



KEY MESSAGES

You may be asked a series of questions by the press about your charity and also The Almshouse Association and the almshouse movement. Therefore, the following messages and statements may be helpful to you. We have also included some statistics that might assist with context.

Generic messages and statements

These can be useful when you are initially engaging with the press, in case you get asked about The Almshouse Association and the almshouse movement.



The Almshouse Association

- The Almshouse Association is a membership charity that represents a network of over 1600 independent almshouse charities across the UK. The charities, including ours, own and manage over 30,000 almshouses, supporting approximately 36,000 residents, providing affordable, 'micro-community' homes for local people in housing need.
- The Almshouse Association is an umbrella organisation and was set up to represent all almshouse charities and help trustees effectively manage resources. The Association helps us to provide good quality, 'micro-community' housing for our beneficiaries. They also help to promote the welfare and independence of our residents and assist with the preservation of our almshouses for future generations.
- In 2021, The Almshouse Association is celebrating 75 years of supporting the almshouse movement and their member charities. This milestone will give us, as an almshouse charity, an opportunity to celebrate our achievements with our local communities and help us raise the awareness of the very important role our almshouses play in society today.

Almshouses and the almshouse movement

- For over 1000 years almshouses have been providing unique, secure, affordable community homes for local people in housing need. This housing 'model' is still relevant today.
- At its heart, the almshouse movement is about people, charities, genuinely affordable housing and supportive 'micro-communities'.
- At a time when there is a severe shortage of affordable community homes, the role of an almshouse charity is now more vital than ever.
- More than 1000 new almshouse dwellings have been built in the last decade and approximately 700 are in the pipeline. There is a demand for more.
- Almshouses are established with independent funding and run by local trustees, alleviating some of the financial pressure on statutory and governmental funds.
- We, as an almshouse charity are uniquely placed to understand and be responsive to local needs.
- Almshouses have a unique status as identified by the Charity Commission and are held in perpetuity for future generations who may be in housing need.

Useful Facts and Statistics

- There are over **30,000** almshouse dwellings in the UK today.
- The almshouse movement has a vibrant sense of community; offering safety and security and making it possible for those in housing need to continue to live independently, in their local area.
- **8.4 million** people in the UK are currently living in unaffordable, insecure and unsuitable housing – **Heriot-Watt University, Scotland, on behalf of the National Housing Federation 2019.**
- Social Housing waiting lists in England stood at **1.15m** in 2018-19 – **Shelter.**
- **Almshouses - a housing model that is over a 1000 years old** has proven credibility and a record of being effective with many positive outcomes for society, the local community and local people – **Elizabeth Fathi, Chair of The Almshouse Association.**
- According to Tomasz Pierscionek, a medical doctor and social commentator on medicine, science, and technology, social isolation can be as detrimental to physical health as smoking – **Campaign To End Loneliness – Independent Age – 2018.**
- Loneliness increases the likelihood of early mortality by 26% – **Campaign To End Loneliness – Independent Age – 2018.**

#SupportAlmshouses

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