

## Recent Housing Developments

[Andy Lane](#) looks at some of the issues facing the Housing Sector in the last 3 months...

### Anti-Social Behaviour

A look into the [Troubled Families Programme](#).

### Benefits

On 30 December 2016 the Commons Library produced a note on the [local housing allowance](#).

### Council Tax

The DCLG has published its latest Local Government Finance [Statistical Release](#) (with one on [social housing lettings](#) being produced on 10 November 2016, [affordable housing supply](#) on 17 November 2016 and on [right to buy sales and receipts](#) on 8 December 2016).

### Courts

A new [structure](#) for tribunals in Scotland came into effect on December 1 2016 with the launch of a Housing and Property Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal for Scotland.

A new [N325A](#) "Request for Warrant for Possession of Land following a Suspended Order for Possession" was produced In December 2016.

HM Courts and Tribunal Service have released their latest [court implementation dates](#).

### Equality

The Commons Library has produced a [briefing](#) providing an overview of Disabled Facilities Grants and other help aimed at securing essential home adaptations.

### Homelessness

In December 2016 a [House of Commons Briefing Paper](#) provided background information on the increase in the number of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation by English local authorities and outlined various initiatives and issues associated with the increased use of temporary accommodation.

The Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016/17 has passed its [Commons passage](#) and is now in the House of Lords. This the [form](#) of the Bill going to the Lords.

## HMOs

On 30 November 2016 DJ Pilling sitting at St Albans Magistrates' Court applied [guidance](#) for breaches of HMO Regulations with regard to fire safety.

## Housing

A House of Commons Library [briefing paper](#) in November 2016 explained the current statutory overcrowding standard in England, efforts to update the standard, and Government approaches to tackling the problem.

House of Commons briefing on [affordable housing](#) published in November 2016.

In November 2016 the DCLG & DWP announced a joint consultation on [funding for supported housing](#).

The Chancellor's 2016 [Autumn Statement](#) announced a new £2.3 billion Housing Infrastructure Fund to deliver infrastructure for up to 100,000 new homes in areas of high demand, a further £1.4 billion to deliver 40,000 additional affordable homes, a relaxation of restrictions on government grant to allow a wider range of housing-types, a large-scale regional pilot of Right to Buy for Housing Association tenants and continued support for home ownership through the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme and the Help to Buy ISA.

On 23 December 2016 the DCLG [announced](#) a new annual fund to help almost 150 councils tackle the problem of high levels of second homeownership in their communities.

In December 2016 the Work and Pensions Committee and the Communities and Local Government Committee launched a joint [inquiry](#) into the Government's funding reform for supported housing.

The DCLG has announced that 2017 will see the first [starter homes](#) being built on brownfield sites for first-time buyers between 23 and 40 years at a discount of at least 20% below market value.

The Commons Library has produced a [briefing paper](#) on tackling the under-supply of housing in England.

The Communities & Local Government Select Committee have launched an [inquiry](#) into whether the housing on offer in England for older people is sufficiently available and suitable for their needs.

The [inquiry](#) by the Communities & Local Government Select Committee into the capacity of the housebuilding industry to meet demand for new homes is hearing oral evidence.

## Housing and Planning Act 2016

In November 2016 the Housing Minister announced that the government would fund an expanded voluntary right to buy pilot and that local authorities would not have to pay the high value asset levy in 2017/18, as well as stopping plans for mandatory pay to stay.

The DCLG announced a [consultation](#) from 13 December 2016 to 10 February 2017 on which offences should be regarded as banning order offences under the Housing and Planning Act 2016.

[Research](#) into the voluntary right to buy pilot programme has been produced.

[Regulations](#) have been made bringing further parts of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 into force.

#### **Notices**

New assured tenancy [NSP](#) from 1 December 2016 to reflect the new ground 7B, introduced by s41 of the Immigration Act 2016.

#### **Planning**

The Local Government Association produced a [briefing](#) on the Neighbourhood Planning Bill's Second Reading in the House of Lords.

#### **Regulation**

On 25 November 2016 the HCA announced a [consultation](#) on introducing a fee-charging scheme for the regulation of private registered providers of social housing.

A [review](#) into the HCA concludes that its regulatory function will be separated into a new non-departmental public body.

The HCA appointed a new chief executive in December 2016 - [Nick Walkley](#).

The HCA has produced its [list](#) of registered providers as at 1 February 2017.

#### **Miscellaneous**

A House of Commons [briefing](#) was produced in December 2016 on the Crown Tenancies Bill.

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