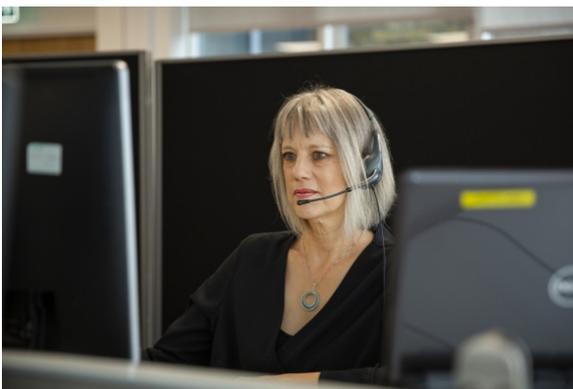




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Services



NHAS advises agency worker on DWP decision to not award client the housing costs element of Universal Credit

A single female client was refused the housing costs element of Universal Credit. The DWP was not satisfied with the evidence of a tenancy agreement existing.

[Read more](#)



Need help dealing with housing & welfare benefit enquiries?

Call us on 0300 330 0517 or [speak to an adviser via webchat](#).



Need support with a difficult debt case?

Call the Specialist Debt Advice Service on 03300 580 404 or [submit an enquiry online](#).

Training update

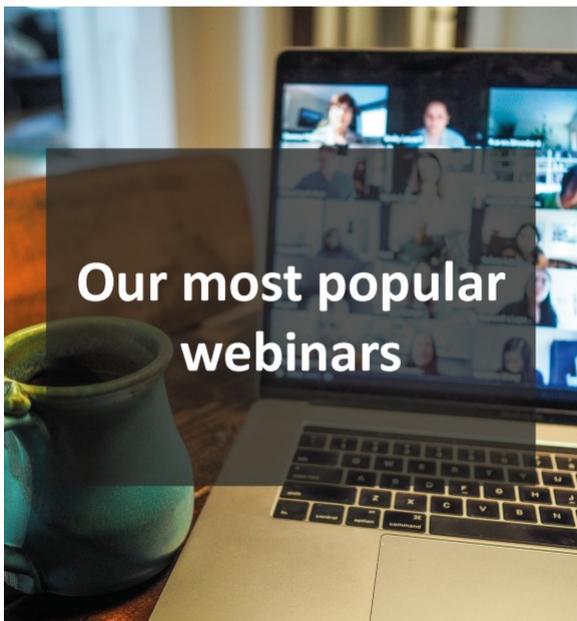
May & June webinars

We're running a range of awareness, introductory and intermediate level training sessions that cover various housing law, homelessness, benefits and professional skills topics.

May and June sessions are now available to book through our [training portal](#).

[View webinar schedule](#)

Popular Webinars



Assisting Non-UK Nationals

This webinar provides an overview of assistance that may be provided to non-UK nationals

Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation

This webinar is an introduction to the provision of temporary accommodation as it applies to homeless applicants.

Eligibility for Housing Assistance - Non UK & EEA Nationals

This webinar explains the ways in which people from outside the EEA may be eligible for housing assistance.



[View webinar schedule](#)



Looking for the Housing Foundation course?

If you are looking for our old 'housing foundation' days, this training is currently available as separate modules and webinars on the [MHCLG funded programme](#).

We also have alternate fee based options available for delivery by [Shelter Training](#).

[Contact us](#)



Group bookings

We are receiving a high volume of requests for group training and have now reached capacity until the end of June.

Please contact the training team to discuss post June dates or discuss alternate options for group training requests.

[Contact us](#)

Housing matters



Case brief: Powers of local authorities to accommodate people with no recourse to public funds

Robert Brown, solicitor in the Strategic Litigation Team at Shelter, explains the background of a recent High Court decision about powers of local authorities to accommodate rough sleepers with no recourse to public funds.

[Read more](#)



Case brief: Successful challenge to the DWP universal credit deductions policy

Sophie Earnshaw, a solicitor in Shelter's Strategic Litigation Team, explains the successful challenge in the High Court to the policy on court fines deductions from benefits and how this case can be used to help people who are in financial hardship.

[Read more](#)



Round up of resources for the resettlement of women prisoners

Women prisoners may face extra challenges while going through the homelessness assistance system. These resources improve the understanding of their complex needs and enable effective help.

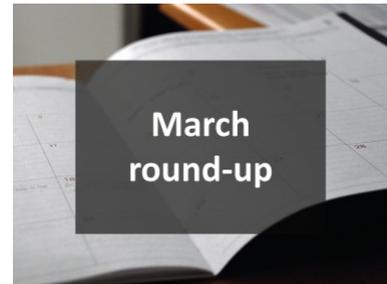
[Read more](#)



Supporting EEA nationals: post-Brexit housing and homelessness rights

Participants at the NHAS online event on 24 March identified useful resources on the housing rights of EEA nationals post-Brexit.

[Read more](#)



Monthly round-up: March

What's been happening over the last month, including eviction ban and longer notice periods extensions to 31 May, rough sleepers and amendments to the immigration rules, cases on council powers to accommodate, DWP and universal credit deductions.

[Read more](#)

[View all Housing Matters news and articles](#)

Factsheets

New and updated factsheets can be found under the following sections of the website:

Homelessness

Updated: Applying as homeless flowchart

Updated: Applying as homeless (1 of 5)

Rent, benefits and money

New: Mortgage payment problems

Repairs and safety

New: Electrical safety for private tenants

Updated: the other ten factsheets in this section have all been updated

Finding accommodation and tenancy issues

New style: Succession: Your right to inherit a council tenancy

New style: Succession: Your right to inherit a housing association tenancy

The powers available under section 2B of the NHA 2006 are not emergency specific and are potentially wide ranging. If the provision of accommodation is used for the purpose of promoting a public health need, it is lawful.

[See the full case brief](#)

COVID-19 round up

Housing

[Covid-19 and renting: guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities](#)

Updated 7 April, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government advice for landlords, tenants and local authorities on their rights and responsibilities.

[Covid-19 and possession action: guidance for private and social rented sectors](#)

Updated 7 April, MHCLG guidance explains the possession process including new arrangements which will be in place when the stay on possessions ends.

[Covid-19: Government support for landlords and tenants updated briefing paper](#)

House of Commons Library briefing paper outlining Government help for renters includes extension to 31 May of longer notice periods and the eviction ban.

[Commons Public Accounts Committee finds gaps in approach to rough sleeping](#)

Report on Government programme to house people during the pandemic finds failure to publish updated data and no strategy for ending rough sleeping.

[HCLG Committee report on MHCLG's response to the pandemic](#)

Housing, Communities and Local Government Committee report scrutinising the Government's actions to help homeless people, private renters and landlords.

[Commission on Homelessness to learn lessons from past year](#)

The Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping will look at what worked during the pandemic and how to embed the good practice that was shown.

Debt

[Financial Conduct Authority tailored support guidance](#)

Updated guidance aims to enable firms to support customers affected by the pandemic and advises that seeking possession should be a last resort.

News & updates

Housing

[New London youth homelessness accommodation hub established](#)

Depaul UK and New Horizon Youth Centre are piloting a hub for young homeless people, offering dedicated support. It will run from a 40-bed hotel in west London.

[Electrical safety standards: guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities](#)

From 1 April 2021, the regulations already in force for new private sector tenancies from 1 June 2020 also apply to tenancies existing prior to that date.

London Mayor to prioritise housing for key workers

NHS staff, police officers, transport workers, firefighters and teachers in London are expected to be given priority access to buy or rent homes below market rates.

Guidance for social housing tenants on the Right to Buy

Information on the Right to Buy scheme in England includes who qualifies, the discount scheme and a detailed guide on how to apply.

Guidance for landlords and tenants on mediation pilot

The housing possession mediation pilot, free to use for landlords and tenants, aims to help resolve cases without the need for a full court hearing.

Social housing lettings data

MHCLG data on new social housing lettings in England from April to September 2020 shows a comparative decrease of 49,000 lettings for previous year.

Supported housing pilots get additional £2.3 million and six-month extension

Four pilots testing new approaches to improve the standard and quality of supported housing in England have been extended, with their findings to inform future policy.

Tenant who sublet property illegally fined over £9,000

Woman who rented a four-bedroom flat from a private landlord then illegally sublet the property to eight other people found guilty of breaching housing laws.

Health

Homelessness charity Crisis and homeless healthcare charity Pathway to merge

Crisis and Pathway announce merger aiming to tackle the health inequalities and support needs experienced by people who are homeless.

Debt

Debt Respite Scheme (Breathing Space) in force from May: guidance for creditors

From 4 May 2021 many debts, including Housing Benefit overpayments, can be frozen for 60 days. This guidance explains what creditors should and shouldn't do.

Welfare benefits

Homeless Link report on benefits and homelessness in London

Report on the links between the benefits policy and homelessness looks at the cost and availability of accommodation and experiences of the benefits system.

Prisons

Duty to refer: guidance for prison and probation staff

Government guidance on the duty to reduce homelessness and support rehabilitation includes flowcharts and step-by-step guide.

Funding

Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme 2021-24

MHCLG guidance on the 2021-2024 Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme provides details of what will be funded and how the fund will work.

£212 million announced under Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme

Councils invited to bid for funding to develop long-term homes for rough sleepers, with specialist support for those with mental health and substance misuse problems.

[National Lottery to invest £17.9 million in the Changing Futures programme](#)

The £64 million government funding supporting the most vulnerable now has additional Lottery funding, extending the length of the programme to 3 years.

Consultations

[New model for Shared Ownership: consultation responses](#)

Summary of consultation responses and details of Government's next steps, including changes to minimum initial stake and more gradual staircasing.

Free online events

[Safeguarding people experiencing homelessness: LGA webinar](#)

Local Government Association pre-recorded webinar includes a lived experience perspective of what works for homelessness and the role of Emergency Duty Teams.

Research, analysis & review

Housing

[Overview of housing options for serving and former military personnel](#)

House of Commons Library (HoCL) briefing includes applying for social housing, homelessness applications and The MOD Referral Scheme.

[Rough sleeping in England: an overview](#)

HoCL briefing looks at the causes of rough sleeping, numbers of rough sleepers, government targets and local authorities' duties.

[Government initiatives helping first-time buyers](#)

HoCL briefing explores initiatives to extend home ownership, including Help to Buy, Rent to Buy, Mortgage Guarantee and Right to Buy for social housing tenants.

[LGBTQ+ youth homelessness report from akt](#)

Experiences of LGBTQ+ young people who have faced homelessness, including familial abuse and rejection and discrimination while accessing services.

[Citizens Advice see 40 percent increase in tenants seeking help](#)

New research shows how the pandemic has exacerbated existing problems for renters, including disrepair, harassment and illegal eviction.

Shelter legal

What's new on Shelter Legal

These changes affected Shelter Legal pages this month:

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and housing

[Covid-19: Homelessness](#)

Regulations 2021/364 define a 'vulnerable person' for the purposes of assessing vulnerability during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Covid-19: Mortgage payment problems

Finalised guidance from the Financial Conduct Authority for mortgage lenders explains how to deal with vulnerable customers and apply tailored support guidance.

Covid-19: Mortgage payment problems

Regulations 2021/362 which ban evictions until 31 May 2021 apply to borrowers as well as tenants.

Covid-19: Protection for tenants

Regulations 2021/362 confirm the ban on evictions is extended to 31 May 2021. Exceptions to the eviction ban have not changed.

Miscellaneous

Responsibility for electrical safety in rented homes

From 1 April 2021 the Electrical Safety Standards Regulations 2020/312 that apply to private rented sector tenancies include tenancies that started before 1 June 2020.

Universal credit deductions for non-dependants and debt

In R (on the application of Blundell & Ors) v SSWP the High Court held that a DWP policy which does not allow DWP decision makers to exercise discretion is unlawful.

Application to set aside a possession order

In Sangha v Amicus Finance Plc the High Court held that obtaining late legal advice was not a ground to set aside a possession order made at a hearing.

Appeals on a point of law to the county court

In Ngnoguem v Milton Keynes Council, the Court of Appeal held that a late review decision becomes the relevant decision for the purposes of a County Court appeal.

Landlord ends an assured tenancy

In Gateway Housing Association Ltd. v (1) The Personal Representatives of Mr Ali (Deceased) (2) Mrs Begum, the Court of Appeal considered the requirements of terminating a periodic assured tenancy.

For the latest updates online, see [Shelter Legal's What's New](#)

Thank you for reading,
The team at NHAS

Who we are?

We provide free expert advice, training and support to professionals working in local authorities, voluntary advice agencies and public authorities in England.

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