

We're here to help you with your housing and homelessness queries.

## November 2018 eBulletin



### **Focus on:** Intentional homelessness

Intentional homelessness is subject that often causes debate. At the NHAS roadshow in September, our panel of experts were asked a number of questions, one of which was:

#### **Can you be intentionally homeless if you are not co-operating?**

Here is our adviser's response:

While the prevention and relief duties can be brought to an end where an applicant has deliberately and unreasonably refused to co-operate, it is unlikely that they could be found intentionally homeless because of this. Intentional homelessness is concerned with the reasons that the applicant became homeless or threatened with homelessness in the first place – refusal to cooperate would only be something that could happen after the authority is satisfied that the applicant is already homeless or threatened with homelessness.

We have a factsheet on the website that explains what it means to be [intentionally homeless](#), that you can pass on to people who need it.

We regularly post snippets of advice such as this to the NHAS Network Facebook group. To join the group click '[join the Facebook group](#)' or copy and paste the hyperlink to your browser.

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## Service updates

We recently published a news article on the website to clarify [services who are eligible to use our free service](#). It includes who we mean when we say 'public authorities'.

It has come to light that some people may not have received last month's bulletin. We're very sorry about this. To access this and previous month's editions, login to the website and go to 'Information' and 'e-Bulletins'.

## Information

### Password change for public authorities

If you are a member of staff accessing the public authority section of the website, you may have noticed that you cannot login using your existing details. Email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk) for the new password.

## Training

### Changes to the training booking system – for webinars and bitesize courses

The new training booking system is now live. All those who have registered to be able to book places on behalf of multiple people should now have received their User ID. A number of instructional guides are on the training and courses section of the website (once you've logged in) to help you through the new process.

### Training for public authorities

Training courses for public authorities are available on the [website](#). They can either be booked online or arranged as in-house sessions, depending on the course. If you need something different to what we currently offer, get in touch and we'll discuss your requirements. Email us at [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk)

## Consultancy Line

### Duty to refer queries

We are seeing a number of calls from local authorities whose public body contacts are unsure as to what is required of them under the new duty, particularly around local connection. Staff working in public authorities are welcome to use our consultancy line to seek advice themselves – please feel free to pass our details on. We have written a [template email](#) that you are welcome to use.

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## News, updates and statistics

### A number of [changes to the Homelessness code of guidance](#) have been made

The amendments add the new category of people subject to immigration control who are eligible for assistance to the chapter on eligibility and add paragraphs to the chapters on priority need and suitability relating to people receiving palliative/end of life care.

### Easy Read guides and 'your rights to accessible and adaptable housing'

The Equality and Human Rights Commission have produced a number of ['easy read' guides](#) for people who require changes to their home and need information on their rights to social housing.

### **Greater protection for renters thanks to [plans to tighten tenant safety](#)**

Housing Minister Heather Wheeler MP has announced plans that will overhaul existing health and safety standards for rental accommodation.

### **Housing options for serving and ex-military personnel**

This Briefing Paper outlines the [housing options open to serving and ex-military personnel](#)

### **Forces [Help to Buy Scheme quarterly statistics: July to September 2018](#)**

Statistics on the number of applications and payments made under the Forces Help to Buy Scheme since its launch in April 2014.

### **[Autumn Budget: Universal Credit](#)**

In his Autumn Budget, the Chancellor announced that there would be available a further £1bn over five years to help ease the transition to the Universal Credit system. He also said that the work allowance would be increased by £1,000 a year.

### **[Support for care leavers](#) briefing paper**

This briefing paper provides general background on the development of Government policies to support care leavers, and the specific support available in terms of: social services, housing, education and training, health services, and the social security system.

### **The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has committed to the [care leavers covenant](#)**

James Brokenshire has pledged to commit the MHCLG to the care leaver's covenant by taking action in a number of areas.

### **Young cut off from justice: previously unpublished Government figures show a generation excluded from legal aid following cuts**

[Youth Access recently completed a report](#) looking at data from 2014-15 from the Ministry of Justice's Legal Problem Resolution Survey.

### **Three prisons are to pilot a new scheme to help ex-offenders to stay off the streets**

Leeds, Pentonville and Bristol prisons have been chosen to spearhead the [£6 million pilot programme](#) aimed at helping vulnerable ex-prisoners find and stay in stable accommodation.

### **Abolition of the Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap**

A determination abolishing the [Housing Revenue Account borrowing cap](#).

### **Social security advisory committee report**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> November, Esther McVey presented the [Social Security Advisory Committee report](#) to the House along with which of the recommendations the government had accepted from the report. This report was specifically on the moving of claimants from the current benefits system to Universal Credit (UC), commonly known as 'managed migration'.

### **Debt enforcement**

This Commons briefing paper provides an overview of the different types of [debt enforcement methods available](#) to a judgment creditor.

## What's new on Shelter legal?

[Overview of universal credit](#)

[18 to 21 year olds condition](#)

[Position when mesne tenancy ends](#)

[Cost of buying a home](#)

[Payment condition](#)

[Succession: Secure and flexible tenancies](#)

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## Case Law

### Suitability and s.193 accommodation

In [Anon v LB Lewisham, Central London County Court](#) the Court addressed the suitability of accommodation which had first been provided as temporary accommodation and then became s193 accommodation when Lewisham accepted a full housing duty. The appellant argued that the Council was applying a lower standard of suitability by treating it as 'temporary accommodation.

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Thank you for reading,

The team at NHAS

## Who we are

**We are here to help local authorities, local citizens advice, public authorities and advice agencies with their housing and homelessness queries. Working together with the aim of preventing homelessness, we give expert advice, training and support to those working at the frontline**

Our telephone consultancy service is open 9am – 6pm Monday to Friday, our trainers deliver training courses across the whole of England and our website holds a wealth of information, including past eBulletins, factsheets and guides to assist you with your housing and homelessness queries. You can find out more here: [www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk)

## You are on the NHAS mailing list

If you'd like to be added to or removed from our distribution list, or have problems accessing any of the materials in the bulletin, please email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk)

Please remember to add [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk) to your email address book to ensure that our emails are not placed in your junk mailbox.

NHAS is funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. We support the prevention of homelessness by enabling frontline providers to deliver good quality housing and homelessness advice.