

# Wales Fire and Rescue Service

## Circular



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Circular number:	<b>W-FRSC(2022) 07</b>	Date issued:	18 May 2022
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Status:	For Action
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Title:	<b>Consultation:</b> The Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023
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Issued by:
Lisa Walters Fire Services Branch

Addressed to:	Please forward to:
Chief Fire Officers Business Fire Safety Leads Community Fire Safety Leads	Any other relevant officers

### Summary

This circular draws your attention to a Welsh Government consultation on a proposed new Welsh Housing Quality Standard which aims to improve the quality of social homes in Wales.

### For further information contact:

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## The Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 - Consultation

### Introduction

1. The Housing Safety, Regulation and Improvement Division of the Welsh Government has published a 12-week consultation on the introduction of a proposed new Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) for social housing in Wales. **The Consultation will run between 11 May and 3 August.**
2. Here are the links to both the Welsh and English Consultation documents:
  - [Safon Ansawdd Tai Cymru 2023 \[HTML\] | LLYW.CYMRU](#)
  - [Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#)

### Background

3. The WHQS 2023 will replace the existing WHQS to reflect updated legal requirements, changes to how people live, work and feel about their homes, and to start decarbonisation of the Welsh social housing stock at scale. It also contains provisions about fire safety measures that should be provided in social housing, including in the common parts of blocks of flats.
4. It is important that the Fire and Rescue Authorities provide their views as to whether the proposed new standard is consistent with established regulatory practice and fire safety advice. The relevant provisions are in part 2 of the proposed standard, which can be found here: [The Welsh Housing Quality Standard 2023: draft \(gov.wales\)](#). We therefore urge you to consider the provisions and respond to the consultation by **3 August**.
5. An **Easy Read Guide** to support tenants' understanding of the new standard is being produced and will be published shortly.

**Lisa Walters**  
**Fire Services Branch**  
**Welsh Government**