



Huge thumbs up for Investing in Involvement Statements

Many thanks to the 183 people who responded to our recent Investing in Involvement survey (50% tenants or residents, 44% landlord staff and 6% others).

We were staggered that 165 of you (90%) said that it would be helpful if there was a common and accessible framework to assess the benefits of involvement. Only 9 said it would be unhelpful and 9 neither helpful nor unhelpful.

Most responses agreed with all the reasons we suggested why a framework might be helpful. The most popular response was "Having as many landlords as possible identify the benefits of tenant involvement will send a signal that the sector considers involvement to be important".

The responses received came from the following:

	Housing Association	Local authority		Other
		Retained housing service	ALMOs & TMOs	
Tenants	50	18	9	
Landlord	47	10	13	
Other	5	1	1	1
Not known				28

126 of you said you would like your landlord to produce an Investing in Involvement Statement. That included:

	Yes	Maybe	No
Tenants	61	11	5
Landlord	44	19	5
Other	8	2	0
Not known	13	4	1

25 respondents considered that their landlord could produce a statement by April this year, whilst 65 said by September 2016 and 54 by April next year. 29 said that their landlord may struggle to ever find the time to produce a statement.

We received many comments on the framework, many of them agreeing with points we had made in the draft guidance. We will carefully consider the points in further developing the framework.

Some key points raised

- two people suggested that the framework reflected a traditional involvement model
- others said that it will support a more business orientated approach to involvement
- the framework will enable best practice sharing and benchmarking
- there is too much jargon – sorry, we'll try to get that right
- some landlords are paying lip service to involvement
- the framework could show Government how much tenants are involved and much they do
- quality involvement needs to be local, specific and appropriate. How can a common framework assist? - We agree. The framework is not prescriptive about how involvement should be done. The framework will assist by asking questions about outcomes, but it is for each landlord's stakeholders to answer them.

Finally – many referred to the current Government policy changes making it harder to do involvement activities. We know this is a challenge. But perhaps at a time of constrained resources, there is more need than ever that we are clear about what we are delivering with the money and resources that go into involvement?

The pilots

80 of you said you would like your landlord to be an Investing in Involvement Pilot (with 44 maybes). Responses to being a pilot split as follows:

	Yes	Maybe	No
Tenants	52	13	12
Landlord	20	27	21
Other	6	3	1
Not known	2	1	3

Wow – that's a lot of interest! It might take us a while to get round to you all. But that's a happy problem and one we welcome! Our aim now is that we will work with pilot landlords between now and the end of Summer, with a view to launching Investing in Involvement late Summer 2016 onwards.

Please watch this space!!