

News from around the sector

Friday 14 December 2018

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Figures suggest Universal Credit is driving homelessness and evictions

Households relying on Universal Credit may be more than twice as likely to become homeless or evicted from social housing as those on the old benefit system, an Inside Housing investigation has found.

[Read more...](#) (registration required)

24,000 sleeping rough or on public transport in UK, charity says

Research by the charity Crisis suggests 12,300 people are sleeping rough on the streets – the official figure is 4,751 – while a further 12,000 will spend the night in tents, cars, sheds, bins or night buses.

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Average UK workers earning a third less than in 2008 – report

Research by the TUC found that the average worker has lost £11,800 in real earnings since 2008 – the worst real wage slump among the leading economies

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James Brokenshire sets out funding measures for councils

Councils in England are to share an extra £1.3bn under funding plans published by the Communities Secretary.

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Emergency shelters open to battle sub-zero temperatures

Severe weather shelters to open London-wide if the temperature, as predicted, drops below zero.

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'National disgrace' as 120,000 children trapped in temporary accommodation

Figures reveal the number of households in temporary accommodation has increased by 71% since the low of December 2010.

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Thursday 13 December 2018

May wins confidence vote by 200-117

The prime minister remains as Tory leader but has announced she will step down before the next general election.

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RICS: Negative trends in UK housing market hinge on Brexit

The latest survey results from RICS show a weaker trend in sales than previous months with the headline indicators for demand and supply falling once again, as almost half of respondents cite political uncertainty caused by Brexit as impacting the UK housing market.

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Grenfell cladding firm claims extinguisher could have put out fatal fire

US company Arconic blames uPVC windows for failing to contain the blaze, in a statement to the public inquiry.

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The Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee launches a new inquiry into modern methods of construction

This new inquiry will look at the benefits achieved by housebuilders who have used MMC techniques and some of the drawbacks that have been experienced.

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Placemaking in England to be recognised in local initiative

Open call launched for local authorities working with public, private or voluntary sectors to deliver “exemplary placemaking visions”.

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Wednesday 12 December 2018

Theresa May to face vote of no confidence from Tory MPs

The challenge to Mrs May’s position comes after the required 48 letters calling for a contest were delivered.

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Samaritans anticipate hundreds of thousands of calls for help during festive period

Charity, which had 11,000 calls to helpline last Christmas Day, notes problems of loneliness and isolation for young and old.

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Grenfell Tower fire: Hearings ‘may slip back to 2020’

The second phase of the Grenfell Tower inquiry will not start until autumn 2019 at the earliest.

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MHCLG rules out Pay to Stay comeback

The Ministry of Housing and Local Government put out a statement amounting to a straight denial of a 'government source' saying "options around this remain under consideration".

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Attacks on homeless people triple in just five years

Following the attack on two men sleeping rough in Hull city centre, new figures seen by Channel 4 News show a significant increase over the last five years in violent crimes against homeless people.

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Land costs holding back development of retirement communities

Large scale retirement communities are 20 years away as land costs and funding hold back development, a new Winckworth Sherwood survey has found.

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Tuesday 11 December 2018

Disabled Facilities Grant and other adaptations: external review

The MHCLG has published an independent review of the Disabled Facilities Grant in England, conducted by the University of the West of England.

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Young highly sceptical of social mobility

Young people are highly sceptical about advancement being a reality, according to a survey from the relaunched Social Mobility Commission.

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FMB: Warning signs as construction output flat-lines

Rising costs and continued uncertainty over Brexit are to blame for the slight drop in construction output, according to the Federation of Master Builders.

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Homeless women found to seek safety in harmful relationships

New research investigates nature of rough sleeping relationships and vulnerability of women when seeking protection.

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Monday 10 December 2018

Mayor Sadiq Khan to look at imposing rent controls in London

Sadiq Khan told an MP that London needed to adopt a “strategic approach to rent stabilisation and control”, since the arguments in favour of capping rent inflation are becoming “overwhelming”.

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Legal aid advice network ‘decimated’ by funding cuts

Analysis shows up to a million people live in areas with no legal aid provision for housing, with a further 15 million in areas with one provider.

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Latest government homeless plan ‘something to build on’

Crisis says ‘action plan’ due to be published on 10th December still doesn’t address the need for cross-departmental prevention.

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Grenfell Tower MP calls for Universal Credit launch delay

The benefit scheme is due to come to North Kensington, where the blaze left 72 dead, just 13 days before Christmas.

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Exposing rogue landlords: ‘The deck feels stacked against tenants’

Simon Goodley explains how the Guardian uncovered the secret world of convicted landlords who continue to operate – and exploit – with impunity.

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