

The PCA is launching its annual tenant survey

News story

The survey is an opportunity for tied tenants to share their views on their pub company and the PCA across a number of areas.



This will be the PCA's first tenant survey since 2019 due to the need for the industry to focus on the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This is a large-scale survey of around 600 tenants who will be contacted between 12 January – 14 February.

The PCA has listened to feedback across the industry on the first 5 years of the operation of the Code. The survey has been updated this year to focus questions on key areas of the Code, to reflect recent changes in the tied industry and to make it easier to compare the regulated pub companies from the tied tenants' perspective. Tenants will have the opportunity to say how their pub company has been applying the Pubs Code and what their experience has been. They will also be able to share their experience of the PCA service and communications.

The findings will provide an important benchmark as to how tied tenants view their pub company as well as the PCA. This will help the PCA identify areas which are working well and where it can best use its regulatory powers to ensure improvement, as well as monitor progress over time.

What the survey will cover

The questions are centred around 4 core themes:

- awareness of Pubs Code rights and where tenants get information and support
- relationship between tenants and their Business Development Managers and Code Compliance Officers
- experience of tenant contact with the PCA and our communications, including the PCA website

- experience of new tenants, including the value of the information received and use of the sustainable business plan

Taking part in the survey

Independent research company Ipsos MORI will conduct the annual survey on behalf of the PCA.

If you are contacted by Ipsos MORI, we would be grateful for your time in completing this important survey.

All responses will be anonymous.

The PCA will publish the findings from the survey, and our response, as soon as possible after the survey closes.

If you have any questions about the survey, or are not contacted and wish to share your experience, please contact our [enquiry service](#).

Keep up to date

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[Scottish Secretary responds to January Labour Market Statistics](#)

News story

As new ONS employment figures show Scotland's labour market strengthening, Scottish Secretary Alister Jack says the UK Government's Plan for Jobs is working.



Scottish Secretary Alister Jack said:

These figures show the UK Government's Plan for Jobs is working for Scotland, with payrolled employees increasing at a greater monthly percentage than anywhere else in the UK, and remaining above pre-pandemic levels.

Continuing to tackle the pandemic, driving our recovery and getting even more people back into work continue to be our top priorities. Our job support schemes – including Kickstart and targeted support through our jobcentre network – are helping people up and down the country find jobs and progress in work.

Our record £41 billion a year funding for the Scottish Government will also support business growth and job creation as we level up across the whole UK.

Background

Figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show the rate of employment in Scotland is up by 0.7 percentage points compared with the same time last year, which is higher than the UK average. Scotland's unemployment rate is at 3.6%, the lowest since February 2020.

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Government to drive up standards in social housing

- Review of staff training and qualifications to improve social housing services and ensure residents' complaints are dealt with effectively
- Residents encouraged to come forward and have their say on future of social housing
- Social Housing White Paper will make sure tenants are safe, listened to and live in good quality homes

Social housing residents will be better protected as part of a review to ensure they are listened to, the Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Eddie Hughes confirmed today (18 January 2022).

The review on qualifications and professional training will drive up standards by making sure social housing staff are better equipped to support tenants, deal effectively with complaints, and make sure homes are good quality.

The Social Housing White Paper Professionalisation Review will explore the

qualifications currently available for staff, with landlords, residents and trade bodies putting forward recommendations to the government. It will also consider if additional training is required to improve the service to residents.

The government is now urging social housing residents to come forward and have their say in the review and talk about their experience dealing with social housing staff. They can also suggest what changes they would like to see.

The [Social Housing White Paper](#) set out how the government will ensure residents in social housing are safe, listened to, live in good quality homes, and have access to redress when things go wrong. This review is a crucial step in ensuring staff are trained to support residents and listen to their concerns.

This comes after thousands of social housing residents told the government following the Grenfell tragedy that they felt their landlords were failing to treat them with courtesy and respect.

It also follows the latest English Housing Survey report, which shows that more than 59% of social housing residents who complained were not happy with the response to their complaint. At the same time the Housing Ombudsman has seen a 139% increase in complaints in the past year.

Minister for Rough Sleeping and Housing Eddie Hughes MP said:

“Too many social housing residents have told me they feel like they are not listened to or treated with respect – raising complaints time and time again only for the problems not to be fixed.”

“This needs to stop. This review announced today will drive up the standard of services received by residents, making sure their concerns are taken seriously and they have somewhere safe to live.”

“The review is a key element of our Social Housing White Paper, which is bringing forward wide-ranging improvements for tenants.”

Chartered Institute for Housing CEO Gavin Smart said:

“As the professional body for housing, CIH is delighted to be involved with DLUHC’s Professionalisation Review. Home is the foundation on which we all build our lives, our experience during the Covid-19 pandemic has reinforced just how important home is.”

“We are pleased to have the opportunity to take part in the review to help make sure that housing professionals have the right tools to deliver good quality homes and services with people at the heart.”

The government used feedback from residents to inform the [Social Housing](#)

[White Paper: Charter for Social Housing Residents.](#)

As part of its work to implement the Charter, the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is [reviewing the Decent Homes Standard](#), which sets out what makes a good and decent home, and is considering whether this needs to be updated.

Crucially, the Charter will make sure tenants know how to raise concerns when things go wrong – and can be confident that their landlord will make things right. The government will also be bringing forward legislation as soon as practicable to strengthen consumer regulation of the sector.

The working group will include representatives from the Chartered Institute for Housing, tenant engagement experts TPAS as well as North Star Housing Group and Sanctuary Housing.

Landlords, residents and other interested parties can contribute to the Social Housing White Paper Professionalisation Review by emailing: Professionalisation.Review@communities.gov.uk.

[UKHO's Diffuse Coastal Pollution Challenge with Geovation](#)

The UK Hydrographic Office (UKHO) is launching a new challenge in collaboration with Geovation – a start-up accelerator programme and initiative of Ordnance Survey (OS), the national mapping agency for Great Britain – to find a sustainable solution to diffuse coastal pollution.

'Diffuse' pollution is pollution from multiple and often unidentified sources which causes significant damage to the coastal environment on a global scale, including eutrophication, water quality degradation, and loss of biodiversity, as well as adverse effects to human health and the food chain.

Diffuse pollution is a cumulative problem, yet it's not being spoken about enough. At the UKHO – and in partnership with our colleagues at Geovation – we are committed to supporting the search for a sustainable solution.

To do this, the UKHO will grant participants in the Diffuse Coastal Pollution Challenge access to our world-leading range of data sets for Bathymetry and Maritime limits and Boundaries, Marine Protected Areas and Tidal Data. Fellow data providers and experts – including Ordnance Survey, the Met Office, and The British Geological Survey – will also provide participants with rich, high-quality data.

Our approach to marine hydrography innovation and development is grounded in research and collaboration. As part of this approach, working together with

innovators and start-ups is key to create ground-breaking, sustainable, and truly effective solutions that can work in the long term.

We are looking for innovators who care about the environment and want to make a positive impact. The Diffuse Coastal Pollution Challenge is not only a unique opportunity to contribute to finding a solution to prevent the severe consequences of diffuse coastal pollution, but also winners will receive up to £5,000 funding to further develop their idea. Applicants must be UK residents over 18 years old or a UK registered Ltd company. Does this sound like you? To learn more, please read on for the details about the application process and deadlines.

1. Register for the Challenge (16th December – 20th February)

Firstly, applicants must register for the challenge [here](#). Once you've registered, you'll get full access to the data, information and primary and secondary research we have carried out which will help you create and design your solution.

2. Submit your application (Mid-January – 20th February)

Submissions for the challenge will be open from mid-January until the 20th of February. Applicants will need to submit a slide deck (15 slides maximum) and video (3 minutes maximum).

The slide deck should include a description of the problem you want to solve, the solution you propose and how you will execute it, how you will use the data and your suggested next steps, including the allocation and plans for the prize money. The video should include an introduction to your team, approach and vision.

For the full information and details on our Diffuse Coastal Pollution Challenge and application process, please visit [here](#).

[Minister Pow keynote speech – Coastal Futures 2022](#)

Thank you for inviting me to speak again, at a crucial time for our ocean. Over the next few days, you'll hear from a formidable line up. This conference is an excellent opportunity to share the wealth of knowledge that you all have – expertise that is welcome in our efforts to build back better from the pandemic, where innovation will play a crucial role.

We're privileged in the UK to be surrounded by some of the most beautiful and

diverse coastal and marine habitats on Earth. We do know that protecting and restoring those habitats can provide the most wide ranging benefits, including preventing biodiversity loss, supporting livelihoods and wellbeing, and regulating our climate.

As nature recovery minister, marine and coastal conservation are absolutely key parts of my work. This year, colleagues across the Defra Group will continue working towards our vision of clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse seas, which are used sustainably.

A key part of that vision, framed by the Fisheries Act 2020, is our ambition to be a world-leading fisheries management nation and achieve fully sustainable fisheries. This year we will continue to develop Fisheries Management Plans, working in partnership with stakeholders. Today, together with the devolved administrations, we are launching a public consultation on the Joint Fisheries Statement to help us deliver world-class sustainable fisheries and aquaculture management and that sets out how we propose to deliver our eight Fisheries Objectives. We very much want to hear from all of you about our proposals.

The Joint Fisheries Statement and Fisheries Management Plans will be key tools underpinning our progress towards Good Environmental Status under the UK Marine Strategy. We are currently updating Part Three of the Strategy, which sets out the programme of measures we will implement to help us achieve our vision for our seas.

The last year has been a period of change. We are free to chart our own course in so many areas – including fisheries. And I firmly believe that we can achieve this ambition to be the most sustainable fisheries in the world – with rejuvenated fishing communities and a thriving marine environment.

This Government is committed to an ambitious levelling up agenda, and coastal communities must be at the heart of this. Over a third of the UK population live within 5 km of the coast and 17% live in coastal communities. So, we cannot truly level up without investing in our coastal communities.

We have launched a £100 million UK Seafood fund, with £24 million of investment to develop technology, trial new gear and support world-class research to improve the productivity and long-term sustainability of the industry.

To support the industry, last year we launched the Fisheries Industry Science Partnerships scheme, and received over £2million worth of bids in the first round. The next round opens in early spring, and we want to hear from you in terms of applying and what you think would be useful.

We are also investing to upskill the workforce, train new entrants and ensure that we truly are at the cutting edge of new safe and sustainable fishing methods.

As we look to the future, innovation in the UK's world-leading offshore wind industry is transforming coastal communities and means the ocean will play an

even greater role in getting to net zero. Defra is rising to the challenge of ensuring this greater role is balanced with protection of the marine environment, including through work on strategic compensation and new proposals for marine net gain and I am working very closely with my team and BEIS team.

Last week, Defra's Secretary of State met with the Stop Sea Blasts Campaign to watch a demonstration of how unexploded ordnance can be cleared in a much quieter way than the traditional technique of detonation, which is incredibly noisy and can impact on our whales and dolphins. Innovative solutions such as this will be key in ensuring we meet the Government's climate change commitments, whilst ensuring the protection of our marine environment.

I had a great visit recently to the East Coast Hub in Grimsby last year I saw, first-hand, how marine industries like offshore wind and fisheries can work together. Orsted and the Holderness Fishing Industry Group are finding new ways to drive community regeneration and reduce their cumulative impact on the marine environment. As the marine space gets busier, and we look to the sea to provide more of our energy and carbon storage, such collaboration will be the future.

We will also need to take a look strategically how we use our seas. That's why Defra is leading a cross-government programme of work to consider marine spatial prioritisation. We want to work with all of you to support co-existence between all sea users, optimising the use of our seas, and balancing the needs of industry with restoring and protecting the marine environment.

As the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development begins, the UK is embarking on a £140 million flagship science innovation programme, the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment Programme. Continuing the work started by Professor Dasgupta in his review of the economics of biodiversity, the programme will highlight the natural assets we have, and their condition, and begin to seek to acknowledge the value of nature for people and the economy – supporting Government ambitions to incorporate nature into its national accounts.

This year, we will strengthen the marine protections already in place by continuing work to ensure our network of Marine Protected Areas are effectively protected. Now that we have left the EU, the MMO has used new powers to develop byelaws for four offshore sites and they are in the process of being finalised. These byelaws will prevent damaging fishing activity from taking place.

It's important to get these byelaws right and ensure they are robust; they set the tone for the remaining offshore sites, for which an ambitious three-year programme has been developed. This will implement byelaws, where necessary, to manage fishing activity in all English offshore MPAs.

In the next few months, we will also be conducting a formal consultation on potential Highly Protected Marine Area sites, which will have the highest protection in our seas. I spoke about this at my first conference here – and

we are moving so close to this now, making real progress.

We also want to use our voice on the international stage to share our experiences, including those of our partners in overseas territories and crown dependencies who are stewards for so much marine life. 2021 was a significant year for this international work, including at the G7 leaders' summit in June, where the UK launched a £500 million Blue Planet Fund which will support developing countries to protect the marine environment and reduce poverty.

It was also tremendous to see the ocean right at the heart of the conversation at COP26, and we continue to advance the science on the connection between the ocean and our climate. We have just published a Natural England report on the exciting and rapidly developing area of blue carbon.

We will continue to champion action in 2022, including calling for ambitious outcomes from COP15 of the Convention on Biological Diversity. The UK has been leading calls to protect at least 30% of the global ocean by 2030, including through the UK-led Global Ocean Alliance, and over 100 countries already support the target.

I'm proud of the progress we have made together so far, through the Environment Act, a significant piece of legislation and look forward to continuing to work closely with you all to ensure we hand on our marine environment in a better state than we found it. Thank you.