

## Recent Housing Developments

[Andy Lane](#) has delved into his twitter account to remind himself (and you) of some of the issues facing the Housing Sector in the last 3 months...

### **Allocation**

A House of Commons Library Briefing Paper has been produced on '[EEA migrants: access to social housing \(England\)](#)'

### **Anti-social Behaviour**

Salford City Council are to [respond](#) to Liberty privately about concerns on the PSPO introduced to stop foul and abusive language

Effective use of community protection notices was [demonstrated in Leeds](#) in early April in relation to a garden

### **Council Tax**

The New Policy Institute report on '[Key Changes to Council Tax Support in 2016/17](#)', commissioned by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, was published on 5 April 2016

### **Courts**

The Ministry of Justice has reached its decision on [court closures](#).

The Judicial Executive Board is [consulting](#) on 'Reforming the courts' approach to McKenzie Friends'.

On 21 March 2016 there were [fee increases](#) for possession claims, applications made by consent and general applications (with or without notice)

[Fee increases](#) have been introduced in respect of the Court of Appeal and Upper Tribunal (Lands Chamber)

### **Homelessness**

The Supreme Court has granted permission to appeal in [Poshteh v Kensington & Chelsea RLB](#)

The DCLG has produced its [2015 \(final quarter\) homelessness statistical release](#)

The House of Commons Library have produced a '[Households in temporary accommodation \(England\)](#)' briefing paper

An expert panel of council members, lawyers and housing experts – convened by Crisis - has published its [final proposals](#) for a new English law aimed at making sure all homeless people can get the help they need

### **Housing & Planning Bill 2015-16**

As this nears the end of its Parliamentary run progress can be followed at [this Parliamentary website](#).

### **Licensing**

There was a [good example](#) of selective licensing's primary purpose in Gateshead in March 2016

Interesting use of a [criminal behaviour order](#) against a private landlord poorly managing his properties.

### **Notices**

New [s8 \(notice seeking possession\) and s13 \(rent increase\) notices](#) in force in England from 6 April 2016

### **Pay to Stay**

The Government has responded to the 'Pay to stay' [consultation](#).

### **Possession**

The Ministry of Justice produces its ['Mortgage and Landlord Possession Statistics Quarterly, England and Wales'](#) for the October to December 2015 period.

[Senior Master Practice Note](#) on applications for transfers to the High Court for the enforcement of possession orders

### **Private Rented Sector**

The DCLG have produced a [model PRS assured shorthold tenancy agreement and guidance](#).

The House of Commons Library have produced a briefing paper on ['Dealing with infestations in privately rented property in England'](#).

The Home Office has published an updated [Code of Practice](#) on the right to rent.

The Home Office have issued [revised guidance](#) on right to rent checks.

### **Rent**

The DWP have issued [updated guidance](#) for local authorities administering discretionary housing payments.

The Economic & Social Research Council has produced an [evidence briefing](#) on 'Rents in social housing: the trade offs'.

1% social rent reduction [regulations](#) in force on 1 April 2016

The National Housing Federation have produced a revised [briefing](#) on housing associations implementing the 1% rent cut introduced by the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 with effect from 2016/17

### **Right to Buy**

The Communities and Local Government Select Committee produced a report in February 2016 on ['Housing Associations and the Right to Buy'](#).

### **Shared Ownership**

The Homes & Communities Agency has issued its [Shared Ownership and Affordable Homes Programme 2016 to 2021](#)

### **Social Housing Fraud**

On 23 March 2016 the DCLG produced [‘The local government counter fraud and corruption strategy 2016-2019’](#)

[Social housing fraud](#) was successfully prosecuted at Inner London Crown Court

### **Succession**

A [briefing paper](#) was produced by the Housing of Commons Library on 17 March 2016 on ‘Succession rights and social housing (England)’

### **Miscellaneous**

The DCLG produces its [Headline Report](#) on the English Housing Survey.

The Law Commission has launched a [consultation](#) on updating the Land Registration Act 2002

London & Quadrant Housing Trust, The Hyde Group and East Thames have entered into [merger talks](#)

The London Borough of Camden set up [“Camden Living”](#) to provide ‘intermediate’ rental housing for residents who cannot afford private rents but do not qualify for the housing register

The [Private Housing \(Tenancies\)\(Scotland\) Bill 2015](#) received royal assent on 22 April 2016

A [briefing note](#) from the House of Commons Library was issued on 26 April 2016 on new forms of service delivery being implemented by local authorities

**Andrew Lane**

Barrister

Cornerstone Barristers