

# Voluntary Right to Buy

**Over the last 5 years or so the Government has been running some pilot schemes for an extension of the Right to Buy for housing association tenants; this is a voluntary scheme for housing associations. However, the national Voluntary Right to Buy scheme has not yet been launched and we are awaiting further details to be announced by the Government.**

## **Q. What is Voluntary Right to Buy?**

A: The Government committed in 2015 to extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants. The Right To Buy is currently only available to Council tenants; it allows them to buy their home at a substantial discount.

## **Q. Why is the scheme called 'voluntary'?**

A: The Government made an election manifesto commitment to extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants. In response housing associations agreed to work with the Government to deliver this voluntarily to ensure it will allow us to replace the homes sold and protect certain hard-to-replace homes from being sold.

## **Q. When will Voluntary Right to Buy start?**

A: We do not know; the start date for the national Voluntary Right to Buy scheme has not yet been confirmed. The results of the latest pilot in the Midlands were published in February 2021 and we await further announcements about future arrangements including the eligibility criteria for tenants.

## **Q. What happens next?**

A: The Government committed to extend the Right to Buy to housing association tenants across England in a national scheme. When the national scheme is launched, tenants across England can apply for a government Right to Buy discount. In the meantime, the government has not yet announced the next steps.



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**Q. When the national scheme is launched, will I be eligible?**

A: We do not know yet as the eligibility criteria was being tested in the pilots and has not been confirmed.

**Q. If I'm eligible, will I be able to buy the home I'm living in now?**

A: There will be some homes that PCHA will not sell. Once the details of the scheme are announced we will be publishing our own policy outlining which homes might be sold and which won't nearer the date of the scheme launch.

**Q. Which homes won't you sell?**

A: Until the final details of the national scheme are confirmed, and we have published a policy on this agreed by our board, we do not know.

**Q. How do I get my discount and how much will I get?**

A: The national Voluntary Right to Buy scheme has not yet launched. When it has launched, information on how to apply for a government discount, along with the discount levels, will be confirmed as part of the application process.

**Q. Why do we still not know who will be eligible/when the scheme will start?**

A: We know this is frustrating but at the moment, the detail is being worked through by Government to make sure the new scheme works as well as possible. The Government will, in due course, finalise the tenant eligibility criteria and when the national scheme will start.

**Q. How can I register my interest or ask any questions?**

A: You can check the Government's website, [righttobuy.gov.uk](http://righttobuy.gov.uk) or speak to one of the Government's Right to Buy Agents on 0300 123 0913. At present, you cannot register your interest (January 2022) but we will inform you if the situation changes.

**Q. Are there other ways I can buy my home?**

There is a scheme called the **Right to Acquire**, this allows some housing association tenants to buy their home with a small discount. See our 'Right to Acquire' leaflet.

**Q. Are there other ways I can buy a home?**

As an alternative to buying the home you rent from PCHA you may want to explore other routes into home ownership. These might include schemes such as Help to Buy Equity Loans, buying a Shared Ownership Home or using schemes such as First Homes. You can find more information about access to low cost home ownership schemes via: [www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes](http://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes) or via the London Assembly website at: [www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/buying-affordable-home](http://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/housing-and-land/buying-affordable-home).