

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

## March 2019 eBulletin

### Service updates

NHAS road shows Focus on HRA: one year on



SPRING 2019  
NHAS ROADSHOW

#### The Homelessness Reduction Act: one year on...

Join us at one of our free events in March. We'll have a legal update provided by John Gallagher, Shelter's Principal Solicitor, covering the latest developments in the Homelessness Reduction Act and other recent housing legislation and case law. There will also be workshops delivered by local authorities from the Roadshow locations, focusing on HRA initiatives in their area and by a Shelter trainer, looking at what makes a good Personal Housing Plan.

Blackpool 15 March 2019	Leicester 19 March 2019	Luton 26 March 2019
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From 10:15 to 3:30pm

Registration from 9:45am

Places are limited - email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk) to book your place today  
Free networking lunch is provided



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- Leicester – 19 March 2019
- Luton – 26 March 2019

Email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk) to book your place.

### Information

We held our first Health road show in February in Manchester, the presentations are online – log in to [www.nhas.org.uk](http://www.nhas.org.uk) and click on Events. In relation to the Health Roadshow, you can find out more about the [Homeless Link Health Needs Audit toolkit](#) - a step by step guide to running a Health Needs Audit in your area.

## Training

Our Quarter 1 training schedules have been published online and are available to view and book. [Log in to the website](#) and click on the calendar.

## Consultancy Line

Read about a [positive outcome achieved for a Welfare Benefits case](#) by our consultancy line.

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### Focus on: Right to Rent scheme declared discriminatory by the High Court

The High Court has ruled that the 'Right to Rent' checks cause landlords to discriminate against prospective tenants on racial and nationality grounds. JCWI brought the judicial review against the Home Office. Shelter contributed a witness statement in support based on our research and opposition to the scheme. The Resident Landlords Association, EHRC and Liberty all intervened.

'The judgment prevents the UK Government from rolling out the policy in Scotland and Wales. The court also found that the policy in England breaches human rights law'

[Shelter Legal – What's new](#)

## Case Law

### Equality Act 2010: key concepts - Changes made 12 February 2019

Section 158 of the Equality Act 2010 permits 'positive action' to tackle disadvantage faced by those sharing a protected characteristic even if it disadvantages those sharing a different protected characteristic. Section 193 provides that a charity will not be in breach of its obligations under the Act not to discriminate if it restricts any of its services to persons who share a protected characteristic (save where the protected characteristic is defined by colour). Both sections can be a defence to a discrimination claim where a charity's policy or action is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim. In *R (on the application of Z) v (1) Hackney LBC (2) Agudas Israel Housing Association* [2019] EWHC 139 (Admin), the High Court held that a small charitable housing association did not unlawfully discriminate by prioritising allocation of its social housing to members of the Orthodox Jewish community (religion or belief is a protected characteristic) resident in its area.

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## News, updates and statistics

Government announces up to £26 million for vulnerable rough sleepers

[Vulnerable people sleeping rough will receive specialist tailored support](#) they need to recover from life on the streets and find accommodation.

Rough Sleeping Strategy [advisory panel letter](#) from Heather Wheeler MP

Deaths of homeless people in England and Wales – local authority estimates: 2013 to 2017

[Preliminary estimates of the number of deaths of homeless people](#) in England and Wales at local authority level.

Mortgage and Landlord Possession statistics: October to December 2018

[Quarterly National Statistics on possession claim actions](#) in county courts by mortgage lenders and social and private landlords.

Malthouse boosts funding for community-led affordable housing

Communities across the country are set to benefit from a [£6 million funding boost to help them build more of the homes that their area needs](#).

Help for ineligible adult migrants in England

The Passage have produced a [Modern Slavery Handbook](#) to help advisers in homelessness roles. The handbook gives details of types of modern slavery and factors which can help identify them as well as an overview of the help available.

Tenant Fees Act 2019 (Commencement No 1) Regulations 2019

These Regulations commence section 22 of the [Tenant Fees Act 2019](#) (the Act) from **14 February 2019**. Section 22 relates to approval and designation of client money protection schemes.

Private rented housing: the rent control debate – House of Commons Library

This briefing paper provides an [overview of the debate around rent control/regulation](#) and includes some information on a small selection of international rent regimes.

Preparation for no-deal Brexit: Regulator of Social Housing

On 14 February 2019 the [Regulator of Social Housing wrote to large registered providers](#) of social housing in order to clarify the Regulator's expectations of providers and share what the Regulator has identified as the most significant potential risks facing the social housing sector in the event of a 'no-deal' Brexit.

## New toolkits for advisers on discrimination in housing and at work

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has collaborated with Citizens Advice to produce practical toolkits on [housing discrimination](#) for advisers. This step by step guide follows the EHRC's report [Is Britain Fairer](#) which finds that there has been a marked decrease in access to justice for discrimination issues due to legal aid funding cuts.

## Open consultation Tackling homelessness together

This [consultation seeks views on how the government could improve local accountability](#) for the delivery of homelessness services. This consultation closes at 11:45pm on 16 May 2019.

## Welfare safety net: Select committee investigation

On 13 February 2019 the [House of Commons Work and Pensions Select Committee](#) questioned a broad group of charity and public sector on their responses to the "unholy trinity", ie debt, hunger and homelessness, which many have linked to the UK's programme of welfare reform. The session followed the government acceptance of a link between Universal Credit and increasing food bank use.

## [Help available from the Department for Work and Pensions for people who are victims of domestic violence and abuse](#)

Guidance updated 22 Feb.

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## What's new on Shelter Legal

- [Right to rent immigration checks](#)
- [Landlord's duty of care for repairs](#)
- [Time limits for internal reviews](#)
- [Notices to quit: Tenants](#)
- [Help for ineligible children and families in England](#)



Do you have a LinkedIn account? Follow our new [NHAS](#) page for early access to updates, upcoming training and events'

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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 Health, Communities and Local Government. We support the prevention of homelessness by enabling frontline providers to deliver good quality housing and homelessness advice.