

eForum

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Human Rights Bill

The Scottish Government is currently gathering views to help inform how they will take forward the Human Rights Bill. The Bill will incorporate a range of economic, social and cultural rights into Scots law for the first time. The incorporation of these rights could have a significant impact for providers of housing support, and housing and social care more generally. The consultation is open until Thursday 5 October 2023 and you can respond on [Citizen Space](#). The Housing Support Enabling Unit is interested in hearing from any providers who may have views on the consultation, at hs.unit@ccpscotland.org.

One treaty that the Scottish Government is planning to incorporate is the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). [Article 19](#) of this Convention includes the right of disabled people to live independently as part of the community. The right to independent living is therefore binding under international law and the UK government is expected to reflect its requirements in law and policy. However, because the [right has not yet been incorporated](#) by the UK or Scottish government, people do not have redress if the right is breached. [The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#) (ICESCR) is also being considered by the taskforce to be incorporated into the new Bill. This Covenant includes the right to adequate housing and the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. The consultation will also consider incorporating a right for older people and a right for participation, alongside the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD).

A key aspect of the [consultation paper](#) explores how the Scottish Government will incorporate the four international treaties into Scots law within devolved competence. Another part of the process of the new Bill will be defining minimum core obligations (MCOs). Once the treaties are incorporated, it will be the 1st time in domestic legal framework that duty-bearers will have to actively consider the rights contained in the

ICERD, CEDAW and CRPD when delivering services including housing and social care.

Enhancing the accessibility, adaptability, and usability of Scotland's homes: consultation

Housing for Varying Needs is a design guide to offer good practice in the design of housing delivered through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, so that newly built refurbished or adapted buildings suit people of different abilities. The Housing for Varying Needs Guide is now over 25 years old and is being reviewed. There are two parts to the Housing for Varying Needs guide has two parts. Part 1 covers the design of self-contained houses and flats to suit people's different and changing needs over their lifetime. Part 2 covers housing with integral support.

Scottish Government has opened a consultation that sets out proposed changes to Part 1 of the guide. There are not any proposed updates to Part 2 of the guide, to reflect the emphasis for person-centred care, delivered at home. The housing elements of any projects containing integral support can still be supported through the Affordable Housing Supply Programme, although other elements must be funded through alternative sources.

The Consultation also introduces principles to underpin the all-tenure Scottish Accessible Homes Standard and sets out proposals for updates to building standards and guidance to apply to all new build homes. **The consultation is open until 19 October 2023.**

<https://consult.gov.scot/housing-and-social-justice/accessiblehousingconsultation/>

New TECH Website

A [new website](#) has been launched for the Technology Enabled Care in Housing website. TECH aims to share knowledge and expertise around technology enabled care and support within the housing sector. The new website offers case studies of TECH being used across Scotland, as well as information about new innovations being tested, and the analogue to digital switchover. You can also learn more and sign up to the TEC Housing Charter.

Commissioning and Procurement: Outcomes Based Contracts

CCPS has been working with MacRoberts law firm to develop a Model Outcomes Based Template Contract. The Independent Review of Adult Social Care recommended that commissioning and procurement of social care needs to move away from contracting through price based competitive tenders to commissioning for outcomes. The model contract is a 3 way contract between the local authority, the supported person and the support provider. The contract can be used and adapted by local authorities when contracting for social care support services in their local area. More information and the template is available on [the CCPS website](#).

Social Housing Fuel Support Fund Round 4 Opens

The fourth round of the Social Housing Fuel Support Fund, funded by the Scottish Government, and managed and administered by the Scottish Federation of Housing Associations, is now open. This round of funding will run until March 2024 and will support activities such as expanding the capacity of energy advice service, provision of energy efficiency measures, small appliances, fuel crisis intervention and debt relief. Applications are welcome from Registered Social Landlords across Scotland. Applications close at 17:00 on 27 July 2023. More information is available on the [SFHA website](#).