



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 updates



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. [Read our webchat casestudy](#)

NHAS training

Local Authorities can get up to speed with the latest on the Homelessness Reduction Act through our face to face course. [Find out more about HRA training.](#)

Available to Local Authorities, Citizens Advice and Voluntary Agency members, our 'Introduction to the Homelessness Reduction Act' webinar provides an overview of key points in the Act. [Log in to download our webinar calendar.](#)

Homelessness Reduction Act Update

- [Personalised Plans – putting service users at the centre of new homelessness services](#)
- [‘It’s a personal thing’ What service users need from assessments and personalised housing plans - Homelessness Reduction Act 2017](#) : This Briefing, supported by the Longleigh Foundation, and with guidance and support from Shelter’s Expert Panel of our service users, includes recommendations on how to implement the new duties.

Shelter report: Far from Alone



[Far from Alone: Homelessness in Britain in 2017](#)

Shelter's report on homelessness combines official rough-sleeping, temporary accommodation and social services figures. This showed the number of homeless people in Britain has increased by 13,000 in a year.

The figures do not include 'hidden' or unrecorded homelessness.

Stats/Updates/etc

- [Mortgage and landlord possession statistics: July to September 2017](#)
- [MAT: Stop the Knock 2017](#): The use of bailiffs to collect debts owed to local authorities in England and Wales has risen by 14 per cent in 2 years, detailed in this new research from [Money Advice Trust](#).
- [Furnishing your home with Rent to Own](#): New research from the [End Child Poverty coalition](#) has found that families using rent-to-own are paying as much as three times as much for key household items.

Recently published

- [CIH responds to new plans for funding supported housing](#)
- [Priced Out: Affordable housing](#): Institute for Public Policy Research report **finds that** 92% of local authorities are failing to meet affordable housing needs.
- [Housing supply for local authorities \(England\)](#): Tool from House of Commons Library to compare housing supply statistics for local authorities.
- [Electrical safety standards in the private rented sector](#): report from the working group on electrical safety standards in the private rented sector
- [Affordable housing supply – England: April 2016 to March 2017](#): affordable housing supply in England for the period between April 2016 and March 2017
- [Stopping Tax Credits and the Transition to Universal Credit](#): qualitative research to explore experiences and information needs of tax credit customers as they make the transition to Universal Credit.
- The All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Consumer Protection commissioned MoneySavingExpert to investigate the effectiveness of ombudsmen in February - the resulting report is [Sharper teeth: The consumer need for Ombudsman reform](#).

[Racial discrimination in private letting – county court judgment](#)

On 8 November 2017 Maidstone County Court ruled that landlord Fergus Wilson's policy of banning Indian and Pakistani tenants was unlawful and imposed an injunction against the implementation of the policy.

Two Child Limit Challenge

Child Poverty Action Group is encouraging advisers to challenge all decisions that impose the two child limit, you can also download a template letter to adapt and use in any mandatory reconsideration of a decision imposing the two child limit.

[Find out how to make a test case referral and a suggested reconsideration template letter.](#)

Consultations

- [London Housing Strategy](#) - The Mayor of London has published his draft Housing Strategy for London. It seeks to provide 'a comprehensive plan to address the housing crisis over the next few years. **Consultation ends: 7 December 2017**
- [Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse](#) – proposals for new statutory guidance for local authorities to assist victims of domestic abuse living in refuges, and other forms of safe temporary accommodation, to access social housing. **Consultation ends: 5 January 2018**

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