

CLAS CIRCULAR 2021/21 (14 October 2021)

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CLAS is not qualified to advise on the legal and technical problems of members and does not undertake to do so. Though we take every care to provide a service of high quality, neither CLAS, the Secretary nor the Governors undertakes any liability for any error or omission in the information supplied.

It would be very helpful if members could let us know of anything that appears to indicate developments of policy or practice on the part of Government or other matters of general concern that should be pursued.

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CHARITIES & CHARITY LAW

Minister for Civil Society appointed

For information

The new [Minister for Civil Society and Youth](#), appointed nearly a month after the reshuffle process began, is Nigel Huddleston MP, a Parliamentary Under Secretary at DCMS. In addition to his civil society brief, he is also Minister for Sport and Tourism. DCMS confirmed that the civil society brief continues to include social enterprise and loneliness policy.

[Source: DCMS, 11 October]

EMPLOYMENT

Job Retention Scheme: final claims

For information **and possibly for action**

The Job Retention Scheme closed at the end of September 2021. Claims for September must be made by **today, Thursday 14 October**. For how to claim, see HMRC's [guidance](#).

[Source: Charity Tax Group, 4 October]

Making flexible working the default

For information **and possibly for action**

BEIS has [published](#) a consultation - closing **1 December** - on proposals to reform flexible working regulations. The proposals would affect both employers who receive flexible working requests and individuals who are looking to change their contracted working arrangements. The territorial extent of these proposals extends to England, Wales, and Scotland. Employment law is devolved to Northern Ireland.

[Source: BEIS, 23 September]

Tied accommodation

For information

Lexology has published a helpful short guide, ["Tied" Accommodation - what employers need to know](#)'.

[Source: *Lexology*, 21 September]

PROPERTY & PLANNING

Understanding the possession action process: guidance for landlords and tenants

For information

The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (formerly the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government) has [updated](#) its guidance for landlords and tenants on understanding the possession action process. The guidance has been updated to reflect changes to required notice periods in England and Wales, the end of the furlough scheme and changes to international travel rules.

[Source: MHCLG, 1 October]

SCOTLAND

Becoming a fair work nation

For information **and possibly for action**

The Scottish Government has [published](#) a consultation - closing **23 December** - on Scotland becoming a Fair Work Nation. The Scottish Government's vision is that by 2025, people in Scotland will have a working life where "Fair Work" drives success, wellbeing and prosperity for individuals, businesses, organisations and society.

[Source: Scottish Government, 1 October]

Consultation on reforming the non-domestic rates system

For information **and possibly for action**

The Scottish Government has [published](#) a consultation - closing **15 December** - on reforming the non-domestic rates system. The report of the independent Barclay Review of Non-Domestic Rates was published in August 2017 and made a number of recommendations to reform the non-domestic rates system including the appeals process.

The Non-Domestic Rates (Scotland) Act 2020 creates the requirement for assessors to publish a draft valuation roll and issue draft valuation notices before revaluation, the power for Ministers to set out what (draft) valuation notices must contain, and a two-stage appeals system which is scheduled to replace the current system on 1 January 2023.

The consultation seeks views on draft regulations relating to all of these processes, including timings for the publication of the draft roll, the content of (draft) valuation notices, and procedures in proposals.

[Source: Scottish Government, 22 September]

Grants for tenants in rent arrears

For information

The Scottish Government has [announced](#) that councils have been given £10 million to provide grants to tenants who have fallen behind on their rent as a result of the pandemic and are at risk of eviction. They will be available to tenants in both the private and social rented sectors.

[Source: Scottish Government, 27 September]

Heat in Buildings Strategy

For information

The Scottish Government has [published](#) its Heat in Buildings Strategy, which aims to cut greenhouse gas emissions from homes and buildings by more than two-thirds by 2030. The Scottish Parliament also [debated](#) the strategy.

[Source: Scottish Government, 7 October]

WALES

Planning and historic environment law to be simplified

For information

The Welsh Government has [announced](#) that planning law will be "simplified and modernised" through a consolidation Bill that will include planning and historic environment law.

[Source: Welsh Government, 21 September]