

News from around the sector

Thursday 28 June 2019

Thursday 10 January 2019

Appoint minister for hunger to tackle UK food insecurity, MPs urge

Nearly 2m Britons may be undernourished and one in five children are in food insecurity, committee told.

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14 MPs at Commons debate on UN ‘poverty as policy’ report

Those present hear the government’s response to the damning report as one of “complete and utter disdain”.

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Research finds landlords are treated more favourably than leaseholders

The current law disadvantages leaseholders, and in its response to a consultation by the Law Commission, the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives, says while change is needed, it needs to be done in an even handed way so that it does not discourage people from becoming landlords in the first place.

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More public bodies failing to provide value for money, says NAO

The number of public bodies in England failing to provide value for money is “unacceptably high” and increasing, the public spending watchdog has warned.

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Wednesday 9 January 2019

MHCLG: James Brokenshire prioritises social houses for former servicemen and women with PTSD

New measures could help councils ensure that members of the Armed Forces and veterans suffering from mental ill health are given the right priority for social housing.

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Minister: responsibility for removal of Grenfell-style cladding ‘rests with councils’

Since the devastating fire at Grenfell Tower in 2017, more than 272 privately owned buildings with similar cladding have been identified.

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

Halifax warns of house prices slip despite surprise leap

The 2.2% jump in prices last month, bouncing back from a 1.2% fall in November, wrongfooted City economists following a 0.7% slide in prices shown by the Nationwide.

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Serco, Mears win £2.9 billion refugee housing contracts in Britain

Valued at £1.9bn for Serco and £1bn for Mears, the 10-year contracts were awarded by Britain’s Home Office Visas and Immigration department under the Asylum Accommodation and Support Services Contract (AASC).

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Miliband: Social housing a ‘national asset’

Former Labour Leader says social housing needs to be given more prominence by both leading political parties.

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Tuesday 8 January 2019

England 'needs millions of homes to solve housing crisis'

Three million new social homes must be built in England over 20 years to solve the "housing crisis", a report says. Housing charity Shelter says upfront costs of £11bn a year could come from housing benefit savings by moving tenants from high-cost privately rented homes to social housing.

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Thousands of fire doors that failed at Grenfell still used across the country

Data obtained by HuffPost UK reveals at least 25,000 faulty fire doors have been installed in public housing.

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IFS: Stealthy changes mean that soon one in five families with children will be losing some Child Benefit

Six years ago today, Child Benefit was first withdrawn from families containing someone whose annual income is above £50,000 a year. This threshold has since remained frozen in cash terms and there remain no plans to change it. This means that around 36%, or 370,000, more families will lose some Child Benefit in 2019–20 than in 2013–14.

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Dutch eco initiative halves energy bills in first UK homes

Nottingham has become the first city council to pioneer the "Energiesprong" (energy leap) initiative, which has radically upgraded the energy efficiency of thousands of homes in the Netherlands.

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Monday 7 January 2019

Universal Credit: Vote to extend benefit to three million delayed

MPs were due to vote on whether to move three million benefit claimants onto universal credit in the next few weeks. But this vote has been pushed back and Parliament will instead be asked to vote on transferring just 10,000 people to the new benefits system.

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Social Housing Commission report expected to ‘do a Hackitt’

The commission is expected to recommend a once in a generation overhaul of regulation and tenants’ rights.

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UK house prices rise at slowest pace in nearly six years

Nationwide expects “low single-digit” house price growth in 2019, as economist predicts 5% fall in event of “no deal” Brexit.

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Revealed: councils send teens in care to live in squalid B&Bs and bedsits

Observer investigation shows growing numbers of vulnerable young people are being placed in ‘risky’ homes.

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You’re in more debt than ever before thanks to austerity, new TUC report says

A total of £428bn is owed to credit card firms, banks and other lenders, far above the previous peak of £286bn just before the financial crisis in 2008.

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Friday 4 January 2019

Grenfell families seek radical reform of social housing oversight

The group has called for the formation of a powerful watchdog that could jail negligent housing managers.

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Single mothers make up 85% of those hit by government benefit cap, Labour warns

According to the analysis, the number of households that have had their support limited includes 114,337 single females with a dependent child.

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MHCLG linked to ‘mega ministry’ merger

Reports suggest such a ministry could be made up of MHCLG, the Department for Transport and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy to focus on major infrastructure projects.

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UK construction growth hits three-month low in December, PMI shows

Growth in Britain’s construction sector fell to a three-month low in December, though businesses struck a more upbeat tone for the coming year despite Brexit uncertainty delaying commercial projects, a survey showed on Thursday.

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Government benefit delays ‘wreaking havoc’ on disabled people’s lives as nearly 100,000 wait more than two weeks

Delays branded ‘recruiting sergeant for food banks and money lenders’ as proportion of ESA claims taking longer than 10 working days soars to one in five.

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