



Regulator of  
Social Housing

Annex 1

Proposed consumer standards

# Safety and Quality Standard

Consumer standards

2023



# 1. Required outcomes

## 1.1 Stock quality

- 1.1.1 Registered providers must have an accurate, up to date and evidenced understanding of the condition of their homes that reliably informs their provision of good quality, well maintained and safe homes for tenants<sup>1</sup>.

## 1.2 Decency

- 1.2.1 Registered providers must ensure that tenants' homes meet the standard set out in section five of the Government's Decent Homes Guidance and continue to maintain their homes to at least this standard unless exempted by the regulator.<sup>2</sup>

## 1.3 Health and safety

- 1.3.1 When acting as landlords, registered providers must take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of tenants in their homes and associated communal areas.

## 1.4 Repairs, maintenance and planned improvements

- 1.4.1 Registered providers must provide an effective, efficient and timely repairs, maintenance and planned improvements service for the homes and communal areas for which they are responsible.

## 1.5 Adaptations

- 1.5.1 Registered providers must assist tenants seeking housing adaptations to access appropriate services.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout the consumer standards 'tenants' means tenants and other occupiers of social housing which includes licensees and shared owners (unless explicitly stated).

<sup>2</sup> Section 197 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 Act gives the Secretary of State the power to direct the Regulator of Social Housing in relation to certain matters. Requirements set out in blue text reflect matters on which government has issued a direction to the regulator.

## 2. Specific expectations

### 2.1 Stock quality

- 2.1.1 Registered providers must have an accurate record at an individual property level of the condition of their stock, based on a physical assessment of all homes and keep this up to date.
- 2.1.2 Registered providers must use data from across their records on stock condition to inform their provision of good quality, well maintained and safe homes for tenants including:
  - a) Compliance with health and safety legal requirements
  - b) Compliance with the Decent Homes Standard
  - c) Delivery of repairs, maintenance and planned improvements to stock
  - d) Allocating homes with adaptations appropriately.

### 2.2 Health and safety

- 2.2.1 Registered providers must identify and meet all legal requirements that relate to the health and safety of tenants in their homes and communal areas.
- 2.2.2 Registered providers must ensure that all required actions arising from legally required health and safety assessments are carried out within appropriate timescales.
- 2.2.3 Registered providers must ensure that the safety of tenants is considered in the design and delivery of landlord services and take reasonable steps to mitigate any identified risks to tenants.

### 2.3 Repairs, maintenance and planned improvements

- 2.3.1 Registered providers must enable repairs and maintenance issues to be reported easily.
- 2.3.2 Registered providers must set timescales for the completion of repairs, maintenance and planned improvements, clearly communicate them to tenants and take appropriate steps to deliver to them.
- 2.3.3 Registered providers must keep tenants informed about repairs, maintenance and planned improvements to their homes with clear and timely communication.
- 2.3.4 Registered providers must understand and fulfil their maintenance responsibilities in respect of communal areas.

2.3.5 Registered providers must ensure that the delivery of repairs, maintenance and planned improvements to homes and communal areas is informed by the needs of tenants and provides value for money, in addition to the requirement at 2.1.2.

## **2.4 Adaptations**

2.4.1 Registered providers must clearly communicate to tenants and relevant organisations how they will assist tenants seeking housing adaptations services.

2.4.2 Registered providers must co-operate with tenants, appropriate local authority departments and other relevant organisations so that a housing adaptations service is provided to tenants.

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# Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard

Consumer standards

2023



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# 1. Required outcomes

## 1.1 Fairness and respect

1.1.1 Registered providers must treat all tenants<sup>3</sup> with fairness and respect.

## 1.2 Diverse needs

1.2.1 Registered providers must take action to deliver fair access to, and equitable outcomes of, housing and landlord services for all tenants.

## 1.3 Engagement with tenants

1.3.1 [Registered providers must take tenants' views into account in their decision-making about how landlord services are delivered.](#)

## 1.4 Information about landlord services

1.4.1 Registered providers must communicate with tenants and provide information so tenants can use landlord services, understand what to expect from their landlord, and hold their landlord to account.

## 1.5 Performance information

1.5.1 Registered providers must collect and provide information to support effective scrutiny by tenants of their landlord's performance in delivering landlord services.

## 1.6 Complaints

1.6.1 Registered providers must ensure complaints are addressed fairly, effectively, and promptly.

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<sup>3</sup> Throughout the consumer standards 'tenants' means tenants and other occupiers of social housing which includes licensees and shared owners (unless explicitly stated).

## 2. Specific expectations

### 2.1 Diverse needs

2.1.1 Registered providers must use relevant information and data to:

- a) understand the diverse needs of tenants, including those arising from protected characteristics, language barriers, and additional support needs; and
- b) assess whether all tenants have fair access to, and equitable outcomes of, housing and landlord services.

2.1.2 Registered providers must ensure that communication with and information for tenants is clear, accessible, relevant, timely and appropriate to the diverse needs of tenants.

2.1.3 Registered providers must ensure that landlord services are accessible, and that the accessibility is publicised to tenants. This includes supporting tenants and prospective tenants to use online landlord services if required.

2.1.4 Registered providers must allow tenants and prospective tenants to be supported by a representative or advocate in interactions about landlord services.

### 2.2 Engagement with tenants

2.2.1 Registered providers must [give tenants a wide range of meaningful opportunities to influence and scrutinise their landlord's strategies, policies and services. This includes in relation to the neighbourhood where applicable.](#)

2.2.2 Registered providers must [assist tenants who wish to implement tenant-led activities to influence and scrutinise their landlord's strategies, policies and services. This includes in relation to the neighbourhood where applicable.](#)

2.2.3 Registered providers must [provide accessible support that meets the diverse needs of tenants so they can engage with the opportunities in 2.2.1 and 2.2.2.](#)

2.2.4 Registered providers must [support tenants to exercise their Right to Manage, Right to Transfer or otherwise exercise housing management functions, where appropriate.](#)

2.2.5 Registered providers, working with tenants, must regularly consider ways to improve and tailor their approach to delivering landlord services including tenant engagement. They must implement changes as appropriate to ensure services deliver the intended aims.

2.2.6 Where a registered provider is considering a change in landlord for one or more tenants, or a significant change in management arrangements, it must consult affected tenants on its proposals at a formative stage and take those views into account in reaching a decision. The consultation must:

- a) be fair and accessible
- b) provide tenants with adequate time, information and opportunities to consider and respond
- c) set out actual or potential advantages and disadvantages (including costs) to tenants in the immediate and longer term
- d) demonstrate to affected tenants how the consultation responses have been taken into account in reaching a decision.

## **2.3 Information about landlord services**

2.3.1. Registered providers must provide tenants with information about the:

- a) available landlord services, how to access those services, and the standards of service tenants can expect
- b) standards of safety and quality tenants can expect homes and communal areas to meet
- c) rents and service charges that are payable by tenants
- d) responsibilities of the registered provider and the tenant for maintaining homes, communal areas, shared spaces<sup>4</sup> and neighbourhoods.

2.3.2 Registered providers must communicate with affected tenants on progress, next steps and outcomes when delivering landlord services.

2.3.3 Registered providers' housing and neighbourhood policies must be fair, reasonable, accessible and transparent. Where relevant, policies should set out decision-making criteria and appeals processes.

2.3.4 Registered providers must make information available to tenants about the relevant roles and responsibilities of senior level employees or officers, including who has responsibility for compliance with the consumer standards.

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<sup>4</sup> 'Shared spaces' are those spaces used by tenants that are not the responsibility of the landlord, as opposed to communal areas where landlords have direct responsibilities for ensuring their safety and maintenance.



## **2.4 Performance information**

- 2.4.1 Registered providers must meet the regulator's requirements in relation to the tenant satisfaction measures set by the regulator as set out in Tenant Satisfaction Measures: Technical requirements and Tenant Satisfaction Measures: Tenant survey requirements.
- 2.4.2 Registered providers must:
- a) collect and process information specified by the regulator relating to their performance against the tenant satisfaction measures. The information must be collected within a timeframe set by the regulator and must meet the regulator's requirements in Tenant Satisfaction Measures: Technical requirements and Tenant Satisfaction Measures: Tenant survey requirements
  - b) annually publish their performance against the tenant satisfaction measures. This should include information about how they have met the regulator's requirements set out in Tenant Satisfaction Measures: Technical requirements and Tenant Satisfaction Measures: Tenant survey requirements. This information must be published in a manner that is timely, clear, and easily accessed by tenants; and
  - c) annually submit to the regulator information specified by the regulator relating to their performance against those measures. The information must be submitted within a timeframe and in a form determined by the regulator.
- 2.4.3 In meeting 2.4.1 and 2.4.2 above, registered providers must ensure that the information is an accurate, reliable, valid, and transparent reflection of their performance against the tenant satisfaction measures.
- 2.4.4 Registered providers must provide tenants with information about:
- a) how they are performing in delivering landlord services and what actions they will take to improve performance where required
  - b) how they have taken tenants' views into account to improve landlord services, information and communication
  - c) how income is being spent
  - d) their directors' remuneration and management costs.

## **2.5 Complaints**

- 2.5.1 Registered providers must ensure their approach to handling complaints is simple and accessible.
- 2.5.2 Registered providers must publicise their complaints process and what tenants can do if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint or how a complaint was handled.
- 2.5.3 Registered providers must provide tenants with information about the type of complaints received and how they have learnt from complaints to continuously improve services.

## **2.6 Self-referral**

- 2.6.1 Registered providers must communicate in a timely manner with the regulator on all material issues that relate to non-compliance or potential non-compliance with the consumer standards.

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# Neighbourhood and Community Standard

Consumer standards

2023



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# 1. Required outcomes

## 1.1 Maintenance of shared spaces

1.1.1 Registered providers must work co-operatively with tenants<sup>5</sup>, other landlords and relevant organisations to contribute to the upkeep and safety of shared spaces<sup>6</sup> associated with their homes.

## 1.2 Local cooperation

1.2.1 Registered providers must co-operate with relevant partners to promote social, environmental and economic wellbeing in the areas where they provide social housing.

## 1.3 Safer neighbourhoods

1.3.1 Registered providers must work in partnership with appropriate local authority departments, the police and other relevant organisations to deter and tackle anti-social behaviour (ASB) in the neighbourhoods where they provide social housing.

## 1.4 Domestic abuse

1.4.1 Registered providers must work co-operatively with other agencies tackling domestic abuse and enable tenants to access appropriate support and advice.

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<sup>5</sup> Throughout the consumer standards 'tenants' means tenants and other occupiers of social housing which includes licensees and shared owners (unless explicitly stated).

<sup>6</sup> 'Shared spaces' are those spaces used by tenants that are not the responsibility of the landlord, as opposed to communal areas where landlords have direct responsibilities for ensuring their safety and maintenance.

## 2. Specific expectations

### 2.1 Maintenance of shared spaces

2.1.1 Registered providers must work co-operatively to assist in resolving issues affecting the upkeep and safety of the shared spaces associated with their homes.

### 2.2 Local cooperation

2.2.1 Registered providers, having taken account of their strategic objectives, the views of tenants and their presence within the areas where they provide social housing, must:

- a) identify and communicate to tenants the roles registered providers play in promoting social, environmental and economic wellbeing and how they will achieve them; and
- b) co-operate with local partnership arrangements and the strategic housing function of local authorities where they are able to assist them in achieving their objectives.

### 2.3 Safer neighbourhoods

2.3.1 Registered providers must have a policy on how they work with relevant organisations to deter and tackle ASB in the neighbourhoods where they provide social housing.

2.3.2 Registered providers must clearly set out their approach for how they tackle and deter hate incidents in neighbourhoods where they provide social housing.

2.3.3 Registered providers must enable ASB to be reported easily and keep tenants informed about the progress of their case.

2.3.4 Registered providers must provide prompt and appropriate action in response to ASB, having regard to the full range of tools and legal powers available to them.

2.3.5 Registered providers must support tenants who are affected by ASB, including by signposting them to agencies who can give them appropriate support and assistance.

### 2.4 Domestic abuse

2.4.1 Registered providers must have a policy for how they respond to cases of domestic abuse.

2.4.2 Registered providers must co-operate with appropriate local authority departments to support the local authority in meeting its duty to develop a strategy and commission services for victims of domestic abuse and their children within safe accommodation.



Regulator of  
Social Housing

# Tenancy Standard

Consumer standards

2023



# 1. Required outcomes

## 1.1 Allocations and lettings

- 1.1.1 Registered providers must allocate and let their homes in a fair and transparent way that takes the needs of tenants<sup>7</sup> and prospective tenants into account.

## 1.2 Tenancy sustainment and evictions

- 1.2.1 Registered providers must support tenants to maintain their tenancy or licence. Where a registered provider ends a tenancy or licence, they must offer affected tenants advice and assistance.

## 1.3 Tenure

- 1.3.1 Registered providers shall offer tenancies or terms of occupation which are compatible with the purpose of the accommodation, the needs of individual households, the sustainability of the community, and the efficient use of their housing stock.
- 1.3.2 They shall meet all applicable statutory and legal requirements in relation to the form and use of tenancy agreements or terms of occupation.

## 1.4 Mutual exchange

- 1.4.1 Registered providers must support relevant tenants living in eligible housing to mutually exchange their homes.

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<sup>7</sup> Throughout the consumer standards 'tenants' means tenants and other occupiers of social housing which includes licensees and shared owners (unless explicitly stated).

## 2. Specific expectations

### 2.1 Allocations and lettings

- 2.1.1 Registered providers must co-operate with local authorities' strategic housing functions and assist local authorities to fulfil their duties to meet identified local housing need. This includes assistance with local authorities' homelessness duties, and through meeting obligations in nominations agreements.
- 2.1.2 Registered providers must seek to allocate homes that are designated, designed, or adapted to meet specific needs in a way that is compatible with the purpose of the housing.
- 2.1.3 Registered providers must develop and deliver services to address under-occupation and overcrowding in their homes. These services should be focused on the needs of tenants.
- 2.1.4 Registered providers must take action to prevent and tackle tenancy fraud.
- 2.1.5 Registered providers must have a fair, reasonable, simple and accessible appeals process for allocation decisions.
- 2.1.6 Registered providers must record all lettings and sales as required by the Continuous Recording of Lettings (CORE) system.

### 2.2 Tenancy sustainment and evictions

- 2.2.1 Registered providers must provide services that support tenants to maintain their tenancy or licence and prevent unnecessary evictions.
- 2.2.2 Registered providers must provide tenants required to move with timely advice and assistance about housing options before the tenancy or licence ends.

### 2.3 Tenure

- 2.3.1 Registered providers shall publish clear and accessible policies which outline their approach to tenancy management, including interventions to sustain tenancies and prevent unnecessary evictions, and tackling tenancy fraud, and set out:
  - (a) The type of tenancies they will grant.
  - (b) Where they grant tenancies for a fixed term, the length of those terms.
  - (c) The circumstances in which they will grant tenancies of a particular type.



- (d) Any exceptional circumstances in which they will grant fixed term tenancies for a term of less than five years in general needs housing following any probationary period.
- (e) The circumstances in which they may or may not grant another tenancy on the expiry of the fixed term, in the same property or in a different property.
- (f) The way in which a tenant or prospective tenant may appeal against or complain about the length of fixed term tenancy offered and the type of tenancy offered, and against a decision not to grant another tenancy on the expiry of the fixed term.
- (g) Their policy on taking into account the needs of those households who are vulnerable by reason of age, disability or illness, and households with children, including through the provision of tenancies which provide a reasonable degree of stability.
- (h) The advice and assistance they will give to tenants on finding alternative accommodation in the event that they decide not to grant another tenancy.
- (i) Their policy on granting discretionary succession rights, taking account of the needs of vulnerable household members.

2.3.2 Registered providers must grant general needs tenants a periodic secure or assured (excluding periodic assured shorthold) tenancy, or a tenancy for a minimum fixed term of five years, or exceptionally, a tenancy for a minimum fixed term of no less than two years, in addition to any probationary tenancy period.

2.3.3 Before a fixed term tenancy ends, registered providers shall provide notice in writing to the tenant stating either that they propose to grant another tenancy on the expiry of the existing fixed term or that they propose to end the tenancy.

2.3.4 Where registered providers use probationary tenancies, these shall be for a maximum of 12 months, or a maximum of 18 months where reasons for extending the probationary period have been given and where the tenant has the opportunity to request a review.

2.3.5 Registered providers shall grant those who were social housing tenants on the day on which section 154 of the Localism Act 2011 comes into force, and have remained social housing tenants since that date, a tenancy with no less security where they choose to move to another social rented home, whether with the same or another landlord. (This requirement does not apply where tenants choose to move to accommodation let on Affordable Rent terms).

2.3.6 Registered providers shall grant tenants who have been moved into alternative accommodation during any redevelopment or other works a tenancy with no less security of tenure on their return to settled accommodation.

## **2.4 Mutual exchange**

- 2.4.1 Registered providers must offer a mutual exchange service which allows relevant tenants potentially eligible for mutual exchange, whether pursuant to a statutory right or a policy of the registered provider, to easily access details of all (or the greatest practicable number of) available matches without payment of a fee.
- 2.4.2 Registered providers must publicise the availability of any mutual exchange service(s) it offers to its relevant tenants.
- 2.4.3 Registered providers must provide support for accessing mutual exchange services to relevant tenants who might otherwise be unable to use them.
- 2.4.4 Registered providers must offer tenants seeking to mutually exchange with information about the implications for tenure, rent and service charges.

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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us via [enquiries@rsh.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@rsh.gov.uk) or call 0300 124 5225.

or write to:

Regulator of Social Housing  
Level 2  
7-8 Wellington Place  
Leeds LS1 4AP

**The Regulator of Social Housing regulates registered providers of social housing to promote a viable, efficient and well-governed social housing sector able to deliver and maintain homes of appropriate quality that meet a range of needs.**