



Regulator of  
Social Housing

# Update from the Regulator

Acuity Conference 2023

Will Perry

April 23



# Agenda

- Developing consumer regulation
- Sector risk
- RSH priorities and expectations





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# Developing consumer regulation



# Consumer regulation

## Revised standards

- Evolution and rationalisation
- Meet White Paper expectations
- Stock quality
- Understanding and responding to tenants

## TSMs

- First year of data collection 2023-24
- Smaller provider submission pilot

## Inspections

- Scheduled (larger providers only) and responsive
- Build on IDA/current referral model
- Reporting

## Powers

- SD test removed
- Property/service inspections
- Performance improvement plans
- Fines
- Repairs

Also: Awaab's Law, ATIS, DHS...



## For smaller providers

- Think regulation, not consumer regulation
- Co-regulation continues
- All Standards apply and full range of powers available
- RSH engagement largely responsive – but can potentially inspect and act on information received
- TSM pilot – could lead to submissions and follow-up





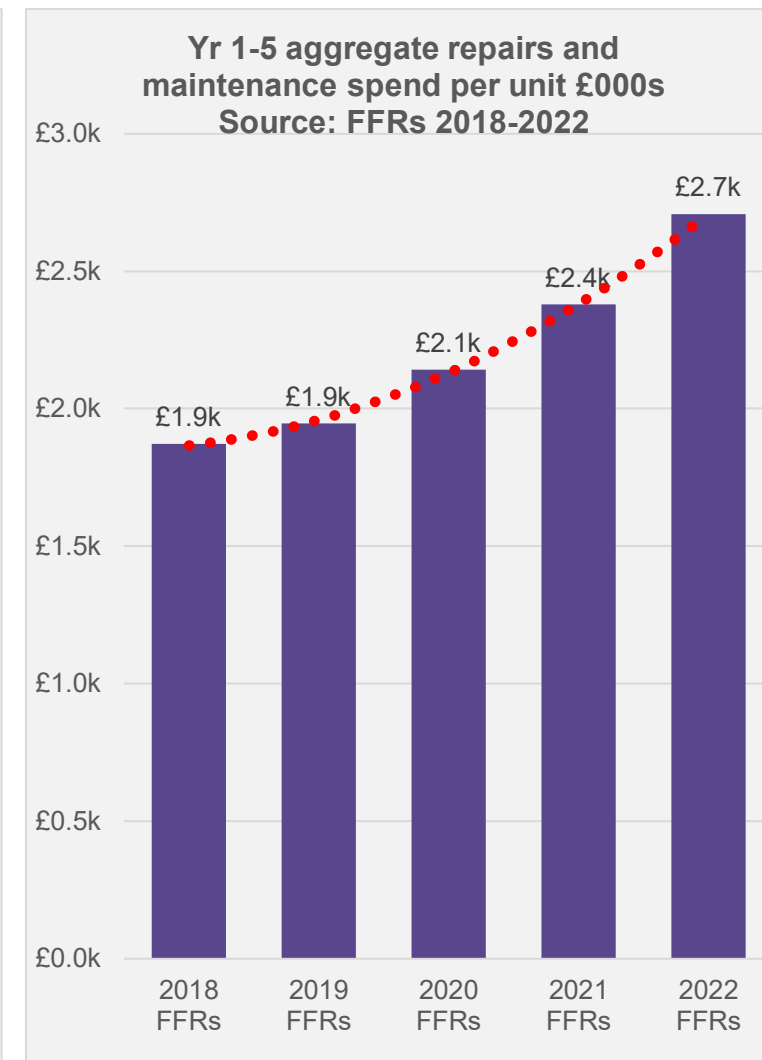
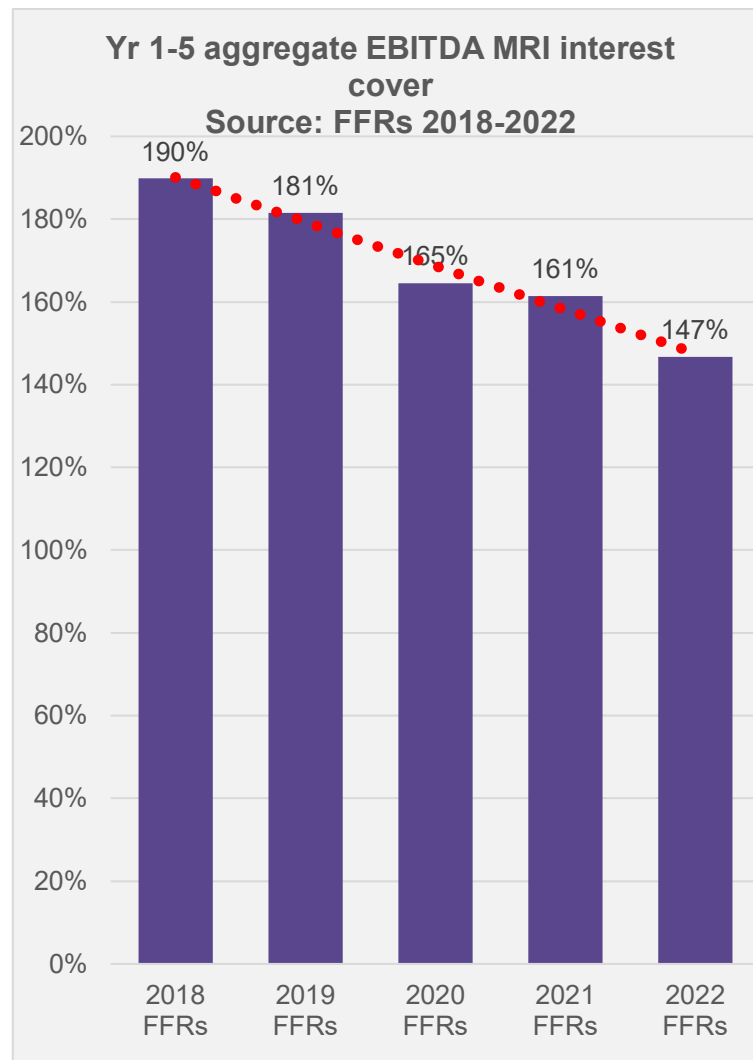
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# Sector risk



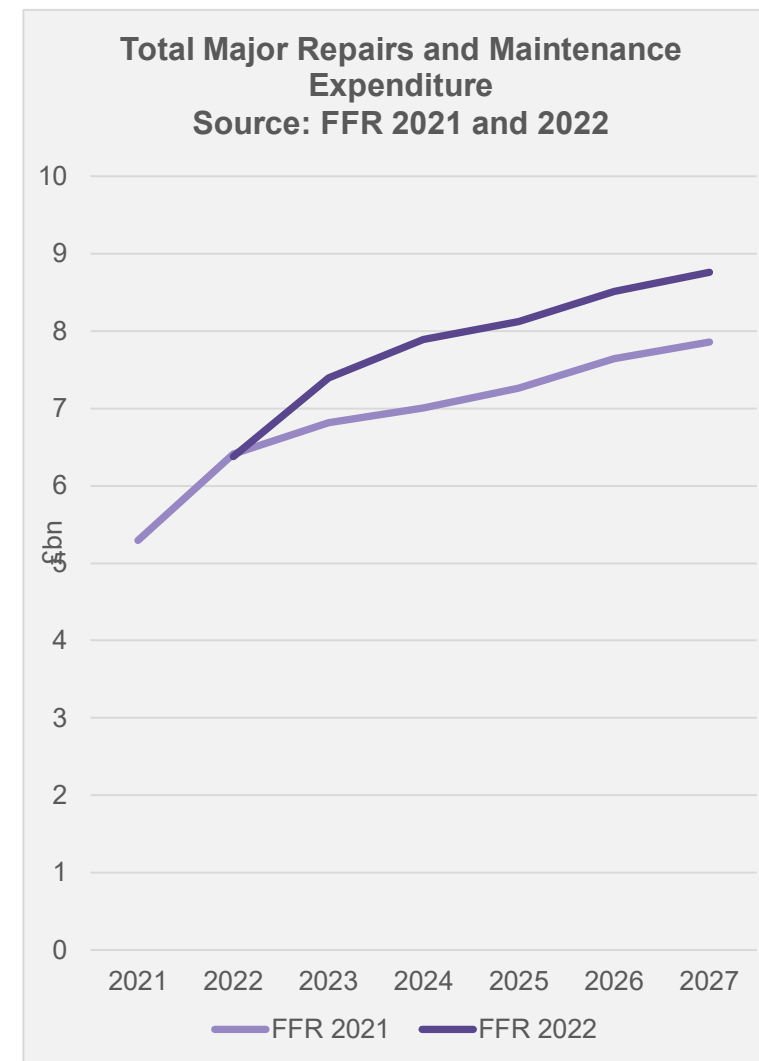
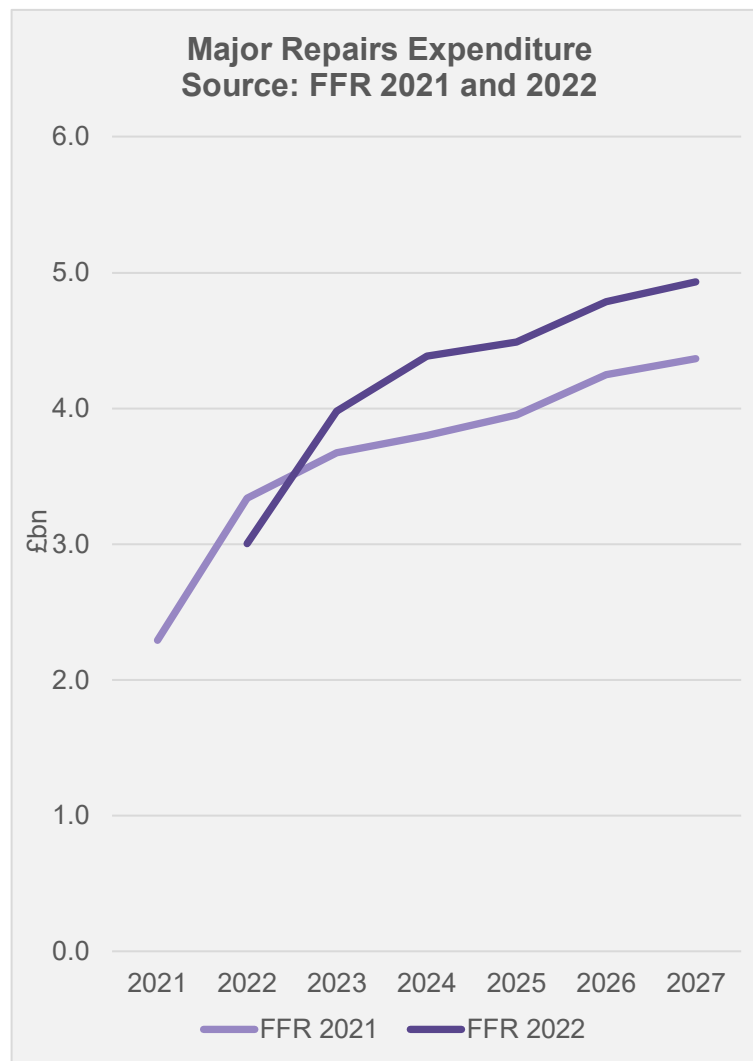
# Long term forecast trends – weakening interest cover

- Figures show aggregate metric results for forecast years 1-5 from successive FFR datasets
- Interest cover is calculated on an Earnings Before Interest Tax and Depreciation basis, inclusive of capitalised repairs costs
- 2022 plans show a continuing deterioration of forecast levels of interest cover
- Increasing forecast expenditure on existing stock is a key driver of this deterioration
- Aggregate forecast repairs and maintenance spend per unit has increased by 45% (on a real basis) relative to forecasts made 5 years ago



# Forecast repairs and maintenance spend

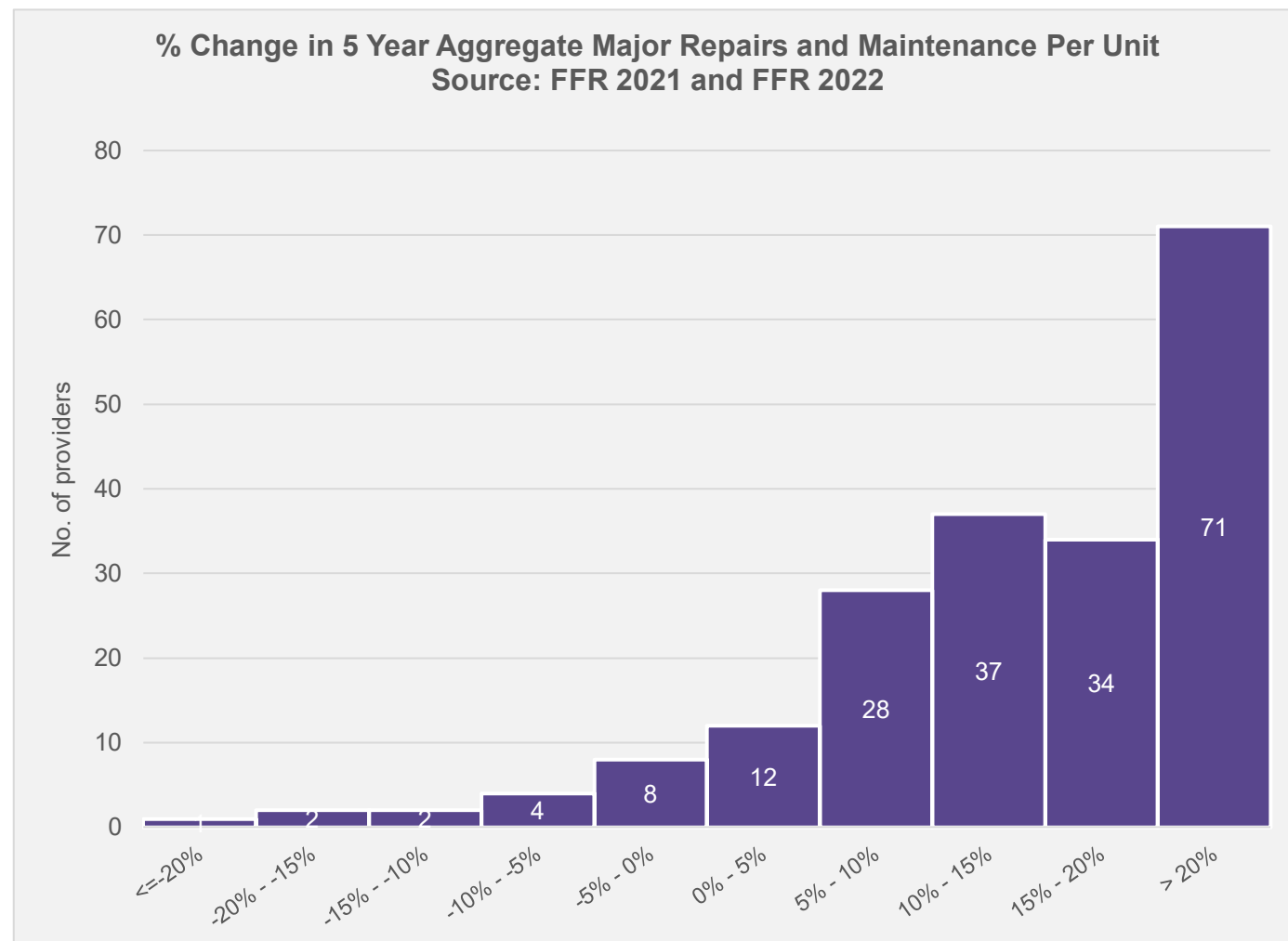
- A material increase in forecast repairs and maintenance spend for the third consecutive year of FFR submissions
- Comparing years 1-5 of forecasts total repairs and maintenance costs have increased by circa 16% (5.5bn) on last year's plans
- This follows an increase in 5 year forecast spend of £3.9bn in 2021 plans and £2.9bn in 2020 plans
- Major repairs spend has increased by £3.6bn (19%) relative to 2021 plans yrs 1-5
- 80% of all major repairs spend is capitalised





# Increase in repairs and maintenance spend per unit

- Increases are widespread with the vast majority of providers including increased spend on a per-unit basis in the latest set of plans
- For 84% of providers, repairs and maintenance costs per unit (yrs 1-5) have increased by more than 5% on last years projections
- There are a number of drivers for increased spend impacting individual providers to varying extents:
  - Stock quality - building safety and decarbonisation
  - Catch-up spend – post covid and reprofiled spend
  - Economic – high underlying inflation and real increases in repair costs



# Sector risk profile themes

- Financial and macroeconomic
  - *Rents, inflation and interest costs, supply chain and labour*
- Stock condition and investment
  - *Current quality, future demands – DHS, decarbonisation*
- Services to tenants
  - *Understanding tenant needs, learning from recent experience*
- Development and sales
  - *Economics, supply chain, managing commitments, understanding delivery structures*
- Cyber and data
  - *Cyberattacks, data integrity, data coverage*
- Reputational
  - *Stock condition, tenant relations, investment*



# Sector risk profile themes

- Supported housing
  - *Quality and sustainability of provision, financing structures, labour market*
- Exempt accommodation
  - *Quality, regulation and sector growth*
- Political interest
  - *All of the above*





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# Current and future expectations



# Looking forward

## Rents

- 7% cap
- 2025 settlement

## Financing and economics

- Inflation and cost of financing
- Labour and supply issues
- Funding capital investment

## Homes

- Quality
- Knowledge
- Data
- Energy efficiency and net zero
- DHS change

## Tenants

- Services
- Needs
- Knowledge
- Respect
- Equity

Proactive and responsive regulation

