

CLAS CIRCULAR

2024/02 (06 February)

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It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

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PROPERTY & PLANNING

Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill: further consultation

For information **and possibly for action**

The draft [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Bill](#) will impose requirements in relation to certain premises and events to increase their preparedness for, and protection from, a terrorist attack by requiring them to take proportionate steps, depending on the size and nature of the activities that take place at the premises.

On 5 February, the Home Office launched [a further consultation on smaller premises which would fall within the standard tier](#) under the draft Bill, targeted at organisations, businesses, local and public authorities and individuals that own or operate publicly accessible premises or events that the Bill will potentially affect.

The proposed requirements would apply to those responsible for qualifying public premises and qualifying public events. They might be individuals, but in most cases would be a business or other organisation. One of the conditions for premises would be that they be wholly or mainly used for a listed purpose, such as the provision of entertainment and leisure facilities to the public. The proposals set out different requirements for:

- standard tier premises, which would have a capacity of 100-799 individuals
- enhanced tier premises and qualifying public events, both of which have a capacity of 800 individuals or more.

The Home Office has already announced that most places of worship will be placed in the standard tier, irrespective of their capacity.

The consultation closes at **11:59 pm on 18 March 2024**. Responses must be made online at [this link](#).

We replied to the initial consultation and will be replying to this latest one. *In preparing our own response it would be helpful to have members' views on the likely impact of the Government's proposals.*

[Source: Home Office, 5 February]

Cultural heritage survey

For information and possibly for action

The DCMS has commissioned Purcell and Harlow Consulting to undertake research into the condition of publicly accessible heritage-based attractions. Although all church buildings are publicly accessible, the research is for those that attract visitors on account of their heritage. The intention of the research is for the DCMS to understand better the state of cultural infrastructure, why the need exists and to assess the impact of investment in cultural heritage.

The survey is at <https://harlowconsulting.welcomesyourfeedback.net/s/DCMSResearch>. **The deadline for submissions is 9.00 am 9 February.** The researchers estimate that the survey will take forty-five minutes to complete.

Obviously, CLAS will not be responding corporately, but some individual members and institutions may wish to do so.

[Source: Historic Religious Buildings Alliance, 6 February]

Consultation: Social housing allocation reform

For information and possibly for action

The Government is seeking views from the public, councils, social housing tenants and providers on reforms to social housing allocations.

The reforms include new UK and local connection tests to determine social housing eligibility, with applicants required to demonstrate a connection to the UK for at least 10 years and to their local area for at least 2 years. Prospective tenants on higher incomes could also no longer qualify for social housing, although existing tenants will not be affected.

As part of the reforms, people who have unspent convictions for certain criminal anti-social behaviour or have been subject to certain civil sanctions could be disqualified from social housing for up to 5 years, alongside measures which could disqualify terrorist offenders from benefiting from social housing.

The consultation can be accessed [here](#), and will run until **26 March**.

[Source: DLUHC, 3 January]