



Children's Rights Impact Assessment (CRIA) Template

Title / Piece of work:	Right to Buy – Level of Discount SI
Related SF / LF number (if applicable)	LF/LG/0152/15 LF/LG/0328/15 LF/LG/0330/15
Name of Official:	Ian Crump
Department:	Housing Policy
Date:	March 2015
Signature:	Ian Crump

Please complete the CRIA and retain it for your records on iShare. You may be asked to provide this document at a later stage to evidence that you have complied with the duty to have due regard to children's rights e.g. Freedom of Information access requests, monitoring purposes or to inform reporting to the NafW.

Upon completion you should also forward a copy of the CRIA to the Measure Implementation Team for monitoring purposes using the dedicated mailbox CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk

If officials are not sure about whether to complete a CRIA, they should err on the side of caution and seek advice from the Measure Implementation Team by forwarding any questions to our mailbox CRIA@wales.gsi.gov.uk

You may wish to cross-reference with other Impact Assessments undertaken.

NB. All CRIAs undertaken on legislation must be published. All non-legislative CRIAs will be listed on the WG website and must be made available upon request. Ministers are however, encouraged to publish all completed CRIAs.

Six Steps to Due Regard



Step 1. What's the piece of work and its objective(s)?

You may wish to include:

- A brief description of the piece of work
- What the time frame for achieving it is?
- Who are the intended beneficiaries?
- Is it likely that the piece of work will affect children?
- Will the piece of work have an affect on a particular group of children, if so, describe the group affected?

A Statutory Instrument that will reduce the amount of discount available to social housing tenants who wish to purchase their home through the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire Schemes in Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to taking action to increase the supply of social housing. This commitment is reflected in the Programme for Government and in the Housing White Paper. A reduction in the level of the Right to Buy discount will help to maintain the existing stock levels of social housing and will assist in meeting housing pressure.

The Welsh Government set out its intention to reduce the level of discount available in its consultation paper "The future of Right to Buy and Right to Acquire – a White Paper for social housing" published on 22 January 2015. The results of the consultation exercise can be found on the Welsh Government website. More than nine out of ten respondents who answered the question (94%) believe the Welsh Government should take more action to help people whose housing needs cannot be met by the housing market. Three out of four (75%) feel the Welsh Government should do more to protect the housing stock from further reduction. Overall, the responses show support for the proposal to develop legislation to end the Right to Buy and the Right to Acquire.

This will affect children in social housing.

Step 2. Analysing the impact

- What are the positive and/or negative impacts for children, young people or their families?
- Where there are negative impacts; what compensatory measures may be needed to mitigate any negative impact?
- How will you know if your piece of work is a success?
- Have you developed an outcomes framework to measure impact?
- Have you considered the short, medium and long term outcomes?
- Do you need to engage with children & young people and/or stakeholders to seek their views using consultation or participatory methods?
- Do you need to produce child friendly versions of proposals/consultations?

Social housing is a vital part of the housing market. The lower rents help people, particularly those who are vulnerable, who cannot find a home from the housing market, either by buying a home or by renting from a private landlord.

Over the last thirty years or so, the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire have allowed many tenants to buy their homes from their Local Authority or Housing Association. As a result a significant number of publicly-funded homes have passed into private ownership – some of which have found their way into the private rented sector meaning that the number of homes available to those on low income, including young adults and families with children, has been lessened.

By decreasing the amount of discount available under the schemes the number of homes lost to social housing providers will decrease helping to maintain the stock of social rented homes, which is a way in which poverty can be tackled.

Tackling the supply of social housing in this way will ensure that properties are made available to those in need which may include families who are currently on waiting lists for social housing. Having settled accommodation encourages a child's health development.

The percentage of lone parent families in social rented housing is around 23% whereas the average number of lone parent families across all tenures is around 11%. Safe-guarding social rented housing for families is likely to benefit families and children. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation sees social housing as a major contributor to tackling poverty as the targeting of social housing to those most in need is one of the most redistributive of social policies and thereby helps those most in need.

A number of Children's groups were consulted as part of the process and there have been three consultation exercises on Right to buy in 2008, 2011 and 2015.

The proposed reduction in the level of discount available under the Right to Buy scheme might limit the ability of some people to purchase a property and this could negatively impact on families with children. However, it needs to be recognised that the Welsh Government is taking concerted action to help people in Wales get on the housing ladder. We have invested £170 million in our successful Help to Buy Wales scheme which has helped over 1030 families buy their own home.

The scheme is making home-ownership easier for people who have struggled to secure large cash deposits.

Help to Buy Wales is on track to support the construction of 5,000 new homes across Wales and has received the backing of over 148 builders and thousands of aspiring home owners.

The Welsh Government backed Homebuy shared equity scheme which is administered by Housing

Associations is also helping people get on the housing ladder

Step 3. How does your piece of work support and promote children's rights?

Dependant upon the impact of your piece of work, use balanced judgement to assess:

- Which UNCRC articles are **most** relevant to the piece of work? Consider the articles which your piece of work impacts upon. <http://uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/images/PDF/UNCRCRights.pdf>
- How are you improving the way children and young people access their rights?
- What aspects of children's lives will be affected by the proposal?
- What are the main issues that the CRIA should focus on?
- Does the piece of work help to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?
- If no, have any alternatives to the current piece of work been considered?

Article 24 – By Taking reasonable steps to develop and maintaining social housing is one of the key ways in which housing policy can be used to tackle poverty. The benefits extend to both adults and children who are more likely to be provided with a clean environment and access to clean water.

Article 27 – Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford this.

The allocation of social housing is targeted to support those most in need and the guidance provided by Welsh Government Is interpreted by Local Authorities into allocation policies which are the subject of Equality Impact Assessments.

The provision of good quality accommodation provides a safe, secure and warm environment for children.

Other articles are also relevant eg 3, 6, 9, 18, 20.

Housing and regeneration play a critical role in supporting young people and low income families to achieve better outcomes. Living in poor quality housing can be detrimental to children and young people's health and wellbeing, with effects lasting into adulthood. In particular, the physical quality of the home is key to children's life chances and will affect their ability to study and thrive. If we can improve the supply and quality of affordable housing, we not only help prevent homelessness, we make an important contribution to reducing health and educational inequalities.

Families living in temporary accommodation and those who are homeless are less likely to access important support services. Homelessness too can have a significant negative impact on the children in these households affecting their development and educational attainment.

Furthermore, having a settled and secure home is important for parents. Without this, they are less likely to secure training and long term employment opportunities, which in turn affect their income. They are therefore more at risk of living in poverty.

By 2030, we hope to see a wholesale improvement in the quality and supply of homes and surrounding spaces in our communities, with very little, if any, homelessness, providing the best possible environment to support children and eradicate child poverty.

Step 4. Advising the Minister and Ministerial decision

When giving advice and making recommendations to the Minister, consider:

- The ways in which the piece of work helps to maximise the outcomes within the articles of the UNCRC?
- Has any conflict with the UNCRC articles within the proposal been identified?
- Consider the wider impact; does the proposal affect any other policy areas?
- With regard to any negative impacts caused by the proposal; can Ministers evidence that they have allocated as much resources as possible?
- What options and advice should be provided to Ministers on the proposal?
- In relation to your advice on whether or not to proceed with the piece of work, is there any additional advice you should provide to the Minister?
- Is it appropriate to advise the Minister to reconsider the decision in the future, in particular bearing in mind the availability of resources at this time and what resources may be available in the future?
- Have you provided advice to Ministers on a LF/SF and confirmed paragraph **26**?
- Is the advice supported by an explanation of the key issues?

This proposal is likely to assist children and particularly those most in need and suffering poverty.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation stated that social housing was one of the best ways to tackle poverty and one of the most redistributive elements of the welfare state.

A number of LFs have gone to the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty including the Cabinet report of December 2014 which set out key options. Other submissions are listed at the beginning of the CRIA. An explanatory memorandum is available with the order to be amended and this is on LF/LG/0328/15.

The Welsh Government set out its intention to reduce the level of discount available in its consultation paper “The future of Right to Buy and Right to Acquire – a White Paper for social housing” published on 22 January 2015. Consultation closed on 16 April. The results of the consultation exercise can be found on the Welsh Government website. More than nine out of ten respondents who answered the question (94%) believe the Welsh Government should take more action to help people whose housing needs cannot be met by the housing market. Three out of four (75%) feel the Welsh Government should do more to protect the housing stock from further reduction. Overall, the responses show support for the proposal to develop legislation to end the Right to Buy and the Right to Acquire.

Step 5. Recording and communicating the outcome

Final version to be retained on i-share

Evidence should be retained that supports:

- How the duty has been complied with **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The analysis that was carried out **(Steps 1-3 above)**
- The options that were developed and explored **(Steps 1- 3 above)**
- How have the findings / outcomes been communicated? **(Step 4 above)**
- 'Tells the story' of how the assessment has been undertaken and the results **(Step 4 above)**

This Child Impact Assessment is stored on the Welsh Government's record management system (iShare).

Step 6. Revisiting the piece of work as and when needed

In revisiting the piece of work, consider any monitoring, evaluation or data collection that has been undertaken:

- Has your piece of work has had the intended impact as set out in Step 2.
- Have you engaged with stakeholders to discuss how the policy or practice is working.
- If not, are changes required.
- Identify where improvements can be made to reduce any negative impact.
- Identify any opportunities to promote children's rights, bearing in mind any additional availability of resources at this time.

There is an annual data collection on Right to Buy properties which will continue and which will be monitored.

Budgets

As a result of completing the CRIA, has there been any impact on budgets?

It is important that where any changes are made to spending plans, including where additional allocations have been made, that this has been assessed and evidenced as part of the CRIA process.

No

Please give any details:

Monitoring & Review

Do we need to monitor / review the proposal?

Yes

If applicable: set the review date

April 2016



**See next page for a
Summary List of the
UNCRC articles**



THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is an international agreement that protects the human rights of the children under the age of 18. On 16 December 1991, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland formally agreed to make sure that every child in the UK has all the rights as listed in the convention. The Welsh Government has shown its commitment to the convention by adopting it as the basis for policy making for children in Wales.

Altogether there are 54 articles in the convention. Articles 43-54 are about how adults and governments should work together to make sure all children are entitled to their rights. The information contained here is about articles 1-42 which set out how children should be treated.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

www.cymru.gov.uk

Article 1

Everyone under 18 years of age has all the rights in this Convention.

Article 2

The Convention applies to everyone whatever their race, religion, abilities, whatever they think or say and whatever type of family they come from.

Article 3

All organisations concerned with children should work towards what is best for each child.

Article 4

Governments should make these rights available to children.

Article 5

Governments should respect the rights and responsibilities of families to direct and guide their children so that, as they grow, they learn to use their rights properly.

Article 6

All children have the right to life. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.

Article 7

All children have the right to a legally registered name, the right to a nationality and the right to know and, as far as possible, to be cared for by their parents.

Article 8

Governments should respect children's right to a name, a nationality and family ties.

Article 9

Children should not be separated from their parents unless it is for their own good, for example if a parent is mistreating or neglecting a child. Children whose parents have separated have the right to stay in contact with both parents, unless this might hurt the child.

Article 10

Families who live in different countries should be allowed to move between those countries so that parents and children can stay in contact or get back together as a family.

Article 11

Governments should take steps to stop children being taken out of their own country illegally.

Article 12

Children have the right to say what they think should happen, when adults are making

decisions that affect them, and to have their opinions taken into account.

Article 13

Children have the right to get and to share information as long as the information is not damaging to them or to others.

Article 14

Children have the right to think and believe what they want and to practise their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Parents should guide their children on these matters.

Article 15

Children have the right to meet together and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.

Article 16

Children have a right to privacy. The law should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.

Article 17

Children have the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio and newspapers should provide information that children can understand, and should not promote materials that could harm children.

Article 18

Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their children, and should always consider what is best for each child. Governments should help parents by providing services to support them, especially if both parents work.

Article 19

Governments should ensure that children are properly cared for, and protect them from violence, abuse and neglect by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 20

Children who cannot be looked after by their own family must be looked after properly, by people who respect their religion, culture and language.

Article 21

When children are adopted the first concern must be what is best for them. The same rules should apply whether the children are adopted in the country where they were born or taken to live in another country.

Article 22

Children who come into a country as refugees should have the same rights as children born in that country.

Article 23

Children who have any kind of disability should have special care and support so that they can lead full and independent lives.

Article 24

Children have the right to good quality health care and to clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that they will stay healthy. Rich countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 25

Children who are looked after by their local authority rather than their parents should have their situation reviewed regularly.

Article 26

The Government should provide extra money for the children of families in need.

Article 27

Children have a right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs. The Government should help families who cannot afford to provide this.

Article 28

Children have a right to an education. Discipline in schools should respect children's human dignity. Primary education should be free. Wealthy countries should help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 29

Education should develop each child's personality and talents to the full. It should encourage children to respect their parents, and their own and other cultures.

Article 30

Children have a right to learn and use the language and customs of their families, whether these are shared by the majority of people in the country or not.

Article 31

All children have a right to relax and play, and to join in a wide range of activities.

Article 32

The Government should protect children from work that is dangerous or might harm their health or their education.

Article 33

The Government should provide ways of protecting children from dangerous drugs.

Article 34

The Government should protect children from sexual abuse.

Article 35

The Government should make sure that children are not abducted or sold.

Article 36

Children should be protected from any activities that could harm their development.

Article 37

Children who break the law should not be treated cruelly. They should not be put in prison with adults and should be able to keep in contact with their families.

Article 38

Governments should not allow children under 15 to join the army. Children in war zones should receive special protection.

Article 39

Children who have been neglected or abused should receive special help to restore their self respect.

Article 40

Children who are accused of breaking the law should receive legal help. Prison sentences for children should only be used for the most serious offences.

Article 41

If the laws of a particular country protect children better than the articles of the Convention, then those laws should stay.

Article 42

The Government should make the Convention known to all parents and children.

For further information on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child please visit: The Welsh Government's UNCRC Website: www.uncrcletsgetitright.co.uk/

Cic - The National Information and Advice Service for Young People
www.ciconline.co.uk/news/