

# News from around the sector

Thursday 28 March 2019

Here's a roundup of the week's sector news, updates, announcements, and more:

## Thursday 4 April 2019

### **Regulate short-term lets or risk displacing long-term residents – new CIH study**

The rapid growth of short-term lets such as Airbnb has been a boon to tourists and landlords, yet it could lead to the loss of private rented homes to the short-term lets market and displacement of long-term residents from their communities if left unregulated, new analysis from the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) has revealed.

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### **'Fleecehold': Calls to regulate homeowner charges**

The amount of money homeowners can be charged for maintenance work by housing developers should be regulated by the Welsh Government, an AM has said.

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### **40% of councils say they cannot meet government rough sleeping targets**

A further 26% of council chiefs say they are unable to halve rough sleeping by 2022.

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## **Planning permission for new homes has increased significantly since 2010**

This is despite slower market conditions seeing a notable drop in the number of applications received during 2018, down 4% from an eight year average of 471,000 to 453,000, according to the report from estate agency comparison site GetAgent.

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## **MPs rule out 12 April no-deal Brexit after backing delay bill by a single vote**

It follows talks between Theresa May and Jeremy Corbyn to try to find a possible compromise Brexit deal.

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## **Wednesday 3 April 2019**

### **Children in low-income families suffer ‘shame and social exclusion’**

Children in low-income families suffer social exclusion and a sense of shame because they do not have enough food to eat, according to research published by the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG).

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### **90,000 could suffer ‘worst forms of homelessness’ in London by 2026**

Stark stat emerges during London Assembly housing committee debate on future for Housing First in the capital.

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### **Government failing to fully support local authorities to prepare for Brexit**

In their report published today, the Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee sets out urgent priorities to improve information sharing and Brexit preparations at a local level.

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## **UK food prices rising at fastest pace for over five years**

'The bigger threat to food inflation remains the risks of a chaotic no-deal Brexit, which would lead to higher prices and less choice on the shelves,' British Retail Consortium chief executive says.

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## **'Flippant' DWP minister apologises to Parliament**

Justin Tomlinson admits "inadvertent" factual blunders made during a debate on the benefits freeze.

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## **Tuesday 2 April 2019**

### **Khan offers £200m to protect affordable housing amid Brexit**

London Mayor warns city's affordable homes funding is reaching its limit, calling on Ministers to "step up".

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### **Government publishes official guidance ahead of fees ban**

The guidance makes clear that a Section 21 notice cannot be served if a tenant has been wrongly charged. It lists the only charges that an agent is entitled to make, and says that any charge not on the list is banned.

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### **UK construction activity slowed again in March**

As the first quarter of 2019 came to end, new business and employment numbers increased only a little, suggesting subdued underlying demand and delays to decision-making among clients.

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## **English regulator warns staff are ‘exhausted’ from investigations into equity-linked associations**

Investigations into equity-linked housing associations have left staff at the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) “exhausted” as it pulls in resources from across the organisation to cope with the workload, its chief executive has said.

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

### **Monday 1 April 2019**

## **Shared ownership households complain of housing segregation**

People living in shared ownership homes are being denied access to open spaces, car parks, gymnasiums and swimming pools, fuelling complaints of housing segregation.

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## **Association seals first Voluntary Right to Buy**

The £200m government pilot hands over the keys to its first customers in the Midlands.

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## **Minimum wage rates rise, but bills go up too**

Workers aged 25 and over on the National Living Wage will receive £8.21 an hour from Monday, up from £7.83 – a 4.9% rise. Pay rises also take effect for younger workers on minimum wages.

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## **Millions of children ‘living in poverty’, figures show**

Thirty percent of the UK’s children – 4.1m – are living on less than 60% of the current median income, according to official data.

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## **67% of Ombudsman complaints take more than six months to determine**

Year-to-date figures show 67% of complaints to the Housing Ombudsman have taken longer than six months to determine – with the average taken in 2018-19 to determine cases expected to be less than seven months.

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## **Survey reveals impact of Brexit on buying and selling in the UK**

More than two thirds of home owners in the UK who are looking to buy or sell property in the next six months say that Brexit has had an effect on their plans, a new study has found.

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## **Friday 29 March 2019**

### **CPAG report: Child poverty in working families on the rise**

New research carried out for the Child Poverty Action Group found that the four year freeze on children's benefits alone will lead to average loses of £240 per year for families with children and will result in 100,000 more children in poverty by 2023-24.

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### **Suspend Right to Buy, CIH says as replacements continue to fall**

Figures released by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government show that local authorities in England sold 2,645 dwellings under the Right to Buy scheme from October to December 2018, an increase of 9.4% on the previous quarter.

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### **House building: new build dwellings, England: October to December 2018**

The MHCLG publishes new statistics on house building starts and completions by tenure.

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## **Public sector outsourcing needs ‘wider social value’ to survive**

New report claims commissioners are currently “freestyling” in trying to quantify social value.

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