

23 November 2022

Dear

ATISN 16789 – Improvement Grants to Private Landlords and Social Housing Grants

Information requested

Thank you for your request which I received on 31 October 2022. You asked for:

Details of any grants available to private landlords to improve their properties and details of Welsh Government grants provided to social landlords over the past five years.

Our response

For private landlords, there are some schemes available that may be of interest to you.

I note that you are already aware of the Welsh Government's Warm Homes Nest scheme which offers a range of free, impartial advice to all homes in Wales and where the eligibility criteria is met, a package of free home energy efficiency improvements such as new boilers, central heating, insulation or solar panels.

Leasing Scheme Wales, launched in January 2022, will improve access to longer term affordable housing in the private rental sector. It delivers security for tenants and confidence for landlords. Under Leasing Scheme Wales, property owners are encouraged to lease their properties to local authorities for between 5 – 20 years, in return for a rent guarantee and additional funding of up to £5K to improve the condition of the property, or up to £25K for empty properties. Fifteen local authorities have signed up to the scheme to date.

The Energy Company Obligation (ECO) Scheme is a UK Government scheme which requires obligated energy suppliers to deliver energy efficiency and heating measures to homes across Great Britain. These measures help households keep their homes warmer, reduce energy bills and reduce carbon emissions.

The Welsh Government grants provided to social landlords are:

- Major Repairs Allowance – paid to local authorities who have retained their housing stock*
- Dowry Gap Funding – funding to 10 housing associations which were set up when local authorities transferred their council houses*

*Both MRA and Dowry support a range of work, including energy efficiency but also including other capital works.

- Optimised Retrofit Programme (ORP) – for Registered Social Landlords (RSLs) and local authorities (LAs) to install a variety of home decarbonisation measures in existing social housing stock.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely