Department for Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

Easy Read

Our new Tenant Participation Strategy

Tell us what you think



Easy Read

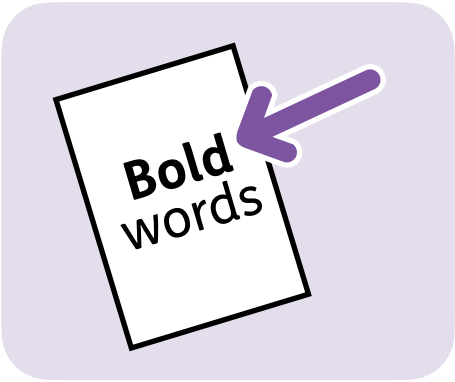


This is an Easy Read version of some information.

It uses easier words and pictures.



Some people may still want help to read it.



Some words are **bold** to show they are important.



We explain bold words if they are hard to understand.

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About this booklet

This booklet is from the Department for Communities in Northern Ireland.

We are part of the Northern Ireland government.



We are thinking about making some changes to our **Tenant Participation Strategy**.

We will explain what this means on the next pages.



This booklet will tell you about the changes we want to make, and how to tell us what you think of them.

About the Tenant Participation Strategy



The Tenant **Participation** Strategy is a plan to help **social landlords** and **tenants** work together.

Participation means taking part.



A **social landlord** is an organisation that owns a home and rents it at a good price for someone to live in.



The person they rent to is called a **tenant**.

We want the strategy to:



- Help tenants have a say in decisions that affect them.



- Help social landlords and tenants work together to make services better.

Why we want to make changes



We wrote the strategy in 2015.

We have not updated it since then.

We now want to make changes to the strategy to:



- Include things we have learned over the last few years.



- Keep supporting landlords and tenants to build trust and work together to make decisions.



- Make it easier for tenants to be involved in decisions about housing services.



- Make it easier for tenants to see how getting involved helps to make changes to housing services.

About the changes

Change 1



We want to change the name of the strategy.



We want to change it from the Tenant Participation Strategy to the **Tenant Participation and Engagement Strategy**.



Engagement is about talking to each other, and tenants being included in making decisions.

Change 2



We want the strategy to last for 10 years instead of 5 years.



This will make it easier to make plans for a longer time.



We will still check how the strategy is going regularly.

Change 3



We have written 8 new **principles** for how tenant participation and engagement should be done.



Principles are the main ideas or rules that explain how something should be done.

The principles are:



1. Trust and respect are important for tenant participation and engagement to work well.



2. Tenant participation and engagement is about tenants sharing ideas to fix issues.



3. Everyone should understand how decisions are made.



4. Tenants should have the time and support they need to think about their ideas before they talk to social landlords.



5. The way people can get involved might need to change to make sure everyone can be included.



6. Tenants' organisations should be respected and get support to help them work well.



7. It must be easy for tenants in the countryside to get involved in working with social landlords.



8. All tenant participation and engagement must follow the laws about being fair to everyone.

Change 4



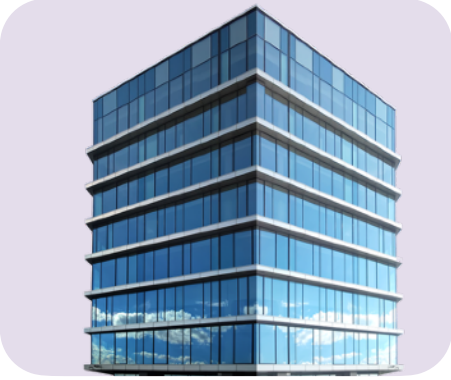
We want to work with housing organisations to help tenants get involved in making decisions about services.



We will help **social housing** organisations and **private rented** housing organisations work together and share ideas.



Social housing is housing that is owned by the council or a housing organisation.



Private rented housing is housing owned by a a private person or company.

Change 5

We want to check what tenants think about:



- Getting involved in making decisions.



- How social landlords tell them about how to get involved.

Being fair to everyone



We do not think that the changes we want to make will go against people's **human rights**.

Human rights are the things that every person should have or be able to do, by law.

We think that the changes:



- Are fair to all different groups of people.



- Will be good for people who live in the countryside.

How to tell us what you think



We would like to know what you think of the changes we want to make.



You can tell us what you think by filling in a survey online.



You can find the survey here:

consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/review-of-the-tenant-participation-strategy/review-of-the-tenant-participation-strategy



Or you can email us:

socialhousingsustainability@communities-ni.gov.uk

Find out more



You can look at our website here:

www.communities-ni.gov.uk



Or you can contact us by email:

socialhousingsustainability@communities-ni.gov.uk



What do you think about this Easy Read booklet?

Please fill in this survey to tell us what you think: www.easy-read-online.co.uk/easy-read-feedback-survey

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