

E: hraconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk



By email:

To: Scottish Local Authority Directors of Housing/ Housing Officers
/ Directors of Finance / Finance Officers



Our ref: A4194408
12 October 2012

Dear Director of Housing/ Housing Officer/ Director of Finance/ Finance Officer

DISPOSAL OF ASSETS AND THE TRANSFER OF ASSETS TO OR FROM THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT (HRA) – NEW PROCEDURE AND GUIDANCE

The Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 states that Scottish local authorities are required to seek Scottish Ministerial consent before any HRA asset is voluntarily disposed of, or transferred to or from the General Fund.

Each year the Scottish Government receives a large number of requests to dispose of, lease or transfer HRA assets. To date there has been no formal application process. This has proved to be time-consuming both for the Scottish Government and for local authorities as additional information is often sought from local authorities to enable Scottish Ministers to assess an application.

To address this problem the Scottish Government has designed an application form and drafted guidance on the information requirements, which includes the criteria for assessment. This new process has been considered by the Capital Finance Working Group (CFWG), a stakeholder group which considers this kind of change. The Group agreed the new process, noting this was for a trial period. We welcome any feedback you may wish to provide after using the new process and forms. This will help inform future changes.

It is anticipated that the guidance and forms will be available from the Scottish Government website at a future date. In the meantime I attach the new guidance and application form to this email. The new process applies for new applications from the date of this letter.

Should you have any questions or queries about this guidance please email the consents mailbox at hraconsents@scotland.gsi.gov.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie Hamilton
Housing Supply Division