



Homes & Communities Agency

The Regulator of Social Housing

Fees and Resources Advisory Panel – terms of reference

Context

The Regulator of Social Housing in England is a statutory function established by and accountable to Parliament for the delivery of its fundamental objectives, as set out in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.

Following a [statutory consultation](#) and agreement of the principles by the Secretary of State, a fee-charging regime will be introduced from October 2017. From that date, registered providers will pay annual fees. A fee will also be payable on first registration. Fee income will be applied to those regulatory activities common to all registered providers, and will represent a significant contribution to the operating costs of the regulator. This reflects the benefits that flow from being regulated and brings social housing regulation into line with other regulators.

While the regulator is accountable to Parliament for the delivery of its statutory objectives, it also recognises the importance of being transparent with stakeholders in relation to the fees charged and the quality of the regulation delivered. Accordingly, in response to the statutory consultation on fees, the regulator committed to introducing a Fees and Resources Advisory Panel (FRAP) alongside existing stakeholder engagement arrangements. This will enable engagement on fees with a range of stakeholders, and provide increased transparency. These terms of reference set out a framework for the operation of the FRAP.

Purpose and scope

The FRAP is an advisory body to the regulator. It is not a decision-making body with respect to the regulator's fees, resources and activities.

Its core objectives are to:

- help the regulator achieve openness and transparency in relation to the use of fee income
- inform the regulator's approach to making information on fees accessible
- inform the regulator's evaluation of its use of fee income and overall value for money
- provide feedback on the regulator's approach to fee-charging and the use of fee income.

Conduct, meetings, and remuneration

The regulator may share confidential information with the FRAP in advance of wider publication. Any data and information provided by the regulator to the FRAP must be treated as confidential unless the regulator expressly states otherwise.

The FRAP will normally meet twice a year at times appropriate to the regulator's business planning and fee-charging cycle.

Members of the FRAP will be expected to attend meetings regularly.

Attendance at the FRAP may be in person or virtual via teleconferencing facilities.

Members of the FRAP shall not be paid by the regulator for being members. However, reasonable expenses that have been incurred by members directly as a result of attendance at FRAP meetings may be reimbursed. First class travel and overnight stays will not normally be regarded as reasonable expenses. All expense claims must be submitted to the regulator within one month of being incurred.

Membership

The FRAP will be chaired by the Director of Regulation (or by a deputy nominated by the Director of Regulation). The FRAP will be supported by other officers of the regulator as necessary.

The FRAP shall comprise the Chair, senior regulation staff, and a single representative nominated by each of the following:

- National Housing Federation
- g15
- Placeshapers
- Homes for the North
- g320
- Individual providers as selected by the regulator to ensure an appropriate geographic and sectoral coverage of views
- TPAS
- DCLG
- CIH
- UK Finance (or member organisation nominated by UK Finance).

Unless otherwise agreed in advance by the regulator, FRAP members should be senior executives from within their own organisation.

The regulator reserves the right to ask an alternative organisation for a nomination if an organisation listed above:

- a. fails to nominate a suitable member within six weeks of being requested to do so, or
- b. in the opinion of the Chair has failed to ensure that its nominated member attends FRAP meetings regularly.

Members of FRAP must comply with these terms of reference (as amended from time to time).

Review

The regulator expects to review the FRAP's effectiveness and terms of reference annually.

Agreed by Regulation Committee – June 2017