



Regulator of  
Social Housing

# Fees for social housing regulation

## Guidance for registered providers

Updated January 2026



## Contents

Background .....	3
Application fees .....	4
Application fee approach .....	4
Application Fee level .....	4
Annual fees .....	5
2026/27 Annual fees approach .....	5
Units definition .....	5
Small registered providers .....	6
Registration / de-registration .....	8
Information on costs and fees .....	8
Practical arrangements .....	9
Applications .....	9
Annual fee invoicing and collection .....	9
Variation in costs .....	10
Non-payment .....	11
Finance contact details .....	11

## Background

1. The fee-charging powers of the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) are defined under Section 117 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008. This publication sets out practical guidance on RSH's fee charging operations for the financial year 2026/27.
2. In September 2023, RSH launched a consultation on proposed changes to its fee principles to align them with its expanded powers under the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023. These changes are designed to ensure that fee income fully covers the cost of regulation, consistent with practices in other regulated sectors, while reflecting the benefits registered providers gain from being part of a regulated system. Following this consultation, a thorough assessment of feedback, and approval from the Secretary of State, RSH implemented the following fee principles:
  - a. A fixed fee applies to all applications for initial registration.
  - b. The annual fee payable by a registered provider is set by reference to the number of social housing units owned by that provider.
  - c. A fixed fee should apply to all providers owning fewer than 1,000 units.
  - d. For groups owning 1,000 social housing units or more where the parent is a private registered provider, the annual fee should be set at group level rather than for each individual entity on the register.
  - e. Providers must pay the full cost of the annual fee for the year that they are on the register when they register or de-register.
  - f. The regulator will publish information annually on its costs and fees.

## Application fees

### Application fee approach

Principle 1: A fixed fee applies to all applications for initial registration.

3. A fixed application fee is payable at the start of each application stage by those seeking to be admitted to the social housing register. It is not payable by local authorities that are subject to compulsory registration.
4. The following registration scenarios are exempt from fees:
  - a. restructures where the registration decision is required by s163A of HRA 08 and Part 4 of the Charitable Incorporated Organisations (Notification Requirements: Social Housing) Regulations 2023
  - b. registered providers that are unincorporated charities changing their legal form (e.g. from an unincorporated charity to a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or charitable company).

### Application Fee level

5. Assessment of an application will only commence once the associated fee has been paid. Stage fees from April 2026 are set at:

Application Stage	Fee Amount
Preliminary	£545
Detailed	£2,725

6. The level of the application fee is subject to periodic review.

## Annual fees

### 2026/27 Annual fees approach

Principle 2: The annual fee payable by a registered provider is set by reference to the number of social housing units owned by that provider.

7. The fee payable by registered providers is based upon the number of social housing units owned<sup>1</sup> on 31 March 2025 as recorded in the Statistical Data Return (SDR) or Local Authority Data Return (LADR). In determining fee charges, we have accounted for statutory notifications of group or structural changes since 31 March 2025.
8. On this basis, the per-unit fee, which applies to registered providers owning 1,000 units or more, is:

Provider type	2026/27
Private Registered Providers	£9.98
Local Authority Registered Providers	£7.93

### Units definition

9. For the purposes of fee calculation, units are defined as social housing where the registered provider is the owner. The term social housing is defined in the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (sections 68-77) and further information on the relevant SDR and LADR definitions can be found on the NROSH+ website<sup>2</sup>. RSH annually collects data on the number of social housing units each registered provider owns at 31 March via the SDR and LADR.
10. Where it is established that a provider's SDR or LADR is materially incorrect, a further invoice or a credit note will be issued.

<sup>1</sup> Owned properties can include those where the provider has a leasehold interest. Further guidance on the definition of ownership for the purposes of SDR and LADR reporting is published on NROSH+

<sup>2</sup> [NROSH+ \(regulatorofsocialhousing.org.uk\)](http://regulatorofsocialhousing.org.uk)

## Small registered providers

Principle 3: A fixed fee should apply to all providers owning fewer than 1,000 units.

11. All small private registered providers (those owning fewer than 1,000 social housing units) will be charged a fixed fee of £710 for 2026/27.
12. Providers that are not within a group and have no social housing units will remain subject to the small private registered provider fee. This includes providers that have notified RSH that they have disposed of their social housing units but have not applied for voluntary de-registration.

## Approach to groups

Principle 4: For groups owning 1,000 social housing units or more where the parent is a private registered provider, the annual fee should be set at group level rather than for each individual entity on the register.

13. Where providers are in group structures with a private registered provider as parent, a single fee at the group parent level is charged. Group structures owning 1,000 units or more in aggregate are charged on a per-unit basis. As such, the numbers of units of each private registered provider in the group are aggregated to determine a single fee.
14. Where the group parent is unregistered, the fee is collected from the regulated entities. This is because we do not gain assurance at the unregistered group level.
15. Group structures with a private registered parent, owning fewer than 1,000 units as a group, are charged the single fixed-rate fee for small providers for each registered entity. This is because we will carry out the small provider checks for each entity.
16. Where a private registered provider is owned by a local authority registered provider then each provider will be invoiced individually as they are subject to different regulatory regimes.
17. Some charitable providers have been linked by a direction (formerly called a ‘uniting direction’) from the Charity Commission. Such providers must nevertheless each pay a separate fee to RSH for as long as they remain separate entities on our register (and subject to our rules about group structures). We do not consider that Charity Commission linking directions create a group structure or effect a merger.

18. Where one registered provider acts as the corporate trustee for another registered provider, a separate fee will still be due from each of the providers (subject to our rules about group structures).

2026/27 Fee calculation examples:

Example A – A group has 3,000 units comprised of a private registered parent with 2,000 units and two subsidiaries with 500 units each. This means the fee will be £29,940 (3,000 units x £9.98).

Example B – A small group has a registered parent with 500 units and a subsidiary of 200 units. The group would pay a fee of £1,420 (£710 for each registered entity).

Example C – A group has a private registered parent with 600 units and a subsidiary of 600 units. The group would pay a fee of £11,976 (1,200 units x £9.98).

Example D – A private registered group parent with zero units has two registered subsidiaries of 10,000 units each. The group would pay £199,600 in regulation fees (20,000 units x £9.98).

Example E – A local authority registered provider has 4,000 units. This means the fee would be £31,720 (4,000 units x £7.93).

Example F – A local authority registered provider has 5,000 units and owns a small private registered provider which has 500 units. The local authority registered provider would be charged £39,650 (5,000 units x £7.93) and the small private registered provider would be charged £710.

## Registration / de-registration

Principle 5: Providers must pay the full cost of the annual fee for the year that they are on the register when they register or de-register.

19. Providers must pay the full cost of the annual fee for the year in which they either register or de-register (see earlier application fee section). A significant proportion of de-registrations are due to restructurings and mergers. Where this is the case, we would not make another annual fee charge for the newly registered or restructured entity. Those who de-register without a consequential new registration will pay for the full year regardless of the timing of de-registration.
20. De-registration is possible, subject to the provider meeting the de-registration requirements<sup>3</sup> published on our website. Providers with no social housing assets will continue to be charged fees until they have completed the de-registration process. In the case of restructures, RSH will determine the appropriate bodies which will pay the annual fee to avoid double charging.

## Information on costs and fees

Principle 6: RSH will publish information annually on its costs and fees.

21. RSH is committed to being transparent and accountable, including in relation to how we use our resources. Our published Corporate Plan outlines our intended use of resources. RSH's Annual Report and Accounts details how we have used our resources in the preceding year. Furthermore, we publish a monthly report on our website, detailing any expenditure exceeding £250 on goods and services.

<sup>3</sup> [Register and de-register as a provider of social housing - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/register-and-de-register-as-a-provider-of-social-housing)

# Practical arrangements

## Applications

22. Applications that were in train on 30 June 2024 will be processed under the previous fee regime with a registration fee invoice of £2,500 being issued upon acceptance to the register.
23. Applications at either stage will only be considered when the relevant invoice has been paid. The fee charged is for a single consideration of an application. If an application is rejected, at either stage, and a revised application is submitted, further application fees will be charged, and the application will only be considered when paid.
24. Newly registered providers will be invoiced for the annual fee upon acceptance to the register, and this will come due within 30 days of issue of invoice.

## Annual fee invoicing and collection

25. For 2026/27, annual fee invoices will be issued in tranches through March to May. Invoices will be issued according to the following schedule:

Provider type	Invoice month
Large Private Registered Providers	March
Local Authority Registered Providers	March
Small Private Registered Providers	May

26. Invoices will be based on the entities that exist, according to RSH records, as at 31 January 2026 (the 'cut off' date). A supplemental invoicing run will be conducted to issue revised invoices for any changes to group structures or registrations between the 'cut off' date and 1 April 2026.
27. Providers must specify a designated fee invoice email address via NROSH+ when submitting their SDR or LADR. This contact will be used for invoicing purposes. **It is the responsibility of providers to keep their contact details in NROSH+ up to date and accurate.** Failure to do so may result in fee invoices and other information being sent to incorrect recipients.
28. Invoices must be paid in a single payment within 30 days. However, small providers with cash flow considerations in relation to fees may request to pay their annual fees in quarterly instalments. Requests should be sent to [finance@rsh.gov.uk](mailto:finance@rsh.gov.uk). Any request to

pay in instalments should include the reasons why an alternative payment arrangement is necessary and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

29. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government provides RSH with finance services and will issue fee invoices on behalf of RSH. RSH bank account details have not changed.
30. Payments should be made by bank transfer. It is important that providers follow the instructions for making payment given on the invoice. **It is essential that the invoice number is used as the reference when making a payment**, otherwise it may not be possible to match the payment made to the provider's account. In such cases registered providers will be treated as having fees outstanding until such point as they can prove they have paid the fee.
31. Cheques are only accepted in exceptional circumstances. Please make cheques payable to "Regulator of Social Housing" and quote the invoice number on the reverse of the cheque to:

Accounts Receivable  
Finance Shared Services Division  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor, The Forum  
Marlowes  
Hemel Hempstead  
Herts, Hp1 1dn

32. Remittance advice should be sent to fees@rsh.gov.uk.

## Variation in costs

33. Variations in costs may occur due to factors such as staff vacancies or additional regulatory activities triggered by unanticipated events, potentially resulting in underspends or overspends.
34. In the event of an underspend or overspend, a rebate or additional fee will be calculated separately for large private registered providers and large local authority registered providers. Any rebate or additional fee will be itemised as a separate line on future annual fee invoices.
35. Small registered providers paying fixed fees will not receive a rebate or additional fee, as the costs of regulation and maintaining the register are neither variable nor material.

36. A fee rebate for unspent 2024/25 annual fees will be included on a separate line of the 2026/27 invoice for large private registered providers.
37. Where two large providers have merged since the 2024/25 annual fees, the rebate will be provided at the group parent level for the merged entity.

## **Fees and Resources Advisory Panel**

38. While RSH is accountable to Parliament for the delivery of its statutory objectives, it recognises the importance of being transparent with stakeholders in relation to the fees charged and the quality of the regulation delivered.
39. The Fees and Resources Advisory Panel enables engagement on fees with a range of stakeholders. The panel's terms of reference are published on RSH's website.

## **Non-payment**

40. In cases of non-payment of invoices, our usual approach is to send written reminders and to chase up outstanding invoices by telephone. In cases of persistent non-payment, a warning letter will be sent before any other action is instigated. Registered providers are legally required to pay fees for social housing regulation. We may take enforcement action in cases where there is non-payment of fees.

## **Finance contact details**

41. The finance team can be contacted via email [finance@rsh.gov.uk](mailto:finance@rsh.gov.uk) or via our enquiries team on 0300 124 5225.



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