



We're here to help you with your housing and homelessness training, advice and information needs

January 2020 eBulletin

Service Updates

NHAS & HMPPS Joint Learning Event

NHAS (National Homelessness and Advice Service) in partnership with HMPPS (Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service), ran a learning workshop for offender management practitioners at the Ministry of Justice in London on November 27 2019. A post-event report, which includes an overview of the event and key themes arising from discussions through the day, [is available to download here](#). Delegates completed a feedback survey following the event - you can [download the results here](#).

Training

First NHAS courses running to mixed audiences this month

All courses, webinars and briefings from 1 January onwards are open to all our audiences. We'll be interested in feedback on how this works for our users but are hoping it will enable

collaborative working, networking, and good practice sharing between agencies and authorities.

Bookings are open for all training courses, webinars and briefings up until 31 March. Go to www.nhas.org.uk/training to view available dates and book your place.

Free training for groups of staff

All NHAS courses can be delivered free to groups of 8 - 16 staff, at a time and location to suit you. If your organisation doesn't have enough delegates, you could invite staff from local organisations to join you. If you want to do this, please agree a couple of possible training dates with your partner organisations and ensure that you can guarantee at least eight delegates before submitting an enquiry to nhas@shelter.org.uk.

February webinars

Our February webinar programme features a dozen topics, all open to both local authorities and voluntary agencies, including:

Persons from Abroad: an Introduction to Cost Entitlement for EEA National Households

3 February 10.30am - 12.00pm / 2.30 - 4.00pm

Suitability and Out of Area Placements

5 February 2.30 - 4.00pm

Right to Rent Immigration Checks

7 February 2.30 - 3.45pm

Tenant Fees Act 2019

14 February 10.30am - 12.00pm

Introduction to Homelessness and Local Authority Duties

19 February 10.30am – 12.00pm

Introduction to Mandatory Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation

20 February 10.30am – 12.00pm

Login to the training portal at www.nhas.org.uk/training, go to course search and pick 'web' as the course type for a full list of available webinar titles.

Resources

Blogs from the Specialist Debt Advice Service

Housing debt advice and what's new for 2020

As usual we've had a quiet Christmas period on the Specialist Debt Advice Service consultancy line. This hasn't meant putting our feet up – we've been using the time for writing our monthly e-bulletin and recording a webinar to help keep advisers abreast of new case law and legislation. [Read the full article here.](#)

Second mortgage arrears success story

The Specialist Debt Advice Service helped an adviser achieve a fantastic result in this second

mortgage case. Michael Agboh Davidson, an adviser at Citizens Advice Bradford contacted us in April 2019 for a second opinion on a mortgage possession case. [Find out more about this success story here.](#)



The graphic features a white stylized 'i' icon with a house inside the dot, set against a green background. To the right of the icon, the text 'Focus On: Emergency Accommodation Legal Information' is written in white.



Emergency accommodation options

Emergency options for people who need accommodation urgently because they are homeless or about to become homeless.

Find options for advising in emergencies and for clients who are in immediate danger. The client may have rights to stay in, or return to, her/his present accommodation. Advice can be given to those client's whose immediate option is sleeping out.

[Read more](#)

Other emergency housing options

The suitability of each emergency housing option will vary depending on the person's housing status, needs and preferences, and whether the person has any money to pay for housing.

In addition, the options available will depend upon the types of emergency accommodation available in the local area. Advisers should keep up-to-date details of all the local options.

[Read more](#)

News, updates and statistics

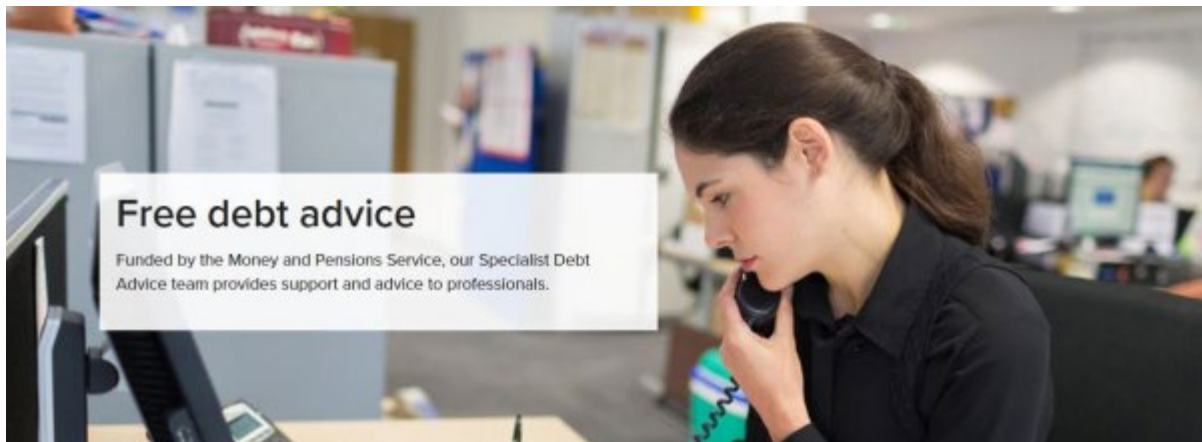
- **Statutory Homelessness in England, April to June 2019:** [Experimental statistics](#) on statutory homelessness in England. Published 18 December 2019.
- **New Pre-Action Protocols:** [Housing disrepair](#) and [social landlord possession claims](#) came into force on 13 January 2020.
- **Housing Secretary pledges new funding to crack down on criminal landlords:** More than 100 councils across England have been awarded a share of over £4 million to [crack down on criminal landlords](#) and letting agents.

- **Birmingham City Council:** The council has [seized seven residential houses](#) from their owners, after they have each stood vacant for more than 10 years.
- **Rogue Birmingham landlord:** landlord [successfully prosecuted](#) after endangering lives.
- **Swanley land owners prosecuted:** [the owners of a notorious illegal hostel](#) in Swanley, The Convent of Mercy, have been brought to justice for failing to comply with two Planning Enforcement Notices.
- **Three letting agents expelled:** [Three letting agents](#) have been expelled from The Property Ombudsman (TPO) scheme.
- **Flexible homelessness support grant & homelessness reduction grant: 2020 to 2021** [information](#) regarding the allocation of the flexible homelessness support grant and the homelessness reduction grant funding local authorities will receive in 2020 to 2021.
- **Challenging water rates:** Challenging the rates charged in the rent may result in significant drop in the arrears. The case of [Jones v London Borough of Southwark](#) (2016) and now most recently in the case of [Kingston-Upon-Thames RLBC v Moss](#) (2019) have shown how local authorities have been overcharging their tenants in respect of water rates included in their rent.
- **New LAA guidance:** [Application guidance](#) for Exceptional Case Funding (ECF). The guide takes the reader through the Court of Appeal judgement in [Gudanaviciene and Others v Director of Legal Aid Casework and Anor](#) [2014] EWCA, which definitively sets out when an applicant should be granted legal aid for matters which are not in scope. See also the Public Law Guide on [ECF for housing cases](#).
- **New Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) guidance on right to reside:** [European Economic Area \(EEA\) national who ceases self-employment](#) because of the physical constraints of the late stages of pregnancy and the aftermath of childbirth. New guidance following the CJEU judgment in [Dakneviute](#) (C 544/18) that a pregnant self-employed EEA national can retain their status under the *St Prix* principle.
- **International Year of the Nurse and Midwife 2020:** The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared 2020 as the [year of the nurse and midwife](#) in honour of the bicentenary of the birth of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.
- **Open Consultation:** [Strengthening police powers to tackle unauthorised encampments](#). Summary consultation on measures to criminalise trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales. This consultation closes on 4 March 2020.



What's New

- Multiple, repeat and withdrawn applications
- Right to reside
- Finding accommodation
- Retired or incapacitated workers
- Other emergency housing options
- Rent repayment orders
- Help for ineligible adult migrants in England



Specialist Debt Advice

Our specialist service provides free, expert guidance to free advice agencies in England & Wales. We can support you with any client debt cases.

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

Call us now on 03300 580 404.

Find us at www.shelter.org.uk/debtadvice

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



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 Please remember to add 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.

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