



15 March 2019

Dear Chief Executive

On 8 March 2019 Fiona MacGregor, the Chief Executive of the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH), wrote to you regarding the government's recent direction requiring RSH to regulate Local Authority social rents from 2020. As Fiona's letter set out, RSH uses a risk-based, and data-driven, approach to regulating compliance with the Rent Standard in the housing association sector and proposes to take the same approach to regulation of Local Authorities. To support proportionate and effective regulation of the Rent Standard, RSH will, in future, collect data directly from stock holding Local Authorities. Whilst RSH will only be responsible for regulating Local Authority rents from April 2020, we plan to pilot our proposed approach to Local Authority data collection on a voluntary basis in 2019/20. Whilst this pilot is entirely voluntary, we would strongly encourage you to participate. A high level of uptake in the pilot year will allow us to gather and consider your feedback on the proposed data collection, refine the data collection requirements, and reduce the risk of data errors in future years.

This letter seeks to draw your attention to the processes and guidance for data submission during the 2019/20 pilot.

2019/20 Data collection

The Regulator of Social Housing collects data through NROSH+. This is a web portal which allows providers registered with RSH to submit data and documents. The Local Authority Data Return (LADR), collecting information on stock and rents for the purposes of rent regulation, will be hosted on the NROSH+ system.

Each Local Authority needs to register at least one user on the NROSH+ system so that they can submit the LADR to RSH. Later in March we will be sending details of the NROSH+ registration process to all contacts responsible for the submission of the Local Authority Housing Statistic (LAHS) so that we may create user accounts on the NROSH+ system for the most appropriate individuals within your organisation.

The **LADR survey will be open for submission between 1 May 2019 and 31 July 2019**, with guidance on completing the LADR being made available on the NROSH+ website in April. It is important that guidance materials are reviewed before the completion of the LADR and that stock is correctly categorised and recorded accurately according to the latest applicable legislation. The LADR is very similar to the data already collected through LAHS but there are some differences to capture the information that RSH will need to effectively regulate the standard. These differences will be identified in the full guidance materials available on NROSH+

We strongly recommend that your organisation reviews the LADR requirements and works to submit a LADR return in 2019 alongside the LAHS submission made to MHCLG directly, noting differences in the data requirements and classifications between the two returns. Although the LADR is not a mandatory return in 2019 MHCLG are working to include it in the list of data submissions required from Local Authorities (the single data list) from April 2020.

The collection in 2019 represents a period of trial and consultation to establish a strong and accurate baseline data collection in 2020 upon which RSH will begin to regulate Local Authority registered providers' compliance with the Regulator's Rent Standard. We kindly request your engagement with the NROSH+ system and submission of LADR to identify areas for improvement for 2020 and beyond and to assist you in ensuring that data submitted to RSH from 2020 is of the highest quality.

If you have any queries, please refer to the NROSH+ system and LADR survey guidance and FAQs on the NROSH+ website at <https://nroshplus.regulatorofsocialhousing.org.uk> (from Monday 1 April 2019). In addition we will be notifying registered NROSH+ users in mid-April of webinar sessions that will be available to them to assist with use of the system and the completion of the LADR form. In order to ensure that future users have a chance to benefit from these webinars it would be valuable if those who will complete your LADR returns are registered on the NROSH+ system as soon as possible.

Organisational and contact details

Once your organisation begins submitting data via the NROSH+ website, it will be responsible for maintaining contact details for both the Chief Executive and Regulatory Contact. This must be kept updated and accurate throughout the year. If the organisational and contact details in NROSH+ are not kept accurate and up to date by your officers your organisation may not receive important correspondence nor information on statutory consultations and/or regulatory requirements. RSH takes its duties in relation to data protection seriously, but it is in large part dependent upon providers to keep contact information updated in a timely fashion.

If further assistance is required you can also contact the referrals and regulatory enquiries team NROSHenquiries@rsh.gov.uk who will assist you with your query. RSH aims to respond to all queries within five working days, but as the LADR return is a new collection there may be some queries that require a longer resolution period.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Walter', written in a cursive style.

Jonathan Walter
Deputy Director, Strategy and Performance