

Focus on Influencing Scotland

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Chartered
Institute of
Housing
Scotland

In its latest [Programme for Government](#), published on 6 September 2022, the Scottish Government outlined its intention to introduce emergency legislation to put in place a rent freeze for both social and private tenants until at least 31 March 2023 and a moratorium on evictions, as well as a new tenants' rights campaign, to help mitigate some of the impacts of the cost of living crisis.

The cost of living crisis is affecting people across Scotland and risks significant increases in poverty. However, while the freeze on rents will be welcomed by many tenants, this cannot be a long-term solution to the current crisis, and the Scottish Government must ensure that sufficient financial support is available to avoid catastrophic increases in rent arrears and mitigate any unintended consequences while evictions are suspended.

In the social rented sector, landlords reported the [highest level of rent arrears](#) since the introduction of the Scottish Social Housing Charter, currently just under £170 million. Social landlords rely on rental income to fund new affordable homes, maintain and improve existing homes, and provide vital services to tenants. If the sector is to continue to meet its social purpose, it must have financial certainty.

We understand that the Scottish Government is limited in what it can commit to before the UK Government announces its support package. In the emergency budget, and longer term, we are calling for a greater commitment to delivering affordable homes and further investment in upgrading existing homes to reduce energy demand and meet net-zero ambitions.

The forthcoming Housing Bill should be used to create longer-term security for tenants and ensure that routes to redress such as the First Tier Tribunal are streamlined, providing quick and simple adjudication on cases such as rent increases, and providing greater certainty for landlords and tenants.



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Influencing Our Influencing work

National Housing and Dementia Forum

The National Housing and Dementia Forum report, [Living well at home: Housing and dementia in Scotland](#), was launched at a special event with Kevin Stewart MSP, minister for mental wellbeing and social care, kindly hosted by Hanover Scotland and the residents of Varis Court in Forres. The Minister welcomed the report and confirmed that the Scottish Government will be revising the national Dementia Strategy.



Temporary accommodation standards

The seventh meeting of the Scottish Government's Temporary Accommodation Standards Framework working group, independently chaired by Jim Hayton, took place in August. The Group has been tasked with reviewing the advisory standards for temporary accommodation currently set out in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance](#), with a view to introducing legally enforceable standards for temporary accommodation.

Housing for ageing for 2040+

CIH Scotland has been invited to join the steering group for a new research partnership between INCH Architecture & Design and Hanover (Scotland) housing association. The two year project will develop a new digital tool to help older residents to live safely and independently at home. The tool will be developed alongside, and will inform, a pilot programme of building fabric improvement works to help meet net-zero targets in housing. Find out more about the project [here](#).

Domestic abuse implementation and monitoring group

CIH Scotland continues to contribute to the Scottish Government's 2 year working group on implementing and monitoring the recommendations for improving housing outcomes for women and children experiencing domestic abuse. It is hoped that statutory guidance on the domestic abuse legislation passed in March 2021 will be available in early 2023.

Rented sector round table

CIH Scotland took part in a roundtable on the rented sector strategy with the Tenants' Rights minister Patrick Harvie MSP. We discussed our concerns about a system of rent controls and the evidence from the Rent Better study that rent increases often do not occur within tenancies in the PRS. We also discussed the need to improve clarity over the rights and responsibilities of landlords and tenants and how ongoing CPD can play a role in improving practitioner professionalism and housing outcomes.

Latest from CIH

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

Scottish Housing Day 2022 marked with release of new report on housing sustainability

A high level of housing standard that meets our economic, social and environmental ambitions as a country is essential if we want a housing system that is truly sustainable, a new report has concluded to celebrate the 7th annual Scottish Housing Day. The report sets out the case for new, more ambitious cross-tenure housing standards but also notes the need for government to have a key role in funding these new higher standards.

Read more [here](#). Download the report [here](#).

What you need to know about the Programme for Government

This member exclusive briefing summarises the measures set out in the Scottish Government's [Programme for Government 2022-23](#).

CIH Scotland calls for housing to be key partner in developing the National Care Service

Responding to a call for evidence from the Scottish Parliament's Health, Social Care and Sport Committee on the development of new National Care Service, CIH Scotland has raised some concerns with the lack of detail set out in the Bill about the role of housing in the new NCS and local Care Boards.

Read more [here](#). Download the response [here](#).

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