

## TSA to be merged into HCA – October 2010-11-04



The Cabinet Office has announced that the Tenant Services Authority is to be abolished, along with 191 other quangos. Ministers have announced that the role of regulating social housing providers will be taken over by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).

The Cabinet Office announcement states that the consumer regulation function will be 'slimmed down' but independent economic regulation will be safeguarded.

The Federation understands that this decision will be implemented by the Decentralisation Bill, which is expected to go through Parliament during 2011.

It was also confirmed today that the HCA will be reformed to operate as a smaller enabling and investment body, with its London functions devolved to the Mayor.

The Independent Housing Ombudsman will be retained.

Assistant director Helen Williams said: 'The Federation has consistently argued for an independent regulatory function to support the sector in delivering affordable housing and related services.

'Our experience with the Housing Corporation shows that when regulation rests with an investment agency it can be unduly influenced by investment considerations and policy passporting. We will continue to press for arrangements within the HCA to ensure against this.

'We are encouraged that the Government recognises the value of independent financial regulation and we are in continuing discussions with Communities and Local Government about how this can be maintained under the new arrangements.'