



Housing association circular

The term "housing association" in this and related documents means registered social landlord.

RSL 002/09 **Black Minority Ethnic housing**

This circular signposts housing associations registered in Wales to the BME Housing Action Plan for Wales and good practice guidance issued to aid its implementation.

Effective date: 02/02/09

Status: Advisory

Distribution: To all housing associations registered in Wales.

1 BME Housing Action Plan for Wales

- 1.1 In September 2002 the Welsh Assembly Government issued the '**Black Minority Ethnic (BME) Housing Action Plan for Wales**' –
Download: [BME housing action plan for Wales](#).
- 1.2 Housing associations are not classed as main public authorities under the Race Relations (Amendment) Act 2000. However, the Assembly Government wishes to ensure that the aims of this legislation are passed on to associations through the BME Housing Action Plan, the Regulatory Code, and the promotion of good practice.
- 1.3 The Action Plan contains a series of objectives, target outcomes and actions which should be taken to meet objectives. For example:
 - all housing associations must adopt an individual BME Housing Strategy, or be a partner to a regional and /or multi-agency BME Housing Strategy. These Strategies should act as the catalyst for the majority of the actions in the BME Housing Action Plan;
 - all housing associations must have Race Equality Plans in place, to translate strategy into action at the operational level;
 - all association staff, board members and tenants groups should have received appropriate levels of race equality training.
- 1.4 In order to comply meet key expectation 2.3.1 of the Regulatory Code, associations must comply with all actions listed in the BME Action Plan.

- 2 BME housing: a good practice guide for local authorities and housing associations**
- 2.1 In July 2004 the Assembly Government issued '**BME Housing: a good practice guide for local authorities and housing associations**' – Download: [BME housing: a good practice guide for LAs and RSLs](#)
- 2.2 This good practice guide aims to assist local authorities and housing associations to implement the various actions required under the BME Housing Action Plan for Wales. In addition to outlining good practice it provides information on the main requirements of the Action Plan, other statutory and regulatory requirements and sources of further guidance from the Assembly Government and others.
- 2.3 Associations should take account of this publication when addressing key expectation 2.3.1 of the Regulatory Code.

We are having to prioritise our use of the finite translation resources available to the Assembly Government. Unfortunately, on that basis, we are unable to provide a Welsh version of the RSL 002/09. This is because other items have been given a higher priority rating and have thus taken precedence in the allocation of resources. The approach for setting priorities is set out in the Welsh Language Scheme for the Welsh Assembly Government prepared under the Welsh Language Act 1993.

Mae'n rhaid i ni flaenoriaethu'r ffordd yr ydym yn defnyddio'r adnoddau cyfieithu sydd ar gael i ni oherwydd y pwysau mawr sydd ar yr adnoddau hynny. Felly, yn anffodus ni allwn ddarparu fersiwn Cymraeg o'r RSL 002/09, gan fod eitemau eraill yn cael mwy o flaenoriaeth o ran dyrannu'r adnoddau. Mae'r dull a ddefnyddir i bennu blaenoriaeth wedi'i amlinellu yng Nghynllun Iaith Gymraeg Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a Baratowyd o dan Ddeddf yr Iaith Gymraeg 1993.