

## Consultations and Publications Sept 2010

### New consultations

Title .....	<b>Public consultation: The Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2010</b>
Outline .....	The Social Security Advisory Committee (SSAC) has been asked by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to consider proposals for the Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2010, and the associated amendments to the Rent Officers (Housing Benefit Functions Order) 2010.  Before the Committee considers and reports on these proposals, it would like to hear from organisations and individuals who have views. Those wishing to make representations to the Committee may obtain a copy of the Department's explanatory memorandum, and a copy of the draft regulations from the SSAC website: <a href="http://www.ssac.org.uk">www.ssac.org.uk</a> , or from the Secretary to the Committee, Gill Saunders (0207 962 8345). Representations should be sent to the Committee at N E Spur, Level 3, Adelphi Building, 1-11 John Adam Street, London WC2N 6HT or by email to <a href="mailto:ssac@dwpgsi.gov.uk">ssac@dwpgsi.gov.uk</a> , or via the consultation response facility on the website, to arrive no later than 10 September 2010.  <b>Please note that this consultation exercise has no connection with the Work and Pensions Committee's enquiry into the impact of these Housing Benefit changes that was announced on 27 July 2010.</b>
Links to further papers	<a href="http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&amp;source=web&amp;cd=1&amp;ved=OCBqQFjAA&amp;url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dwp.gov.uk%2Fnewsroom%2Fpress-releases%2F2010%2Faug-2010%2Fdwp105-10-100810.shtml&amp;ei=h9d_TO_nlMrm4gb9qsnwCw&amp;usq=AFQjCNEFV3UMtGxQfTakLWfMgdoolLBWhdVA">http://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=t&amp;source=web&amp;cd=1&amp;ved=OCBqQFjAA&amp;url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dwp.gov.uk%2Fnewsroom%2Fpress-releases%2F2010%2Faug-2010%2Fdwp105-10-100810.shtml&amp;ei=h9d_TO_nlMrm4gb9qsnwCw&amp;usq=AFQjCNEFV3UMtGxQfTakLWfMgdoolLBWhdVA</a>
Website: .....	<a href="http://www.dwp.gov.uk">www.dwp.gov.uk</a>
Date published .....	10 August 2010
Closing date for consultation .....	10 Sept 2010

Title .....	<b>Commission for Rural Communities: Contributing to the Big Society - Call for evidence</b>
Outline .....	This Commission for Rural Communities call for evidence seeks views from rural communities and organisations that have already embraced the Big Society approach to identifying and tackling their needs. It will inform a report about the effect of the economic climate and current and planned changes in public spending on civic society organisations working with rural communities.
Web link .....	<a href="http://ruralcommunities.gov.uk/2010/08/06/big-society/">http://ruralcommunities.gov.uk/2010/08/06/big-society/</a>
Date published .....	6 August 2010
Closing date for consultation .....	13 September 2010

Title .....	<b>Grant Shapps: 'freedom pass' for tenants trapped in unsuitable homes</b>
Outline .....	Housing Minister Grant Shapps has today put the eight million tenants in social housing in England firmly in control of where they live and their life opportunities, with a new 'freedom pass' to move home for work, to be closer to family or for any other reason. The Minister has pledged to introduce a new National Affordable Home Swap Scheme. For the first time this will give tenants the chance to see details of every council and housing association tenant looking to exchange homes - not just in their area but across the country.  Tenants wanting to move can face an uphill battle, pitting themselves against the record numbers of families on social housing waiting lists. They see swapping homes as their only means of escaping properties that no longer meet their needs. Sometimes it can simply be in the wrong place for their job or prospective work or tenants might just need to move to support an elderly relative for example. This has meant that in 2008, less than a quarter of new lettings were given to existing tenants - leaving others trapped in accommodation and unable to take up opportunities to improve their lives.  Current house-swap schemes are patchy in nature, but the National Home Swap Scheme will be open to all eight million tenants in social housing in England. The new comprehensive system will help to address the contradictory current situation where over a quarter-of-a-million households live in overcrowded accommodation while a further 430,000 households are unable to easily downsize from larger properties they no longer need. This means that the nation's stock of affordable homes are inefficiently used and means a loss of opportunity for tenants.  The Minister also announced that he will work with two London landlords to explore whether they can offer a new 'Right to Move' for tenants. The London Boroughs of Kensington and Chelsea and Hammersmith and Fulham will look at whether they can develop a scheme under which some of their tenants could ask their landlord to find them a home in the area they want to live. But Mr Shapps also made clear that if he doesn't see improvements in help for tenants to move, he will take tough action to make it happen - including a 'Right to Move' for tenants in law.  This approach is backed by a new report commissioned by Mr Shapps in 2009 and published today by the NHF.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=289&amp;mid=2076&amp;ctl=Details&amp;ArticleID=317">www.housing.org.uk/default.aspx?tabid=289&amp;mid=2076&amp;ctl=Details&amp;ArticleID=317</a>
Date published .....	4 August 2010
Invitation to respond (?) .....	Any comments on this Freedom Pass for council and housing association tenants should be sent to <a href="mailto:mobility@communities.gsi.gov.uk">mobility@communities.gsi.gov.uk</a>

## New publications

Title .....	<b>Sanctuary Schemes</b> for Households at Risk of Domestic Violence: Practice guide for agencies developing and delivering sanctuary schemes
Outline .....	This CLG guide highlights the transferable lessons from an evaluation of Sanctuary Schemes. It is aimed at local-level practitioners to develop strategies to prevent homelessness and provide support for households at risk of domestic violence
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/sancturyschemesguide">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/sancturyschemesguide</a>
Date published.....	26 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Homelessness Prevention and Relief: England 2009-10</b>
Outline .....	This annual release presents experimental official statistics on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the homelessness statutory framework in 2009-10. It includes action taken by authorities and partner organisations to enable households to remain in their own home and to assist households in obtaining alternative accommodation.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200910">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200910</a>
Date published.....	26 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Code for Sustainable Homes: June quarter 2010</b>
Outline .....	This page links to the latest official statistics on the Code for Sustainable Homes and Average Energy Efficiency (SAP ratings). The statistics show the number of dwellings that have been certified to the standards set out in the Code Technical Guide.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/codesustainablesapq22010">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/codesustainablesapq22010</a>
Date published.....	20 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Local Authority Non-decent Homes: Provisional estimates 2009-10</b>
Outline .....	These are the provisional statistics on local authority owned non-decent homes in England for 2009-10.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/bpsanondecenthomes0910">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/bpsanondecenthomes0910</a>
Date published.....	26 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Housing and Planning Key Facts: August 2010</b>
Outline .....	This quick reference leaflet is published quarterly and contains a snapshot of the main housing and planning data. Detailed housing and planning data may be found in the live tables.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/keyfactsaugust2010">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/keyfactsaugust2010</a>
Date published.....	20 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Homes and Communities Agency: Housing market research</b>
Outline .....	This page links to Homes and Communities Agency reports analysing trends in the housing market, the economy and the house building industry. The July 2010 Housing Market Bulletin has been added. The Housing Market Bulletin provides the latest information on the housing market, the economy and the housebuilding industry. The information is drawn from several different sources. It includes: House price changes from the top house price indices including Nationwide, Halifax, the Land Registry and Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) Housing market forecasts Housing starts and completions as reported by Communities and Local Government and updates on key housebuilders Mortgage trends and overall economy information
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing_market_research">http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing_market_research</a>
Date published.....	19 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Supporting People Quarterly Client Records and Outcomes: April - June 2010</b>
Outline .....	This CLG statistical release provides general information about the characteristics and outcomes of people entering and leaving Supporting People services.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/supportingpeopleq12010">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/supportingpeopleq12010</a>
Date published.....	13 August 2010
Title .....	<b>Mortgage Rescue Scheme Monitoring Statistics: June quarter 2010</b>
Outline .....	These CLG statistics give information on the number of households approaching local authorities with mortgage difficulties and households applying and accepted for the scheme.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatisticsq22010">http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/mortgagerescuestatisticsq22010</a>
Date published.....	12 August 2010

Title .....	<b>More local homes means more rewards</b>
Outline .....	Local communities that build more local homes will be rewarded by getting more funding to use in their local area on things they consider to be a priority. Communities will be able to use their reward for going for growth on whatever they wish locally, such as council tax discounts for residents or facilities like playgrounds. The New Homes Bonus, to be introduced early in the Spending Review period, will mean more homes built where they are needed and is intended to reverse the decline in the number of homes being built, currently languishing at its lowest peacetime level for 80 years.
.....	The Minister confirmed that councils who take action now to give planning consent and support the construction of new homes where they are needed and wanted will receive direct and substantial benefit for their actions.
.....	Mr Shapps urged councils to open up an honest and direct debate with the communities they serve about the benefits of building new homes in their area - how they can reap the benefits of development and not just the costs.
.....	Grant Shapps said: "We will not tell communities how or where they should grow. But the new Homes Bonus will ensure that those communities that go for growth reap the benefits of development, not just the costs. "With housebuilding at its lowest peacetime levels for over 80 years action is needed now to build the homes the country needs. That's why these new powerful incentives to build will be introduced early in the Spending Review period. And it's why I have confirmed that those councils who go for growth now will reap the rewards. So I urge councils to seize the moment and open up a debate with their communities now about the new homes they need and how they would use the new Bonus."
.....	The Government wants to hear the views of councils, communities and industry as it finalises the scheme. A consultation paper on the final scheme will be published following the spending review.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk">www.communities.gov.uk</a>
Date published.....	9 August 2010

Title .....	<b>Housing Pledge Funding</b>
Outline .....	This CLG page links to updated financial information about the Housing Pledge funding elements announced by the previous administration and the review of its affordability by the government.
Web link .....	<a href="http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2010/1660791/">http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/foi/disclosure-log/disclosurelog2010/1660791/</a>
Date published.....	14 July 2010