

SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 16

TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS FROM THE OFFICE FOR TENANTS AND SOCIAL LANDLORDS TO THE HOMES AND COMMUNITIES AGENCY

PART 1

AMENDMENTS TO THE HOUSING AND REGENERATION ACT 2008

26 After that section insert—

“The regulator and the Regulation Committee

92A Regulation functions of the HCA

- (1) In this Part “the regulator” means the HCA.
- (2) In any other enactment or instrument “the Regulator of Social Housing” means the HCA.

92B The Regulation Committee

- (1) The HCA must establish a committee to be known as the Regulation Committee.
- (2) The functions conferred on the HCA as the regulator by virtue of this Part, or as the Regulator of Social Housing by virtue of any other enactment or instrument, are exercisable by the HCA acting through the Regulation Committee.
- (3) Those functions are not exercisable by the HCA in any other way.
- (4) Subsections (2) and (3) are subject to any express provision to the contrary in this Part or in the enactment or instrument in question.
- (5) References in this Part to the functions of the regulator are to the functions mentioned in subsection (2).
- (6) References in any enactment or instrument to the social housing functions of the HCA or the Regulator of Social Housing are to the functions mentioned in subsection (2).

92C Membership of the Regulation Committee

- (1) The Regulation Committee is to consist of—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) a person appointed by the Secretary of State to chair the Committee (“the chair”), and
 - (b) not less than four and not more than six other members appointed by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The chair of the Committee must not be a member of the HCA immediately prior to the chair’s appointment as such, but becomes a member of the HCA on appointment.
 - (3) One other member of the Committee may be a member of the HCA.
 - (4) The member within subsection (3) is referred to in this Part as the internal member.
 - (5) The remaining members of the Committee must be neither a member nor a member of staff of the HCA.
 - (6) A member within subsection (5) is referred to in this Part as an external member.
 - (7) The Secretary of State must consult the chair before appointing the other members.
 - (8) In appointing a person to be a member, the Secretary of State must have regard to the desirability of appointing a person who has experience of, and has shown some capacity in, a matter relevant to the exercise of the functions of the regulator.
 - (9) In appointing a person to be a member, the Secretary of State must be satisfied that the person will have no financial or other interest likely to affect prejudicially the exercise of the person’s functions as a member.
 - (10) The Secretary of State may require any person whom the Secretary of State proposes to appoint as a member to provide such information as the Secretary of State considers necessary for the purposes of subsection (9).

92D Terms of appointment of members

- (1) A member of the Regulation Committee holds office in accordance with the member’s terms of appointment.
- (2) A member may resign by serving notice on the Secretary of State.
- (3) A person ceases to be the chair if the person—
 - (a) resigns that office by serving notice on the Secretary of State, or
 - (b) ceases to be a member of the Committee.
- (4) If a person ceases to be the chair, the person—
 - (a) ceases to be a member of the Committee, and
 - (b) ceases to be a member of the HCA.
- (5) A person ceases to be the internal member if the person ceases to be a member of the HCA.
- (6) A person who ceases to be a member or the chair is eligible for reappointment (subject to section 92C).

- (7) The Secretary of State may remove a member who—
- (a) has been absent from meetings of the Committee without its permission for more than six months,
 - (b) has become bankrupt or has made an arrangement with the member's creditors,
 - (c) the Secretary of State thinks has failed to comply with the member's terms of appointment, or
 - (d) the Secretary of State thinks is otherwise unable, unfit or unsuitable to exercise the functions of that member.

92E Remuneration etc of members

- (1) The Secretary of State may require the HCA to pay to the chair such additional remuneration and allowances as the Secretary of State may decide.
- (2) The Secretary of State may require the HCA to pay to the external members of the Regulation Committee such remuneration and allowances as the Secretary of State may decide.
- (3) The Secretary of State may require the HCA to—
 - (a) pay such pensions, allowances or gratuities as the Secretary of State may decide to or in respect of any external member or former external member;
 - (b) pay such sums as the Secretary of State may decide towards provision for the payment of pensions, allowances or gratuities to or in respect of any external member or former external member.
- (4) Subsection (5) applies if—
 - (a) a person ceases to be an external member, and
 - (b) the Secretary of State considers that there are special circumstances that make it appropriate for the person to receive compensation.
- (5) The Secretary of State may require the HCA to pay the person such amount as the Secretary of State may decide.

92F Sub-committees of the Regulation Committee

- (1) The Regulation Committee may establish one or more sub-committees.
- (2) A sub-committee may include persons who are not members of the Committee.
- (3) The Secretary of State may require the HCA to pay such remuneration and allowances as the Secretary of State may decide to any person who—
 - (a) is a member of a sub-committee, but
 - (b) is not a member of the Committee.
- (4) The HCA may dissolve a sub-committee.

92G Procedure of the Committee and its sub-committees

- (1) The Regulation Committee may decide—

Status: This is the original version (as it was originally enacted).

- (a) its own procedure, and
 - (b) the procedure of any of its sub-committees.
- (2) Subject to subsection (1), a sub-committee may decide its own procedure.
- (3) The validity of proceedings of the Committee or of any of its sub-committees is not affected by—
- (a) any vacancy in its membership,
 - (b) any defect in the appointment of a member, or
 - (c) any contravention of section 92H (members' interests).
- (4) In this section "procedure" includes quorum.

92H Members' interests

- (1) A member of the Regulation Committee who is directly or indirectly interested in any matter arising at a meeting of the Committee must disclose the nature of that interest to the meeting.
- (2) A member of a sub-committee of the Committee who is directly or indirectly interested in any matter arising at a meeting of the sub-committee must disclose the nature of that interest to the meeting.
- (3) In a case within subsection (1) or (2)—
- (a) the member must not take part in any deliberation or decision about the matter if it is a contract or agreement of any description, but
 - (b) may otherwise take part in any deliberation or decision about the matter unless at least one-third of the other members at the meeting decide that the interests disclosed might prejudicially affect the member's consideration of the matter.

92I Exercise of functions

- (1) The Regulation Committee may delegate any of the functions of the regulator to—
- (a) any of its members,
 - (b) any of its sub-committees, or
 - (c) any member of staff of the HCA.
- (2) A sub-committee of the Committee may delegate any function conferred on it to any member of staff of the HCA.
- (3) A power of the HCA that is a function of the regulator—
- (a) may be exercised separately or together with, or as part of, another such power;
 - (b) does not limit the scope of another such power.

92J Recommendations to HCA

- (1) The Regulation Committee may make recommendations to the HCA about the exercise of the HCA's functions.
- (2) The HCA must publish, in such manner as it thinks fit—

- (a) a recommendation received from the Regulation Committee under this section, and
 - (b) the HCA's response to it.
- (3) In this section the reference to the HCA's functions does not include the functions of the regulator.

Fundamental objectives

92K Fundamental objectives

- (1) The regulator must perform its functions with a view to achieving (so far as is possible)—
- (a) the economic regulation objective, and
 - (b) the consumer regulation objective.
- (2) The economic regulation objective is—
- (a) to ensure that registered providers of social housing are financially viable and properly managed, and perform their functions efficiently and economically,
 - (b) to support the provision of social housing sufficient to meet reasonable demands (including by encouraging and promoting private investment in social housing),
 - (c) to ensure that value for money is obtained from public investment in social housing,
 - (d) to ensure that an unreasonable burden is not imposed (directly or indirectly) on public funds, and
 - (e) to guard against the misuse of public funds.
- (3) The consumer regulation objective is—
- (a) to support the provision of social housing that is well-managed and of appropriate quality,
 - (b) to ensure that actual or potential tenants of social housing have an appropriate degree of choice and protection,
 - (c) to ensure that tenants of social housing have the opportunity to be involved in its management and to hold their landlords to account, and
 - (d) to encourage registered providers of social housing to contribute to the environmental, social and economic well-being of the areas in which the housing is situated.
- (4) The objectives are referred to in this Part as the regulator's fundamental objectives.
- (5) The regulator must exercise its functions in a way that—
- (a) minimises interference, and
 - (b) (so far as is possible) is proportionate, consistent, transparent and accountable."