



Preventing homelessness and improving housing through expert advice, training and support to those working at the frontline

Here to help local authorities and advice agencies on 0300 330 0517



[Consultancy Line](#)



[Housing Debt Casework](#)



[Training](#)

NHAS training – changes to the booking system

From 1st April 2018, Shelter and Citizens Advice will no longer be working together on the National Homelessness Advice Service. The NHAS will be continuing, but from April it will be delivered exclusively by Shelter.

This means that all training requests & bookings from Local Citizens Advice and voluntary agency members for NHAS face to face courses and webinars running from 1 April 2018, will be managed by Shelter through the NHAS website, and via nhas@shelter.org.uk, not via Citizens Advice National Events & Training team or the Online Booking System. The process of booking onto courses for local authorities will not change. [Read more about the training changes.](#)

Shelter Legal is now FREE. It is an essential online law resource for housing professionals.

[Shelter Legal](#) guides you through housing law in clear, easy to understand language, explaining how legislation and case law work in practice. Fully referenced, Shelter Legal is the only free, comprehensive and up-to-date housing law resource available.

Shelter Legal provides a full glossary of terms, a 'what's new' update and a tenancy checker tool to determine the legal status of an occupier. Many pages contain links to legislation and other useful sources of information. Shelter Legal covers England and Wales where the law is the same, and has a separate section on homelessness in Wales.

Homelessness Reduction Act updates

- **NHAS support with HRA for local authorities:** We can support you in the implementation of HRA. If you have any questions relating to how this impacts on your clients, contact our team of expert advisers on 0300 330 0517 or via webchat. You can also arrange for [HRA refresher training](#) for your housing options teams.
- **NHAS HRA training for LCA's and advice agencies:** Our courses have been updated in line with the new legislation, and we also have our Introduction to the Homelessness Reduction Act webinar running throughout quarter 1. [Log in to view the online calendar](#) and make an enquiry.
- **[Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities:](#)** Local housing and social services authorities must have regard to this guidance when exercising their functions relating to people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

- [Hospitals, prisons and Jobcentres to refer people at risk of homelessness](#): Organisations have a duty to help those at risk of becoming homeless and refer them to a housing authority.
- [Homelessness Reduction Act: new burdens funding](#): Information on the new burdens funding local authorities have been allocated to implement the Homelessness Reduction Act.

Stats/Updates/etc

- [Mortgage and landlord possession claims – October to December 2017](#)
- [Landlords who say ‘no DSS’ breaking equality laws](#): The provisions of the Equality Act 2010 that prohibit discrimination when selling, renting or managing residential accommodation.
- [The Loans for Mortgage Interest and Social Fund Maternity Grant \(Amendment\) Regulations 2018](#)
- [Private Landlords \(Registration\) Bill 2017-19 Progress of the Bill](#): A Bill to require all private landlords in England to be registered; and for connected purposes – expected to have its second reading debate on Friday 27 April 2018.
- [Secure Tenancies \(Victims of Domestic Abuse\) Bill \[HL\] 2017-19 Progress of the Bill](#): A bill to make provision about the granting of old-style secure tenancies in cases of domestic abuse -third reading scheduled for 13 March.
- [Homelessness \(End of Life Care\) Bill 2017-19 Progress of the Bill](#): A Bill to make provision about end of life care and support for homeless people with terminal illnesses, including through the provision of housing for such people; and for connected purposes. – expected to have its second reading debate on Friday 16 March 2018.

Recently published

- [Households in temporary accommodation \(England\)](#): This House of Commons Briefing Paper provides background information on the increase in the number of homeless households placed in temporary accommodation by English local authorities and outlines various initiatives and issues associated with this increased use of temporary accommodation.
- [Rough Sleepers and Anti-Social Behaviour \(England\)](#): This briefing paper discusses the use of anti-social behaviour powers to ban activities often associated with rough sleeping, and concerns that an increase in the use of these powers is criminalising homelessness and is not addressing the root cause of the problem.
- **Rural communities and affordable housing**: Shelter and the Campaign to Protect Rural England have published a report focusing on the use of ‘viability assessments’ to undercut affordable housing requirements in rural areas. Read Campaign to Protect Rural England’s [executive summary and full report](#), and [Shelter’s blog](#) about the research.
- [New Common Financial Statement Trigger Figures](#) available from 1 March 2018 (licence required to view)

NRPF NETWORK:

- [Assessing and supporting adults who have no recourse to public funds \(England\)](#): NRPF Network have published an updated edition of their practice guidance for local authorities, including new chapters on hospital cases, using discretionary powers to provide housing, and victims of trafficking and modern slavery.
- [Support Options](#): Find out where migrant families can get help with housing and financial support when they have no recourse to public funds.

Specialist Debt Advice for Professionals



Shelter's Specialist Debt Advice Service offers free professional guidance for anyone providing free to client debt advice in England and Wales. To be added to the mailing list please send a request via email to specialistdebtbulletin@shelter.org.uk.

- [Make a web enquiry](#): available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Telephone service: 03300 580 404 (9am — 5pm Monday to Friday)

NHAS updates

NHAS training

[Log in](#) to view the latest webinar topics and dates including our new **Introduction to the Homelessness Reduction Act webinar**.



Webchat Facility

Access to housing consultancy via Webchat is a popular way for members to get free advice. Webchat is accessed by going to www.nhas.org.uk and clicking on the 'live chat' button.

In January...



435

housing staff increased their knowledge on the Homelessness Reduction Act through our local authority training programme



26

cases that were picked up by the consultancy line had input from Shelter Legal, to ensure the best possible legal advice was given



78%

of cases opened by the housing debt casework team were direct client cases - allowing local authorities and agencies to focus on other work

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.

Regards,
The NHAS Team
www.nhas.org.uk

NHAS is delivered by Shelter and funded by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. The overall aims of the project are to enable frontline providers to deliver good quality

housing and homelessness advice, and support and facilitate the prevention of homelessness where possible.