

HOUSING CORPORATION REGULATORY CIRCULAR



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Note: 'housing association' is used as a generic term for registered social landlords. 'Corporation' means Housing Corporation.

TITLE: Assessing Housing Associations Compliance of the -
'Involvement policy for the housing association sector'

SUMMARY: The Involvement Policy for the housing association sector is effective from 1st April 2004. This circular sets out the Housing Corporation's expectations of RSL's and how compliance will be assessed.

THIS CIRCULAR IS FOR THE ATTENTION OF:

(tick to indicate which)

- ✓ Registered Social Landlords; more than 250 properties
- ✓ Registered Social Landlords; less than 250 properties
- ✓ Co-ownership Societies
- ✓ Co-ownership Equity Sharing Societies
- ✓ Almshouse Charities
- ✓ Abbeyfield Societies
- ✓ Co-operatives
- Local Authorities
- Registered Social Landlords' Auditors
- Registered Social Landlords' Solicitors

1 Legislation, Regulation and Policy Requirements

- Housing Corporation's Regulatory Code (The way forward, our approach to regulation)
- Involvement policy for the housing association sector

2 Definitions

See the definitions section of the Involvement Policy

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3 Corporation Expectations

- Housing association Boards must adopt this Policy and agree an action plan with targets to address the requirements within it.
- Housing associations' approach to and plans for involving residents must be reflected in their corporate objectives.
- Housing associations must produce and publish a clear resident involvement statement by 1st April 2005. Associations must be able to demonstrate how tenants have been involved and the degree of their influence.
- Housing associations must work with tenants to develop, produce and agree this statement.
- This statement should set out the aims and objectives for involving residents in improving their services and how this will influence outcomes.
- Associations must review the statement every year using impact assessments, which evidence how and the degree to which services have improved.

4 Assessing Compliance

- We will use a variety of ways of measuring housing association compliance with this policy.
- We will expect housing associations to certify they have met the requirements of this circular.
- Where our risk assessment indicates a housing association may not be complying or the impact of non-compliance is particularly high we will undertake a more detailed review in accordance with our normal regulatory engagement.
- We will take account of and include any relevant findings from inspection reports in undertaking a risk assessment and may instigate a more detailed review in accordance with our normal regulatory engagement.
- We will consider and may take action based on information brought to our attention by the Housing Ombudsman regarding an association's non-compliance.

- 5 **Enquiries about this circular should be directed to:**
RSLs local Housing Corporation Office