

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

November 2019 eBulletin

Service Updates

Autumn Roadshows

[Autumn roadshow report and feedback survey available now](#)

"John Gallagher's update was fantastic - very useful information and relevant case law, well delivered and thoughtfully explained."

Watch this space for our spring roadshows in March

Training

Scheduled training and webinars open to mixed audiences from 1 January 2020

From the 1 January all NHAS courses, briefings and webinars taking place are open to all our audiences.

The January-March 2020 schedule includes face-to-face training courses on over a dozen topics, all of which are now open to local authorities, public authorities, local Citizens Advice and voluntary agencies.

New and revised topics include:

Social Housing and Allocations
Private Rented Sector Assured Shorthold Tenancies
Introduction to Antisocial Behaviour and Harassment
Prisoners Housing Rights
Homelessness and Temporary Accommodation
Young People, Housing and Homelessness
Introduction to Housing Costs

Go to <https://www.nhas.org.uk/training> to view available dates and book your place.

All courses are available for delivery to groups of eight or more staff at your own premises, please email nhas@shelter.org.uk to enquire.

Pre-Christmas Webinars

We still have space on selected 90-minute webinars before the Christmas break, including:

Tenant Fees Act 2019 – 3 December AM local authorities and statutory agencies/ 13 December PM voluntary agencies

Suitability and Out of Area Placements – 5 December PM local authorities and statutory agencies / 5 December AM voluntary agencies

Persons from Abroad: An Introduction to Housing Cost Entitlement – 12 December PM local authorities and statutory agencies / 28 November AM voluntary agencies

Login at www.nhas.org.uk/training and visit the event calendar for more information, including timings.

Bitesize online training

Bitesize learning is designed to be completed in your own time, with each session taking around 30-60 minutes. Over a dozen housing topics are available. Log in to the website, then go to [training / bitesize](#) to find out more.

Consultancy Line

We have now extended webchat availability with longer opening hours and more advisors, to use webchat go to our website.

Read our latest webchat case study [here](#).

Resources

- The updated Housing Matters (HOMAT) index can be found on the website [here](#).
- Aidan Oswell from Newcastle City Council spoke to us about the Newcastle Street Zero Partnership. "Street Zero brings together a range of stakeholders, from Northumbria Police and the NHS, through to the City Council and frontline service providers" read the full blog [here](#).
- Duty to Refer Resources: download the our Duty to Refer toolkit [here](#).



Focus On: Benefits

On 3 November 2019 the Government announced that working-age benefits such as universal credit and jobseeker's allowance will rise by 1.7 per cent from April 2020. A freeze on benefits has been in place since 2015.

[£10 million fund to help vulnerable people claim Universal Credit](#)

Funding will be available to partner organisations, including charities, from April 2020 to help vulnerable people claim Universal Credit.

[Under-occupying social housing: Housing Benefit entitlement](#)

This Briefing Paper provides information on which claimants are affected by the reduction in Housing Benefit/housing element of Universal Credit when under-occupying a social rented home. The policy is often referred to as 'the removal of the Spare Room Subsidy' or the 'bedroom tax'

[In a recent case taken by the Welfare Benefits and Housing Debt team, we assisted a voluntary agency with their client's housing costs problem](#)

News, Updates and Statistics

- **Simawi v London Borough of Haringey:** On 31 October 2019 in *Simawi v London Borough of Haringey* [2019] EWCA Civ 1770, the Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal over the rules relating to the succession to secure council tenancies [Judgement Local Government Lawyer report](#)
- **Additional £4 million funding for councils to tackle criminal landlords:** [More funding to help crack down on criminal landlords.](#)
- **Landlord regulations:** [Regulations](#) are up by a third according to a [new analysis](#) by the RLA, the total number of regulations affecting landlords has increased to 156, up from 118 when the Conservative-led coalition government came to power. The RLA is warning the increase in legislation has not led to an improvement in enforcement action against criminal landlords and many councils are failing to properly use the powers they already have.
- **Rough Sleeping in London:** New figures show sharp rise in new rough sleepers across London. [Crisis respond](#) to the figures ([rough sleeping in London](#) - CHAIN reports) These reports present information about people seen rough sleeping by outreach teams in London.
- **Winter Shelters List:** [London Winter Shelters list 2019/20 published](#)
- **Ex-Offender Scheme:** Ex-offenders in the scheme will live in [dedicated accommodation](#) for up to 2 years, having received tailored support in the lead up to their release date.
- **Cobseo with The Royal British Legion:** has created a [downloadable toolkit](#) for Local Authorities and homelessness charities, containing guidance and information on housing Veterans, good practice examples and information on organisations for signposting

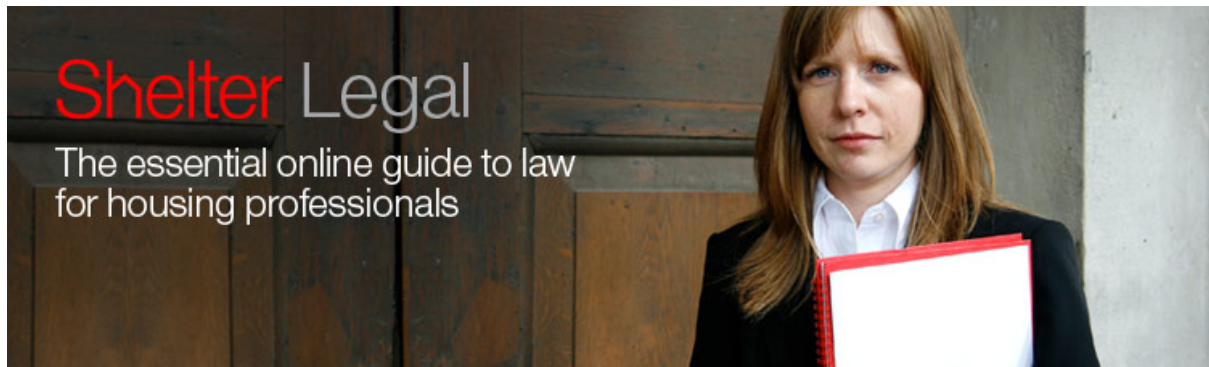
Government consults on new police powers to criminalise unauthorised encampments

Proposals include powers to arrest and seize the property and vehicles of trespassers.

The Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has made nearly £2 million available to councils to crack down on illegal developments, with funding also available under the £9 billion Affordable Homes Programme to help develop authorised sites.

In June this year the government announced MHCLG will lead development of a cross-government strategy to improve outcomes for travellers.

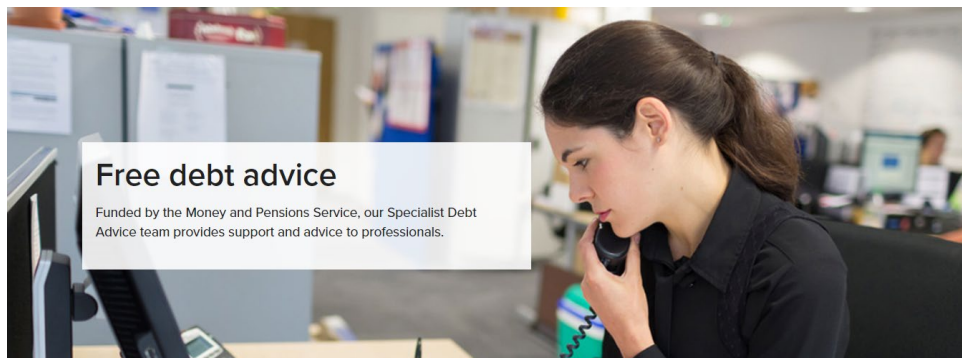
Summary consultation on measures to criminalise trespassing when setting up an unauthorised encampment in England and Wales. [This consultation](#) closes 4 March 2020.



What's New

- [Banning orders](#)
- [Succession: Secure and flexible tenancies](#)
- [Security of tenure: UKVI accommodation](#)
- [County court appeal time limits](#)
- [Ending relief duty](#)

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're here to help you with your housing and homelessness training, advice and information needs. Working together with the aim of preventing homelessness, we give expert advice, training and support to those working at the frontline

Call us on 0300 330 0517 or use the webchat option on our website if you need support with housing, housing debt & welfare benefit enquiries. 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

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

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.