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Dear Chief Housing Officer,

National Register of Social Housing (NROSH) and your Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) and Business Plan Statistical Appendix - Annual Monitoring form (BPSA-AM)

Many thanks to you and your staff for all the work you have put in to providing the department with NROSH data.

As you know, one of the benefits of NROSH is, that once the necessary NROSH data has been provided, the Department will use it to complete parts of the HSSA and BPAM annual statistical returns. In order to get the maximum benefit for the 2008 HSSA and BPSA-AM forms you will need to provide complete data for the Mandatory and Priority 1. Fields and to do this in a data upload which represents the 'As at 1st April 2008' position for your stock. This upload should be provided no later than 30th April and must include the historic data on stock flows (Fields 107 and 108) and lettings (Fields 90,91 and 92) back to 1st April 2007. All future uploads should continue to include these data back to 1st April 2007. The list of Mandatory and Priority Fields required for this is attached. Please note that this list differs from the previously circulated version in that Fields 84, 85, 104 and 105 have been removed from priority status meaning that they are not required for the HSSA or the BPSA-AM.

The cells which can be populated from NROSH will be highlighted in your 2008 HSSA and BPSA-AM forms and, where sufficient valid NROSH data has been provided, they will be filled with statistics aggregated from them by the Department. As last year you will have the option of using the NROSH derived figures or overwriting them. Please also note that even if you are unable this year to provide NROSH data for all of the Priority 1 Fields you should aim to provide as many as you are able, because the Department will populate as many of the cells in your forms as is possible with the NROSH data available at the time.

A major potential benefit to LAs is the information that NROSH collects on current social housing stock and output of new affordable housing to help complete sections A and N of the HSSA. When all social landlords are participating in NROSH and the data are complete and accurate, these benefits will be fully realised. You may therefore wish to consult the housing associations in your area on their readiness for this. A guideline which may help you in raising this with your housing associations is attached. The Housing Corporation is aware of this initiative and has written to all housing associations advising them. It might be useful to check on NROSH-Online to see what data the housing associations in your area are currently providing.

The slides from the 2007 regional seminars are now available on the NROSH website www.communities.gov.uk/nationalregisterofsocialhousing These contain some examples of the possible uses of NROSH data which I hope you will find useful.

Thanks again for all your help with NROSH. I hope that you will now begin to get the benefit.

Yours sincerely,

David Fry
Deputy Director, Analytical Services, Communities and Local Government

Guideline On LA Consultation with Housing Associations re Provision of NROSH Data to Assist Completion of Parts A and N of the HSSA

As part of the annual process of completing the HSSA you will normally contact all housing associations with stock in your area and ask them to update their figures on total stock, vacancies and hard to lets for part A and on new provision of affordable housing for Part N. The National Register of Social Housing is designed to produce these statistics from the address level data that both local authorities with stock and housing associations provide for it. Once HAs have provided the necessary data through NROSH the Department's advice to them is that they will not be required to provide it again in a duplicate data collection. It is suggested therefore that when you contact the HAs this year you ascertain whether valid data on their stock will be available from NROSH. It would probably help both you and the HAs if you are able to be a bit more specific than this so it is suggested that you might ask the following questions.

1. Has your organization submitted NROSH data yet?
2. If so do you know:
 - a. Whether the data submitted covers all of your social rented and affordable housing stock?
 - b. Whether it includes the fields necessary for the HSSA?(See table below)
 - c. Whether there will be a data upload that relates to the stock as at 1st April 2008?
3. If the answer to Question 1 is NO, when do you expect your organization to begin providing data to NROSH?

Where a local authority owns social housing the same questions apply to the part of the organization that is responsible for providing NROSH data.

NROSH Fields Required for Sections A & N of the HSSA

FIELD PRIORITY	FIELD NUMBER		FIELD NAME
	Data Standards Release 3	Data Standards Release 4	
Mandatory	1	1	Address
	-	1.1	Local Authority in which the Dwelling is Located
	3	3	Data Provider's Property Reference Number
	7.1	7.1	Confirmation of Ownership
	-	7.2	Code of the Owner
	-	8	Confirmation of Manager
	13	13	Reference Number of the Data Provider
	14	14	Report Date
Required for the HSSA	15	15	Date that the Data Relate to
	23	23.1	Social Rented Housing
		23.2	Non-Social Rented Housing
		23.3	Low Cost Home Ownership
	26*	26*	Funding of dwellings developed or acquired after 31.3.2005
	24	24	Self Contained or Not Self Contained
	31	31	Type of Dwelling
	32	32	Form of Structure
	44	44	Number of Bedrooms
	45	45	Number of Bed Spaces
	-	87	Vacancy Status
	89	89	Vacant Bedspaces in Dormitories
	90*	90*	Dates Occupied
	91*	91*	Dates Vacated
	94	94	Choice Based Lettings
	-	95	Tenure Type
107*	107*	Stock Flow	
108*	108*	Stock Flow Date	

*** To provide useable data for the HSSA it is essential that Fields 26, 90, 91, 107 and 108 include complete historic data back to 1st April 2007**