

Response from *Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage* to CP 139 Review of the Standard Financial Statement received 20.04.201 by email.

Please find attached some feedback on the SFS.

This has been compiled with the assistance of the Housing Agency who would deal more closely with arrears management by the local authority.

As you know the LA SFS is closely modelled on the CBI SFS.

General Comment:

General Feedback from the Local Authorities are that there are no specific issues with the SFS and that it is working well. The only issue that applicants seem to struggle with is the valuation which is normally not completed.

More specific comments on the draft SFS are as follows:

**Part 1** – 11 Questions.

- **No. 3 Section B: My Mortgage** – suggest that details of the mortgage should be inserted by the lender and not the applicant, as they may not have full details of their mortgage readily available. This may add an additional layer of difficulty as the borrower is being asked to gather additional information, e.g. bank statements to ascertain current mortgage details.
- **No. 4 Section D: My Monthly Expenditure** – Question whether more detailed expenditure reporting should be removed?
- **No. 5 Section E: My Monthly Repayments** – Consider Important to reflect separate Home Insurance, Private Pensions, rather than grouping them all together as in draft SFS.

**Part 2** - regarding where there are situations where an SFS may not be required, does this allow for situations where MARP may not be the applicant?

SFS may not be needed in temporary periods of inability to repay their mortgage, e.g. if out of work for a short period due to illness, changing jobs etc.