out details of the new Fund to Leave which will be piloted in Glasgow, South Lanarkshire, Edinburgh, North Lanarkshire and Fife. It will be distributed by Women's Aid and provide up to £1,000 per household to help cover the cost of essentials such as rent and clothing. Read more [here](#).

CIH Scotland appoints four new Board members

CIH Scotland has announced the appointment of four new Board members. Angela Currie, chief executive of Hanover Scotland, Kenny Gillespie, head of housing at Falkirk Council, Shelley Hutton, head of external communications at Places for People, and Craig Sanderson, former chief executive of Link Housing, have joined the Scotland Board following the AGM earlier this month. Read more [here](#).

CIH Scotland responds to consultation on EPC reform

CIH Scotland has submitted a response to the Scottish Government consultation on reforms to domestic and non-domestic EPCs. While EPCs are widely recognised by the public, there is strong support for reforming them and the response welcomes the proposed aim of reviewing EPCs to provide more useful and accurate information for residents and potential residents. Read the consultation response [here](#).

CIH Scotland calls for government to set out ambition for Housing and Human Rights Bill

CIH Scotland has called for the Scottish Government to start the process of defining minimum core obligations (MCOs) for the housing sector ahead of bringing forward any legislation on human rights. In our response to the Scottish Government Human Rights Bill consultation, CIH Scotland noted support for the legislation but that said that its success was dependent on agreement of and resourcing of MCOs. Read more [here](#). Read our consultation response [here](#).



T: **0131 225 4544**

E: scotland@cih.org

W: www.cih.org/scotland