15 November 2019

Dear,

**ATISN 13511 FOI on Housing Policy**

Thank you for your request which I received on **22 October 2019** about **Welsh Government’s proposals regarding security of tenure, and any plans we may have in relation to housing benefit**. The information you requested is enclosed.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government’s handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government’s Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:  
Information Commissioner’s Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

Jon Roche  
Housing Policy  
Welsh Government  
[Jon.roche@gov.wales](mailto:Jon.roche@gov.wales)  
03000 251999
Responses to each of your requests are provided below:

- **The impact assessment – or similar documents – for the proposed possession reform on the private rented sector, if any exists.**

  Work is currently underway to develop the Regulatory Impact Assessment which will accompany our draft legislation on improving security of tenure when it is introduced to the National Assembly for Wales next year. Given that the bill and the accompanying documentation are still being drafted it is not possible to provide you with the information you have requested at this time. We will ensure that the RLA are informed as soon as the draft bill and explanatory memorandum are published.

- **Will the Welsh Government outline any plans it has to use its finances and powers to “top-up” housing benefit?**

  No such plans are currently under consideration within Welsh Government.

- **The Welsh Government recently finished consulting on increasing the minimum notice period for a no-fault eviction. Will the Welsh Government confirm that it has no plans to increase the minimum notice period beyond the proposed six months? Please provide any documentation regarding discussion (written or oral) relating to plans to increase the minimum notice period beyond the proposed six months.**

  We can confirm that there have been no discussions within Welsh Government on increasing the notice period beyond the proposals set out in our recent consultation document, namely:

  - To extend the minimum notice period required under a section 173 notice from two months to six months,

  - To restrict the issue of such a notice until six months after the date of issue of a contract (as opposed to four months as currently set out in the Act); and,

  - To remove the ability to serve a section 173 notice within the six month period following expiry of any previous section 173 notice which the landlord has served on the contract-holder.