

Regulator of Social Housing 1<sup>st</sup> floor – Lateral 8 City Walk Leeds LS11 9AT

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10 March 2021

#### **Dear Chief Executive**

I wanted to write to you to let you know about the arrangements for data collection in the coming year. Timely and accurate data submission is a cornerstone of the co-regulatory settlement and we rely on the information you supply us to ensure proportionate and risk-based regulation. I would therefore be grateful if this letter can be passed onto the appropriate person within your organisation.

### NROSH+ Data Collection 2021

From April 2021, we will be commencing our round of data collection from private registered providers ('providers') via the NROSH+ website <a href="https://nroshplus.regulatorofsocialhousing.org.uk">https://nroshplus.regulatorofsocialhousing.org.uk</a>

## NROSH+ closure

In order to prepare for the 2021/22 survey period, the NROSH+ system will be offline from 18:00 on Thursday 25 March until launch on Thursday 1 April. During this time, you will be unable to access the site and should make alternative provision to access documents and templates should you require these during this period. We will notify all users by email when NROSH+ launches for the 2021 collections.

#### Data returns

During 2021/22, all providers that own 1,000 or more units of social stock will be required to submit the following returns:

Data Returns	Deadline
Statistical Data Return (SDR)	31 May 2021
Financial Forecast Return (FFR)	30 June 2021
(with business plan and other supporting documentation)	We encourage submission within 6 weeks of business plan sign off by the provider's board where this is earlier than 30 June 2021
Quarterly Survey (QS)	3 weeks after each quarter end (Q4 2020/21 is due 23 April 2021)
Electronic Annual Accounts (FVA)	6 months after financial year end
Coronavirus Operational Response Survey (CORS)	Next due by 9 April 2021
Regulatory Documents	
Audited Accounts Audit Management Letter Fraud Reports	6 months after financial year end
Quarterly disposal notification Priority disposal notifications	3 weeks after each quarter end As required (see disposal notification guidance available on NROSH+)

Please refer to the RSH website for our interim correspondence arrangements during the current period of social isolation due to Covid-19. If you need to contact us by post, you should do so via the Leeds address: Regulator of Social Housing, 1st Floor, Lateral, 8 City Walk, Leeds LS11 9AT.

However, please note that post may not reach us in a timely manner or at all, and contact via email would be safer.













The CORS is currently under review and subject to what we see in CORS returns for the period up to and including 31 March 2021, we intend to withdraw this survey at that time. The next planned CORS, covering the period up to and including 31 March, will launch on 1 April 2021 with a deadline of 9 April 2021. We will confirm our position on further CORS before the end of April 2021.

The deadlines for all returns are in line with those operating in a standard collection year. We rely on the supply of timely and accurate data from all registered providers. Failure to supply quality data in line with the timescales we outline may be reflected in our judgements of your compliance with the regulatory standards.

If any of these present a practical problem for your organisation, please contact your key contact or the referrals and regulatory enquiries (RRE) team as soon as possible (details as in letter header).

SDR submissions are due 31 May and are required from all registered providers even if a provider owns no stock. We will publish a list of all late or missing returns for 2021 when the SDR data is published in Autumn 2021.

### Changes to returns for 2021

It is essential that guidance notes are reviewed before the completion of the surveys as there are new, moved and revised questions within each survey. Additionally, we remind you that it is your responsibility to correctly categorise and record stock accurately according to the latest applicable legislation and to ensure you understand and apply the rent rules correctly.

For more information regarding these changes, please refer to the note enclosed with this letter.

# Change to rent rules from 1 April 2020

From 1 April 2020 social housing rents have been regulated against our rent standard<sup>1</sup>. This is the first year that the data submitted through the SDR will reflect this change. We ask that you pay particular attention to the classification of units to ensure they align with the 2020 rent standard.

### **Submitting data**

In 2021 the annual surveys will launch in a staggered pattern, with SDR and FFR surveys launching in April 2021 and the FVA launching in June 2021. The Quarterly Survey (Q4) will launch alongside the SDR and FFR in April. Guidance materials and templates will be released on NROSH+ as they become available.

Please submit returns as early as possible within each of the survey periods. We encourage the submission of the FFR within 6 weeks of business plan sign off by boards where this is earlier than 30 June 2021. This will allow sufficient time to raise any questions you have regarding your submissions.

#### **Query resolution**

We aim to respond to all queries within five working days. Please note that queries made to us within five working days of a survey deadline may not receive a response until after the deadline has passed. This may result in submissions which do not meet the survey deadline. Extensions to the deadline will not be granted due to late queries.

During the checking of submissions, we may contact some providers to discuss their data returns before signing them off for further analysis. Subsequently, we may contact a minority of providers where there are any regulatory issues arising from this analysis of the validated data.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Rent Standard 2020 https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rent-standard

### Organisational and contact details

The NROSH+ website requires your organisation to enter and maintain a suite of organisational and contact details. It is the responsibility of each individual provider to ensure that this contact information is kept updated and accurate throughout the year. This is important because we use this information to contact your organisation on regulatory matters. Please note that contact information cannot be updated between 1 April and mid-July except via your SDR return (please contact the enquiries team if you need to amend submitted data).

It is very important that the organisational and contact details in NROSH+ are kept accurate and up to date by your officers. If they are not:

- (a) your organisation may not receive important information on statutory consultations and/ or regulatory requirements; and/ or
- (b) correspondence (which may include information about the provider's business or regulatory compliance) may be sent to the wrong individuals (who in some cases may no longer work for the provider).

We take our duties in relation to data protection seriously, but to do this we rely on providers updating their contact information in a timely fashion. Please see our privacy policy on the NROSH+ site for more details.<sup>2</sup>

If you have any queries, please refer to the guidance and FAQs on the NROSH+ website. If further assistance is required you can contact the referrals and regulatory enquiries team <a href="https://www.nROSHenquiries@rsh.gov.uk">NROSHenquiries@rsh.gov.uk</a> who will assist you with your query.

Yours faithfully,

Will Perry

Director of Strategy

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> https://nroshplus.regulatorofsocialhousing.org.uk/Home/PrivacyPolicy