

17th October 2007



Chief Executive Officer

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Housing Corporation
Maple House
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Dear colleague,

Update on the implementation of NROSH

The Corporation currently has responsibility for collecting a number of data sets that inform our opinion on the performance of Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and which help to shape and influence emerging Government policy.

I am writing to advise you of a number of changes to the way that data will be collected following the introduction of the National Register of Social Housing (NROSH). This letter also sets out the steps RSLs will need to take to work with us to facilitate the implementation of NROSH.

I very much hope you will draw the contents of this letter to the attention of your colleagues, in particular the timescales for data submission set out in section 4. Please forward this letter to the relevant person in your organisation with the responsibility for Regulatory Statistical Returns (RSR/NROSH).

1 What is NROSH?

NROSH is a joint initiative between the Corporation and Communities and Local Government (CLG) and aims to deliver quality data to providers and stakeholders across the sector.

NROSH collects social housing property level data from Local Authorities (LAs) and RSLs. When complete, NROSH will become a single data repository of social housing stock covering the whole of England to provide better quality, more flexible and consistent data for analysis and reporting. Another key advantage is that it will also reduce the data reporting burden on LAs and RSLs.

The approach employed by NROSH is to collect data on individual properties, by extracting data directly from housing management systems through software "toolkits". Further details on toolkits are available on the CLG website by following the link below:
www.communities.gov.uk/nationalregisterofsocialhousing

2 What are the Housing Corporation's expectations?

The Corporation is working towards full implementation of NROSH from 2009/10 and is strongly encouraging RSLs to work with us to facilitate this.

From 1st April 2006, all RSLs required to submit a RSR form have been able to supply some of their RSR data via NROSH returns. This facility will continue to be available to RSLs to make future returns in relation to the RSR. The Corporation will no longer provide a RSR form after the 2010/11 RSR survey.

The RSR has been frozen to the 2008 data requirements to align the RSR to NROSH data standards Release 4.

The full scope of NROSH includes RSR equivalent data attributes as well as other data attributes not collected through the RSR. For those RSLs submitting data through NROSH, the priority is the population of the eight mandatory and RSR equivalent attributes (NROSH RSL Priority Data Items).

Full technical information including: **NROSH data standards**, **NROSH RSL priority data fields**, field definitions, XML schema and toolkits, refer to the data standards section of the NROSH website via:

www.communities.gov.uk/nationalregisterofsocialhousing

3 What are the benefits of NROSH?

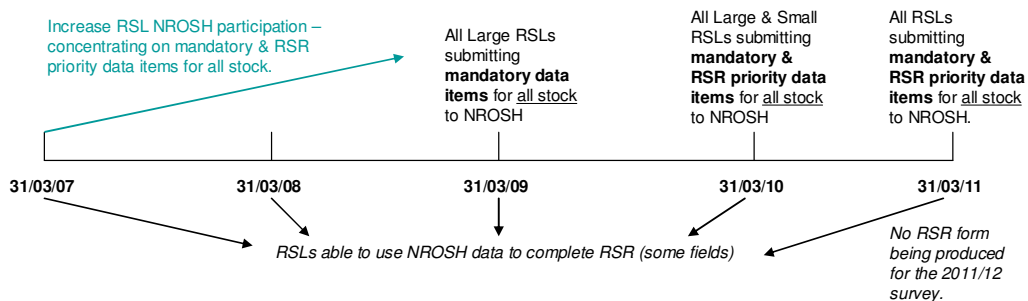
Key business benefits that will arise from the implementation of NROSH include:

- a single social housing database will be set up covering both RSLs and LAs. NROSH will help the Corporation to meet our core objectives: more quality homes, improved landlord performance, making best use of our experience and developing our can-do culture. NROSH is aligned with CLG's aims, objectives and targets;
- a reduction of the regulatory and performance monitoring data provision burden for social landlords by reducing the time and effort to produce statutory returns. NROSH will replace the vast majority of the Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) and partly replace the Continuous Recording of Lettings and Sales (CORE);
- a reduction in the data collection and validation burden on the Corporation by the introduction of a largely automated system;
- the provision of more flexible data for policy, research and operational decision making. Data can be produced at any geographical level (e.g. postcode, ward, housing authority/RSL, local authority, regional or national), thereby providing information and analysis better suited to specific requirements.
- higher quality, transparent statistics as data aggregation by landlords will be replaced by aggregation at the centre. This will reduce reducing the scope for error and ensure consistency in the way aggregation is done and the visibility of the quality and completeness of the raw data from which they are derived. It is envisaged that this will also improve the quality of data on landlords' housing management systems;

- more timely data which will be updated throughout the year rather than annually as at present;
- the introduction of consistent data definitions across social housing data providers;
- more accessible data for all social housing sector stakeholders, including, but not limited to data providers, the Corporation, CLG, the Audit Commission and the Valuation Office Agency (i.e. to assist banding of properties for Council Tax and deal more efficiently with tax banding appeals); and
- more innovative and increased possibilities for data analysis and social housing research. For example, informing the planning and monitoring of CLG and other government departments, particularly for the Neighbourhood Statistics Service, improved management information allowing better benchmarking and measurement of performance.

4 Timetable for data submission

The diagram below sets out the timeline for RSL submission of data to NROSH



Large RSLs (owning/managing 1,000 or more properties, or in a group structure)

All Large RSLs, as a minimum, need to supply the eight mandatory data items for all their stock to NROSH (Release 4) by 31st March 2009. As soon as this has been achieved, we expect these RSLs to increase their NROSH data supply to include all Large RSL RSR priority data fields (of which there are 31) by 31st March 2010.

Small RSLs (owning/managing less than 1,000 properties, and not in a group structure)

Small RSLs, that are able to submit data to NROSH (i.e. have a housing management system & NROSH toolkit), need to supply the eight mandatory data items and all Small RSL RSR priority data fields (of which there are 22) for all of their stock to NROSH (Release 4) by 31st March 2010.

Those small RSLs who do not have a housing management system should continue to make their submissions via the RSR, until further notice.

In late 2007, the Corporation will run a series of seminars to provide further information. NROSH seminar information is available on our website: www.housingcorp.gov.uk/nrosh.

NROSH data can be accessed via **NROSH-Online**, a dedicated data dissemination tool administered by CLG at www.nrosh-online.net.

All enquiries about this letter should be sent to nrosh@housingcorp.gsx.gov.uk or telephone Kate Devlin on 01223 272 558.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Clare Miller". The signature is written in a cursive style with a clear, legible font.

Clare Miller
Director of Regulation