

National Homelessness Advice Service  
Monthly Ebulletin  
June 2020 Edition



## Services



### The impact of Covid-19 on housing & homelessness so far

How has the pandemic impacted housing, homelessness and the workforce so far? We take a look at unpaid rent, eviction bans, domestic abuse statistics, mortgage payment holidays and the furlough scheme in our latest blog.

[Read more](#)

## Training Update

**Plans to reintroduce face-to-face delivery from September are being reviewed and will be subject to safe working in line with government guideline on COVID-19 and risk levels. Updates will be posted in these ebulletin's and through our website.**

In the meantime, we will continue to offer a substantial webinar programme for individual attendance. We can also arrange webinars for delivery to groups of staff, including basic tailoring where appropriate. Please contact [nhastraining@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhastraining@shelter.org.uk) with any requests or queries.

[View the webinar schedule for late June & July here](#)

---

## How to book a webinar:

Login to the [training portal](#), go to 'course search' and enter the course title. Alternatively, pick 'web' as the course type for a full list of available webinar titles.

If you don't yet have a free training account with us, please take a look at our frequently asked questions [FAQs](#).

---

## Bitesize online training:

Our bitesize elearning packages are designed to be completed in your own time, with each session taking around 30-60 minutes.

Login to the [portal](#) and pick 'elearning' in the 'course type' dropdown to view the titles available.

# Resources

## A range of NHAS factsheets have been updated this month:

- [Going to court during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- [Covid-19 and housing](#)
- [Section 21: defences from 1 October 2018](#)
- [Section 21 notices: restrictions](#)
- [Section 21: accelerated proceedings](#)
- [Responsibility for repairs](#)
- [Fire safety for tenants](#)

All NHAS factsheets can be found on the NHAS website [here](#)

---

## Housing Matters: issue 136

### In this issue:

Alice Gledhill explains the issue of mental capacity in the context of making a homeless application.

Richard Harmer, a Senior Solicitor at Shelter, provides an overview of the assessment and relief duties introduced by the Homelessness

## Issue 136 June 2020

<b>What's new?</b>	1
<b>Article</b>	2
Mental capacity and homeless applications	
<b>Article</b>	4
The relief duty - getting it right	
<b>Factsheet</b>	6
Going to court during the Covid-19 pandemic	

Reduction Act 2017 and gives examples of challengeable practices.

The factsheet 'Going to court during the Covid-19 pandemic' offers practical advice to clients who have a court case coming up.

The 'What's new' page brings you up to date with various items of news related to housing and homelessness.



Specialist support  
on housing advice

### New housing cases

Housing Matters contains [a summary of new and interesting case law](#) relating to recent homelessness and housing cases

[Download Housing Matters issue 136](#)

## A round up of COVID 19 practical information and guidance

### Protection for tenants

#### [Shelter Legal's guide to protection for tenants](#)

Shelter Legal explains the extension of notices in the relevant period between 26 March 2020 and 30 September 2020.

#### [Advice for the public on Shelter's housing advice website](#)

Information for clients on the Covid-19 updated eviction advice.

#### [COVID-19 housing advice on GOV.UK](#)

Government guidance for landlords, tenants and local authorities.

### Housing

#### [Local Partnerships briefing for Local Authorities](#)

This briefing looks at local authority responsibilities for providing accommodation and support for clients who have been accommodated due to COVID-19. It also considers how this may be funded within current resources.

### Health

#### [Public Health matters blog](#)

The community response to coping with the COVID-19 pandemic.

## **Debt**

### **[House of Commons Library COVID-19 briefing: Support for household finances](#)**

This briefing paper outlines the measures introduced by the Government, and other authorities, to support household finances during the COVID-19 outbreak.

## **Training**

### **[Homeless Link Webinar: COVID-19 and Homelessness Services](#)**

A weekly update as homelessness services respond to COVID-19. Free online webinar every Wednesday 3pm-4pm.

## **Covid-19 research, analysis & review**

### **[MEAM coalition research on how support services have responded to Covid-19](#)**

New research undertaken by Making Every Adult Matter examines the flexibilities that homelessness, substance misuse, mental health and criminal justice services have put in place to support people during the Covid-19 crisis, and how some of the positive aspects of these changes might be maintained in the future.

### **[Carers week 2020 research report](#)**

4.5 million additional people have taken on an unpaid carer role as a result of COVID-19 pandemic.

### **[Housemark has published its COVID-19 Impact analysis on social housing](#)**

HouseMark is a membership organisation jointly owned by the Chartered Institute of Housing and the National Housing Federation.

### **[PHE review COVID-19 risks and outcomes for BME groups](#)**

A Public Health England review into emerging evidence suggesting a disproportionate impact on people from black and minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds.

## **News & Updates**

### **Charities news**

#### **[The Crisis campaign Home for All](#)**

The charity Crisis is calling on Government to commit to a plan that will enable everyone across Great Britain to have the security of a safe and settled home.

#### **[Refuge's National Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)**

The helpline has seen a sharp and escalating rise in demand during lockdown.

#### **[The Forces Communities Together programme](#)**

Small grants of up to £10,000 will be awarded towards creative and engaging projects, that can be delivered under social restrictions, for people from Armed Forces communities who are isolated as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Note the closing date 30 June 2020.

## Government News

### [Updated Directory of Legal Aid providers](#)

Information about legal aid providers by category of law published by the Legal Aid Agency.

### [Government plans to provide 6,000 supported homes to end rough sleeping](#)

In May 2020 Housing Secretary Robert Jenrick announced plans to provide thousands of long-term, safe homes for the vulnerable rough sleepers taken off the streets during the pandemic.

### [A statement from the Prime Minister's advisor on rough sleeping](#)

Dame Louise Casey has released a statement on the efforts to support rough sleepers during the coronavirus pandemic.

### [Government announces extra £38 million funding for debt advice providers to help people affected by coronavirus](#)

Money and Pensions Service will set out process for allocating funding in the coming weeks.

### [Domestic Abuse Bill 2019-21](#)

The Public Bill committee is scheduled to report to the House of Commons by 25 June 2020.

## Consultations

### [The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Social Mobility](#)

This is a national inquiry aimed at tackling the employment and earnings gap in social housing. Note the deadline for written evidence is 30 June.



## What's new on Shelter Legal

Shelter Legal is updated regularly to reflect changes in the law. A summary of changes to legislation, regulations, case law and policy that affect Shelter Legal pages can be found in [What's New in Shelter Legal](#).

These changes affected Shelter Legal pages this month:

### [Protection for tenants](#)

On 5 June the government announced that the stay on possession proceedings under CPR Part 55 introduced on 27 March 2020 for an initial period of 90 days would be extended by two months. The stay applies to possession claims by landlords and mortgage lenders.

### [Notices: Flexible tenancies](#)

In *Croydon LBC v Kalonga* [2020] EWHC 1353 (QB), the High Court held that where a tenant defaulted on rent, the local authority could not end a flexible tenancy in the fixed-term other than

by relying on a forfeiture clause.

### Reasonable and additional preference

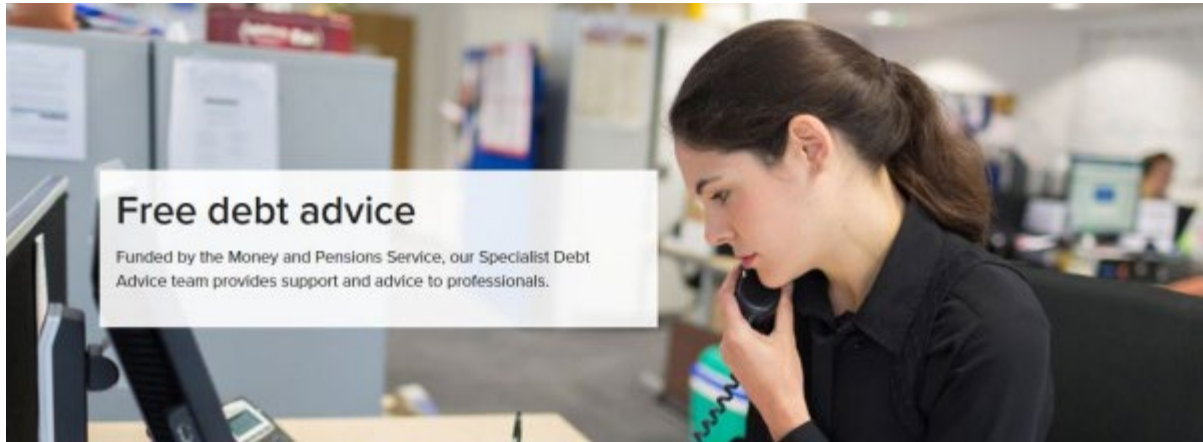
In *R (Idolo) v Bromley LBC* [2020] EWHC 860 (Admin), the High Court refused to award compensation to a disabled local authority tenant who spent twenty months confined to his bedroom on the eighth floor of a block of flats.

### Electrical Safety

The Electrical Safety Standards in the Private Rented Sector (England) Regulations 2020 SI 2020/312 come into force on 1 June 2020. These impose obligations on landlords in the private rented sector to carry out electrical safety checks before a tenancy commences and at least every five years afterwards.

### Tenant fees: overview

From 1 June 2020, the ban on prohibited payments introduced by the Tenant Fees Act 2019 applies to all assured shorthold tenancies, licences and student lettings, regardless of their start date.



## Shelter's Specialist Debt Advice Service

Our Specialist Debt Advice Service (SDAS) provides free, expert guidance to advice workers to support them with their complex debt cases. Please note this service is for professionals only and does not assist members of the public.

This includes:

- Comprehensive referencing for complex cases
- Clarification on new laws
- Answers to technical queries
- A second opinion

**Web enquiries** can be made 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A telephone service is open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday.

Call now on **03300 580 404**.

Find us at [shelter.org.uk/debtadvice-service](https://shelter.org.uk/debtadvice-service)

---



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)



**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.**

Follow us:



Can't read this email? [View online version](#)