

News for MSV Housing Customers

June 2025



Picture: Resident commemorating VE Day with friends at Elmswood Park

Welcome...



Hi everyone, welcome to our Spring edition of The Voice.

Happy Spring – it's lovely to finally see some nice weather! First of all, I wanted to let you know that we are moving away from doing 4 printed and posted editions of The Voice.

Instead, we will be doing 2 printed editions (Spring and Autumn) and 2 digital editions (Summer and Winter) which will be available on our social media channels and the website. We hope that this will deliver much better value for money for customers, but still ensure we are communicating everything you need to know in a way you want us to. In this edition, as usual, we are bringing you the news which affects all customers across all of MSV's areas.

As well as this though, we are also now bringing you more local news, and we have split this into two zones. Zone 1 is Manchester and Trafford and Zone 2 is everywhere else. We will be doing this every 6 months in our digital edition.

MSV's Scrutiny Panel, which is made up of customers, asked for this approach – hopefully a good example of 'You Said, We Did'. If you are interested in seeing

other examples please scan this QR code with your phone camera to take a look on the website.



Also in this edition of the Voice we have included an update on the **top changes** we have made to the service to ensure we are meeting the Government's Consumer Standards. You can find the summary of this on page 5 - 6, but the key area to note is the huge improvements we have made to delivering the repairs service – something customers speak to me about lot.

We will never be complacent though, and I know we have more to do on this. For example, the new **Find My Engineer app** which is coming soon, and the ability to arrange your own repairs appointments at a time that suits you – watch this space.

We're also proud to have been awarded a **C1 rating** by the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH). This means we are actively using our systems to identify and address issues, and we remain committed to improving both the quality of our homes and the services we provide to our customers.

I feel very lucky in my job as Chief Executive of MSV, it allows me to meet some amazing customers. Over the last couple of months, I have been out and about with colleagues, visiting a number of areas across Greater Manchester and Lancashire, as well as sitting with colleagues in our Service Centre.

I wanted to thank our many many customers who work tirelessly in their community to make it a better place for all. An example is the large number of customers who turned out recently to get involved in the Great Spring Clean Up event (see page 6).



The Great British Spring Clean 2025

Other customers are also getting involved in being Green Champions, which involves greening up unloved spaces, such a ginnels and alleyways.



You can watch a lovely clip from the residents at Crofton Street in Manchester who have been doing just that, by taking a depressing and uncared for space and transforming it into something really wonderful.

And it would be remiss of me not to mention the huge number of customers who are involved in our Scrutiny Panel and our Customer and Communities Committee – you really are making a difference to the way we work, so thank you. If you are interested in being more involved in MSV you can watch our short video clip here on how to go about this.

Until next time, keep well and do let us know how we can be of service – we are here for you. Warm regards,



We celebrated the official opening
of our brand-new Townley Gardens
development in Middleton, now providing
57 high-quality homes for affordable rent
and shared ownership.



We're proud to share that our new
Shawe View development in Urmston
is now providing safe, fully furnished
homes for people who have experienced
homelessness or rough sleeping —
supporting them to take the next step
towards independent living.

Read the latest news updates on our website or simply scan the QR code with your phone to take you there!



A big thanks to you all!

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VE Day 80th Anniversary Celebrations



8 May marked VE Day – the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. It was an important day to remember and honour the bravery and sacrifices of those throughout the conflict.

Our schemes and hubs commemorated the occasion with various events. Jean Byer's Community Hub hosted a lovely coffee morning and VE Day quiz, along with a special Chat n' Craft session. Elmswood Park held a VE Day garden party (see video below), and Bowes Street Residents Association successfully applied to our Kindness Fund to support an event at the Claremont Pub in Moss Side.











Elmswood Park
resident Maureen
Little (above) painted
this beautiful VE
day scene (left)
from memory. Titled
"Memories - The
children and bunting",



Watch this video taken at Elmswood Park as part of VE day celebrations











We're excited to let you know that our new webchat service is live!

This is the first step towards giving you more ways to contact us, however suits you best. You can now chat with us live on our website — just look for the chat icon at the bottom right of your screen. The service will be available Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm. In the coming weeks, we'll also be adding video calls, making it even easier to get the help and support you need.

As we get used to this new system, our team may take a little time to settle in, so we really appreciate your patience during this transition.

We can't wait to offer you a more flexible and connected customer experience!

New Repairs System Launch

We're pleased to share that MSV has launched a brand-new repairs management system this April.

This upgrade will help us respond to repair requests more efficiently and deliver a smoother, more reliable service.

Thank you for your patience during the transition. We really value your feedback on our repairs service.

Repairs Survey - Have Your Say

After your repair is completed, you'll receive a short survey by text. It's quick and easy to complete, with helpful options to:

- Choose your preferred language
- Hear the questions read aloud

Your feedback matters – let us know what worked well and how we can do better.



Improving our Leasehold Services



To ensure we're meeting your needs, we're adding extra resources to the team and taking a fresh look at how we support our Leasehold and **Shared Ownership customers.**

Over the next few months, we'll be reaching out to gather your feedback on our services. This will include sending out a survey via text and hosting in-person dropin events.

We're also working on a brand-new Leasehold Handbook in partnership with our customers, and we'll be reviewing our policies and procedures throughout 2025 to make sure they reflect your needs and expectations. Stay tuned for more updates!

Hello, my name is...

We are thrilled to introduce **Mohammed** Shafik as the new Leasehold Team Leader.



Mohammed is eager to work with our customers to enhance our leasehold and shared ownership services.



Shaping Neighbourhoods Together

We are working closely with customers and partners to shape local neighbourhood plans for each of our five anchor areas: Moss Side, Openshaw, Bredbury, Bolton, and Rochdale.

These plans will ensure that services reflect what really matters to each community.



So far, we've sent surveys to nearly 3,500 customers and received 264 responses—thank you to everyone who took part!

This feedback is being used, alongside local events and ongoing engagement, to shape our plans.

Just a quick reminder about

our new

neighbourhood offer — you might have spotted us out and about recently at litter picks, walkabouts, or local events!

We're working closely with communities to make our neighbourhoods great places to live. See photos from recent events on the next page.

Scan the OR code or click here to read about our full offer!



Proud members of

Sign up for free TPAS membership to access events, resources, and opportunities to have your voice heard!



Scan the QR code or click here to find out more



Important Update: Safer Ways to Pay

To keep your personal data even more secure, we've upgraded our systems to meet the latest payment security standards (PCI DSS).

What's changing?

- You can still make a card payment over the phone via a live call, where you will be asked to type your card details using your phone's dialpad.
- You also have the options of secure automated or digital payment methods.
- · These changes reduce the risk of fraud and protect your details.

You'll still have access to flexible, simple ways to pay—just with added security.

Need help?

If you have questions or need support, please get in touch. We're here to help.





enquiry@msvhousing.co.uk



Tenant Satisfaction Measures

Your voice shapes our service

We regularly ask customers to provide feedback on the services we provide, for example if you have had a repair. We also measure feedback on home safety, neighbourhood support, complaints handling, and overall service. These surveys are used to compile the Tenant Satisfaction Measures (TSM's). By publishing our results we are transparent with our performance and accountable to customers. TSM's also help us shape our plans for improvement.

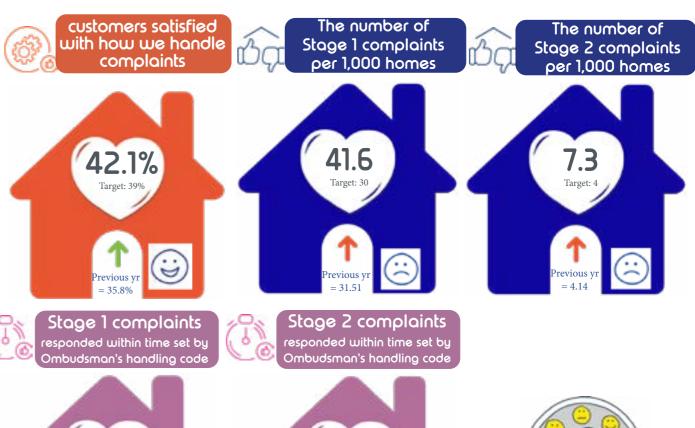
Our TSM's for April 2024 to March 2025 are over the page and you can find the latest performance by simply searching: 'How We Are Doing' at www.msvhousing.co.uk.



Maintaining Building Safety



Effective handling of Complaints







Respectful and Helpful Engagement



Overall and Repairs

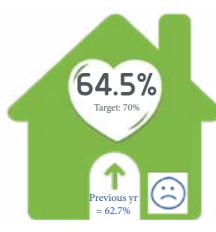
repairs service

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MSV customer satisfaction ...







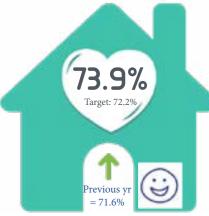
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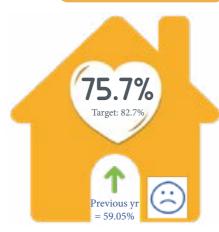


















Responding to anti-social behaviour and hate crime



hate crime cases opened for each 1,000 MSV homes (annualised)

Responsible Neighbourhood Management



Reporting Anti-Social Behaviour





Please report any incidents of crime or anti-social behaviour even if you wish to remain anonymous.

Report Anti-Social Behaviour:

- Call: MSV's Anti Social Behaviour Team on 0161 226 4211
- · Email: staysafe@msvhousing.co.uk
- . Online via 'My MSV' online portal at msvhousing.co.uk
- . Or in person at our Hubs search for Hubs at msvhousing.co.uk to find opening times



Report Crime:

- If there is immediate danger, dial 999 immediately
- Non-Emergency: For other crime or suspicious activity, contact Greater Manchester Police on 101. Or report online by searching for report a crime at gmp.police.uk

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 Anonymous Reporting: Report anonymously to Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or visit crimestoppers-uk.org

Join us for ASB drop-in sessions!

Join our drop-in sessions (June 30 - July 6 2025) across Moss Side, Rochdale, Bolton, Stockport and Openshaw during Anti-Social Behaviour Awareness Week 2025. Learn more about how we're tackling anti-social behaviour and how to report it. Dates and venues are on our website at: msvhousing.co.uk (search for 'News').





Out and about in the neighbourhood



Our Zone 1 Neighbourhood Team had a brilliant day in Old Trafford, chatting with residents, doing a litter pick, and listening to feedback.



Thanks to support from Trafford Council and our ASB Team, we've added new recycling bins with locks and more general waste bins to help keep the area clean. Looking forward to more events soon!

We had a fantastic time at the Great British Spring Clean, with a brilliant turnout from our neighbourhood teams, community volunteers, and local residents at events across Manchester!

Your efforts made a real difference in keeping our neighbourhoods clean and welcoming. Organised nationally by Keep Britain Tidy,

with local support from Manchester City Council, Radio Diamond, and even a surprise visit from So Solid Crew! Watch the short video by scanning the QR code.

We recently held the Moss Side Matters event, where residents had the opportunity to meet MSV colleagues and local partners, including Manchester City Council, GMP, Sow the City and Manchester Adult Education Service. The event was a great chance to hear what's already on offer in the area and share ideas to help shape the Moss Side Neighbourhood Plan.

Looking ahead, we're planning a similar face-toface event in Openshaw in May, where we'll explore local priorities and build new partnerships to help meet the needs of our customers.

If you have any questions please email: involvement@msvhousing.co.uk









Community Spirit in Action at The Lodge

A huge thank you to the fantastic team from Barclays who generously gave their time, energy, and painting skills during a recent community day at MSV's Lodge scheme in Manchester.

Thanks to their brilliant efforts, our communal spaces have been given a fresh new look — helping to create a brighter, more welcoming environment for the young people who live there. Projects like this show the real impact of businesses and housing

working together to make a difference in local communities.

A special thank you to Michelle Murray and Lauren Simm, our Foyer Manager, for helping to bring it all together!



Trafford Focus

A visit to **Greatstones Apartments** in Trafford has led to plans for a small community event, which will include litter picking, and information around dog fouling, parking, and local services.

Massive Turnout at Jobs Fair

On 13th March 2025, we held a hugely successful Jobs Fair at The Millennium Powerhouse. Over 370 people attended to connect with 25 employers, gaining access to real opportunities and expert advice.

Thanks to our partners at Manchester City Council Work and Skills Team and the DWP for their brilliant support on the day.

Helping You Save on Energy Costs

Last month, contractor GGI joined us at the Space Manchester Hub in Moss Side to speak with customers about upcoming insulation works and how they can help reduce energy bills.

Alongside our neighbourhood teams, GGI shared information about the benefits of improved insulation, answered questions, and offered practical advice on staying warm and saving energy at home. Thank you to everyone who came along!



Out and about in the neighbourhood



It was great to see our Zone 2 Neighbourhood Team out in Bolton recently, connecting with customers and gathering feedback on how we can improve together.

It was especially encouraging to hear interest in starting a new residents' group — thanks to Smile Mediation and **Greater Manchester Police** for joining us!



Earlier in April, we held a successful litter pick and walkabout at Cotton Lodge Close. This gave residents the chance to chat with us, raise any concerns, and get involved in helping to keep the neighbourhood clean, safe, and welcoming.

Later in the month, we were delighted to be joined by Charlie, our Chief Executive, for a walkabout in Stockport. During the visit, customers at the Stockport Hub raised concerns about fly-tipping in the area, including the worrying presence of gas canisters being discarded on green spaces.

The Zone 2 team responded the very same day with a targeted community litter pick. Together, we cleared more than eight full bags of rubbish from the green and safely removed several gas canisters, which can be hazardous if left unattended. We're really grateful to the residents who got stuck in and helped us make a difference.

Looking ahead, we'll continue to work closely with the local policing team to maintain these improvements. A Police Community Support Officer (PCSO) will now be patrolling the area regularly to help

reduce the use of gas canisters and deter fly-tipping, supporting a safer and cleaner environment for everyone.

Most recently, on 14th May, we teamed up with Deeplish Community Centre and Rochdale Borough Council for another successful litter pick in the Deeplish area. It was brilliant to see so many local residents get involved and take pride in their neighbourhood. We followed the litter pick with a face-to-face drop-in session for MSV residents, which we're pleased to say will now continue over the coming months.



A big thank you to everyone who's taken part and continues to support these positive changes — your involvement makes a real difference!



Attend in person or submit your questions ahead of the event by email: nibblesnatter@msvhousing.co.uk

Clitheroe: 10th July (6pm - 8pm)

St Marys Centre, Church Street, Clitheroe, BB7 2DG

Salford: 24th September (2.30pm - 4.30pm) Swithun Wells Court, Old Wells Close, Little Hulton, Salford M38 9PQ

Stretford: 29th October (6pm - 8pm) Trafford House, Chester Rd, Stretford, M32 0RS

Bredbury: 25th November (6pm - 8pm) Jean Byers, Bents Avenue, Bredbury, SK6 2LF

Bringing Social Value to Local Communities

We've been working closely with partners to bring community benefits to local areas through our new developments, led by our Social Value Officer, John Boardman, in the Customer Voice and Influence Team.

In Walkden, we secured £500+ donation from developer to support The Den Youth Club, which is relocating due to part of the town centre being demolished.

We're also collaborating with contractors and Salford City Council on a social value agreement for a new development in Eccles. Proposals include volunteer hours, clean-up days, a donation to MSV's Kindness Fund, and potential apprenticeship opportunities.

Further support is also being explored for local groups, including:

- St Patrick's High School holiday provision (in partnership with Salford Community Leisure)
- Salford Roosters Rugby Club's youth and men's mental health projects
- **Tindall Street Allotments**

Stockport Council Garden Waste Permit



From 31st March 2025, Stockport Council charges £59 per year for a permit to collect garden waste. To ensure your garden rubbish is collected, the permit must be clearly displayed on your green bin. If the permit is not visible, your garden rubbish is not collected.

If you use the green bin for garden waste, please ensure the necessary permit is obtained. This is the responsibility of the individual household and cannot be included in service charges.

For more details on how to apply, please visit the Stockport Council website: Garden Waste – Stockport Council.



Apply for Up to £1,000 from the Kindness Fund

Our Kindness Fund offers up to £1,000 to support local projects across Greater Manchester. We've already helped initiatives such as:

- Humans MCR Foodbank and community grocer services on wheels across Manchester, Bury, and Salford.
- Dragon Flames Football Club Supporting grassroots football for children aged 3-13 in Manchester, Salford, and Trafford.
- Black Creative Trailblazers 2024 –
 Celebrating and supporting Black creatives
 in Moss Side, Hulme, Whalley Range,
 Salford, and Fallowfield.

If you have a project that brings people together or helps your neighbourhood thrive, we'd love to hear from you!



Helping Hands

The Helping Hands project is open to all MSV customers and is designed to support our most vulnerable residents with small tasks around their homes. This includes jobs like gardening, decorating, building flat-pack furniture, providing skips, changing bulbs, and replacing toilet seats. If you or someone you know could benefit from this support, we're here to help make life a little easier.

Free Counselling Support for MSV Customers

In partnership with the Manchester Counselling Training Centre, we are pleased to offer free counselling services to all MSV customers. This support is available to MSV customers and is designed to provide a safe space for those who need help with mental health and emotional wellbeing. If you or someone you

know could benefit, please get in touch for more information: **enquiry@msvhousing.co.uk**

Supporting Vulnerable Tenants

In December 2024, our anti-social behaviour Team worked with local authorities in Stockport and Trafford to secure Partial Closure Orders for properties targeted by criminal activity, particularly cuckooing. These orders limit access to the properties, protecting tenants and the wider community. They will remain in place for an initial three-month period.

This proactive approach safeguards vulnerable tenants and allows us to continue collaborating with partners to monitor the situation and offer support. Over the last two quarters (Q2 and Q3), we've helped secure £165,000 in backdated benefits for 69 customers and provided tailored financial advice to 2,357 people. Additionally, we were awarded nearly £8,000 in financial wellbeing funding from Bolton Council to support customers in Bolton. We'll soon share stories on how this funding is making a difference.

Shaping More Inclusive Services Across Greater Manchester

Thank you to everyone who took part in the GMHP Focus Group on reasonable adjustments in March. It was a brilliant opportunity to hear directly from customers about how housing services can be adapted to better meet individual needs. Your insights will help shape new guiding principles to make services more inclusive, accessible, and responsive across Greater Manchester. The GMHP Customer Voice group will meet again in April to review progress and agree on the next steps.







Community Mentor Success



Our fantastic Community Mentor, Kyra, has been working hard to support residents on their journey into work, training, and education. Since January, she's engaged with 74 individuals through one-to-one support – from CV writing to boosting confidence and identifying positive next steps.

We're pleased to share that this valuable project has been recommissioned by the WEA (a leading adult education charity) for another year. The service aims to support at least 80 clients annually, with funding available to help people move forward:

- Up to £100 per person to access training, work equipment, or other opportunities
- £25 per person to cover essential stationery and materials

To find out more or book a session, get in touch by email: kyra.laird@msvhousing.co.uk.

Accredited Success!

Environmental Awareness Training

Five residents recently completed our accredited Environmental Awareness Training, delivered over three sessions in March at Positive Futures.

The course equipped participants with valuable knowledge and skills, including:

- A solid understanding of carbon literacy
- Effective communication techniques
- Confidence to lead conversations on environmental issues
- Practical tools to inspire positive change in their communities

Everyone received a certificate upon completion – congratulations to all involved!

Customer Hubs - Drop In and Say Hello!



Our regular <u>Community Drop-Ins</u> are a welcoming space to chat with different MSV teams about anything on your mind – whether it's support, questions, or just to stay in the loop.

- Moss Side: Mondays, 10am–2pm @ Space Manchester
- **Bredbury**: Wednesdays, 10am–12pm @ Jean Byers Hub
- Carbrook: Every second Monday, 1pm–3pm
- **Bramhall**: Every second Thursday, 10am–12pm

Come along for a brew and a catch-up - everyone's welcome!



Need someone to talk to in a safe space?

We've partnered with Manchester Counselling Training Centre to offer FREE and confidential counselling to any of our MSV customers who would benefit.

- Counselling sessions are delivered by supervised trainee counsellors from the Manchester Counselling Training College, all of whom hold a Fitness to Practice Certificate
- Person-Centred Therapy and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy options are available



Find out more by emailing

wellbeingandtenancysustainment@msvhousing.co.uk www.msvhousing.co.uk

We're Here to Help You Access Our Services

At MSV, we want everyone to feel confident and supported when using our services. Here's how we can help:

Accessible Formats

If you need any of our information in Braille, large print, or audio, just let us know – we'll make sure you receive it in a way that suits your needs.

Online Services

Stay in control of your tenancy by signing up for a free My MSV account at www. msvhousing.co.uk. You can pay rent, report repairs, and more – all in one place.

Translation & Interpreting

We offer interpreting services and can translate important documents if English isn't your first language or if you use British Sign Language. We're committed to making communication as easy as possible.

Let's Talk

If you have accessibility needs or need support of any kind, we're only a message or call away:

Email: enquiry@msvhousing.co.uk

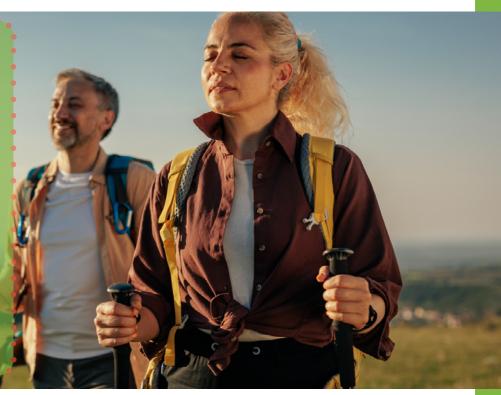
Phone: 0161 226 4211

(Monday to Friday from 8:30am to 5pm)

Helping Customers Build Financial Resilience

Our Financial Resilience Team continues to make a big impact — helping customers access the support they're entitled to and improving financial wellbeing across our communities. Here's just one example:

One customer recently had their Pension Credit claim rejected due to being part of a mixed-age couple. But thanks to Kim, one of our officers, the case was escalated to the DWP, who reviewed and reinstated the claim, backdated to 21 June 2024. The final amount is still being confirmed, but this shows the difference expert advice and advocacy can make.



And that's just one success. In Q2 and Q3, our Income and Financial Resilience Team:

- Secured £165,000 in backdated benefits for 69 customers
- Supported 2,357 people with tailored advice and guidance

We also secured nearly £8,000 in funding from Bolton Council in January 2025 to support customers in the Bolton area!

Contact us

Please get in touch with our Income and Financial Resilience Team today by emailing: IFR@msvhousing.co.uk or calling 0161 226 4211 - we can help!



Your feedback helps shape our services and policies. See how it's making a difference, with real examples of what you told us — and what we did in response.

You said:

"MSV should offer more support for customers with hidden disabilities when making a complaint."

We did: We've updated our complaint acknowledgement letters to let customers know they can request

You soid: "More information should be shared when signing up for a new home."

We did: We've updated the welcome information we give to new customers. It now includes more detail on how to report repairs and other useful tips to help you settle into your new home with confidence.



MEET AT
SPACE MANCHESTER

125 GREAT WESTERN STREET,
MOSS SIDE, M14 4AA
FROM 5PM ON WEDNESDAY
9TH JULY

Join MSV's Neighbourhood team on a walkabout in the Moss Side area with local residents and partners from Greater Manchester Police and Manchester City Council

A great opportunity to chat to us about any local issues

Everyone is welcome!



If you are unable to make it but would like to speak with us, please contact the Neighbourhood Zone 1 team on NeighbourhoodZone1@msvhousing.co.uk or 0161 226 4211

msvhousing.co.uk



Mosscare St Vincents Housing Group Head Office, 7th Floor, Trafford House, Chester Road, Stretford, Manchester M32 ORS

f you would like this information in another language or format. ther

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue ou format, prière de nous contacter

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਪੰਜਾਬੀ ਜਾਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਤਰੀਕੇ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਯੋਕਤ ਤਰੋਂ।

إذا كنت ترغب في الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغة أو صيغة أخرى، فيرجى الإتصال بنا.



telephone 0161 226 4211



email enquiry@msvhousing.co.uk



visit msvhousing.co.uk