

National housing study: evaluation of the Selective Licensing Scheme for private rented housing.

What is this?

This leaflet provides information about a study on housing and health. We want to know what a range of people think about private rented housing: tenants, landlords, people from government, voluntary and community organisations. We want to know what people think about landlords paying a licence fee to fund housing inspections and housing regulation. We are interested in a licensing scheme run by some local authorities called 'selective licensing.' We are now recruiting people who might be willing to share their views about the private rented sector and landlord licensing. We are holding a stakeholder workshop so that we can discuss selective licensing with relevant stakeholders from policy and practice. This information sheet is for that workshop.

In another part of the study we will interview people; while another will use government statistics and other data to assess health and social impacts of selective licensing schemes across England.

Who are we?

We are researchers at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, working with colleagues from the Universities of Liverpool, Lancaster, Bristol and Greenwich. We are funded by National Institute for Health and Social Care (NIHR).

How are we recruiting for the workshop?

Either directly or through contacts we know many relevant stakeholders involved in selective licensing. We would include people with responsibility for private rented housing and licensing at National Government. We may also include a minority of stakeholders responsible for larger regions: e.g. devolved regional authorities such as Greater London Authority. We also have contacts with national housing charities and large housing association representatives for a non-governmental perspective.

What is involved in the workshop?

If you agree to take part we will invite you to an online event for around 10 stakeholders + research facilitators. It will be a half day event. Each attendee will be asked to briefly introduce themselves and we will introduce the study. There will be a discussion on what works and what does not work in the private rented sector. There will then be discussions about selective licensing. We will present some hypothesised outcomes of selective licensing to stimulate discussion. Discussions will be facilitated and audio recorded. We ask attendees to share their views in these discussions and to respect the views of others and their confidentiality.

Can I decline to be involved?

Yes you can. At any point.

Is the research confidential?

Yes. Any information that you share with us will be kept confidential. Recorded transcripts will only be seen by members of the research team. All information will be stored securely in line with UK Data Protection legislation.

Will I be identified in any outputs?

You will not be named in any research outputs such as reports, presentations or research papers in academic journals.

Am I being personally assessed or evaluated?

No. This study is not assessing the performance or behaviour of any individuals and none of the information that identifies you that we collect will be seen by anyone except the members of the research team. This means that no-one will be told about specific events you are involved in, nor will specific comments you make be attributed to you.

What are the benefits of taking part?

You will contribute to a study that will inform national and local housing policies, particularly those policies affecting the private rented sector – its landlords and tenants.

How will the research be used?

The findings of the study will be reported to practitioners and policy-makers working in the areas of local housing and public health, to our research partners at other universities, and to the funder (NIHR). We will publish the research in the form of working papers, practitioner reports, and peer-reviewed journal articles and present findings at academic conferences.

What happens next?

Please keep this information sheet if you agree to participate. Should you agree, the research team will be available to talk through this information and answer questions. We will also make sure that you have a copy of the consent form to keep.

If you have decided that do not want to take part or change your mind at any time, please just let the researcher know as soon as possible in the best way for you (telephone or email).

Further information

If you have any questions that are not answered here, would like any more information or to discuss the study in more detail please contact us:

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Thank you for reading this. Your help will be very valuable.