

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



[Consultancy Line](#)



[Housing Debt Casework](#)



[Training](#)

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Highlights in the February bulletin include details of the next series of NHAS Symposia taking place in March and our revised Guide to housing issues for ex service personnel. We also include an update on the recent implementation of the Right to Rent Immigration Checks

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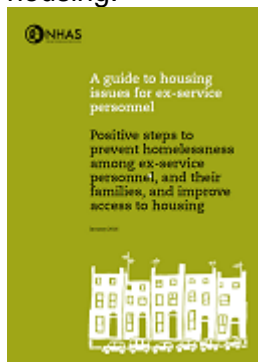
#### GOV.uk Updates

- [PRS model tenancy agreement](#)
- [How to rent guide](#)
- [Voluntary Right to Buy scheme pilot commences with Housing Association tenants able to take the first step to homeownership](#)

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#### [NHAS Guide to housing issues for ex service personnel – updated January 2016](#)

Developed in the context of the government's ongoing commitment to prioritise armed forces personnel when accessing housing, the guide promotes positive steps to prevent homelessness among ex service personnel, and their families, and improve access to housing.



The guide is intended as a starting point in assisting ex-service personnel and their families in the prevention of homelessness, setting out current legislative obligations for local housing authorities and providing links to other useful sites, and details of practice developed to support service personnel in their transition to civilian life.

Members may also be interested in The House of Commons Library briefing - [Housing options for serving and ex-military personnel \(excluding service accommodation\) \(England\)](#)

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#### [Right to Rent changes coming into force 1 February 2016](#)

**For every tenancy starting on or after 1 February 2016 for properties in England, all landlords must check that a tenant or lodger has a legal right to rent, i.e. permission or a right to be in the UK. The intention of the legislation is to ensure that illegal immigrants are unable to establish a settled life in the UK, which includes restricting access to private sector rented accommodation. See the checklist at <https://www.gov.uk/check-tenant-right-to-rent-documents>**

- [Example of a Right to Rent enquiry received on the NHAS Housing Law Consultancy Line](#)

NHAS has developed a 75 minute **webinar** to provide an overview of the **Right to Rent Immigration Checks** to be implemented across England from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2016.



The webinar will cover the circumstances in which right to rent checks apply, what landlords are required to do and potential issues for landlords, tenants and advisers. We will also include examples of good practice, and future developments you may need to be aware of.

The next available sessions will be taking place on 1 March, and 24 March, both at 11.30am. It's free to register a place, and you just need a pc with access to the internet and a landline to join. Email [nhaswebinars@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhaswebinars@shelter.org.uk).

For details about other webinars and training opportunities go to [NHAS training](#)

### Conferences in March

We will be holding our next series of NHAS Symposia in March. The focus of these events will be - Maintaining the Homelessness Safety Net.

- **NHAS Symposium: Maintaining the Homelessness Safety Net**



The events will include legal updates on S21 & the Deregulation Act, High Court bailiff evictions and a caselaw update , Morning and afternoon workshops will focus on homelessness prevention, domestic abuse and an update on welfare reform.

Dates as follows:

- Norwich – 9 March 2016 – 10am to 3.30pm
- London – 15 March 2016 – 10am to 3.30pm
- Birmingham – 17 March 2016 – 10am to 3.30pm

Email [nhas@shelter.org.uk](mailto:nhas@shelter.org.uk) to enquire about a place, or for more details.

- **Homeless Link Young and homeless 2016 Monday, 14 March 2016 London**

Explore the challenges, trends and latest approaches at our national conference on youth homelessness [www.homeless.org.uk/events/youngpeople](http://www.homeless.org.uk/events/youngpeople)

### Case Law

- [Social sector size criteria - children who require overnight care - R\(Rutherford and Todd\) v SSWP C1/2014/2539](#)
- [Mirga \(Appellant\) v Secretary of State for Work and Pensions \(Respondent\). Samin \(Appellant\) v Westminster City Council. \(Respondent\)](#)

### Fair for You



Providing a new alternative to high cost weekly payment store, [Fair for You](#) is a national charity that helps people from lower income families to gain access to affordable credit to purchase white goods.

Fair for You are fully transparent and not run for profit which means they are able to offer a fair deal.

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## Turn2us Workshops

Free regional workshops across the UK on how to use the Turn2us Benefits Calculator, Grants Search and other online help to support people in financial need.

Find out more: [T2U Advisors Workshops](#)

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## Citizens Advice Policy Research



This research identifies three causes:

- Advice is not offered at crucial times in people's lives
- Advice is seen as a last resort
- Advice is too narrow

The research also suggests that funding, commissioning and delivery of money advice should be targeted to solve these problems.

[Read 'The preventative advice gap: how money advice can help people avoid financial difficulties'](#)

**For 2<sup>nd</sup> tier advice and case work relating to mortgage arrears, rent arrears and welfare benefits you can access the NHAS Housing Debt Casework service call 0300 330 0517 or click on the icon at the top of this bulletin for more information**

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## Recently published

- [Homeless Link publish their annual Young & Homeless report](#)
- [Crisis & Joseph Rowntree Foundation Homeless Monitor](#) – analysis of the impact of economic and policy developments
- [Womens Aid Change that Lasts approach supporting domestic abuse survivors and their children to build resilience, and leads to independence](#)
- [Urban cities feature prominently in the new 'debt snapshot' of the UK published by Experian & StepChange](#)
- **Hackney Community Law Centre (HCLC)** and **Hackney Migrant Centre (HMC)** have published '[A Place To Call Home](#)' – a report in to the standard of accommodation provided to children in need in London'.
- The House of Commons Library published [Empty Housing](#) - a research briefing outlining English local authorities' powers to tackle empty housing and other relevant initiatives.
- Office of National Statistics – [Index of Private Rental Prices for Oct to Dec 2015](#)
- A rise in complaints leads to a Local Government Ombudsman report '[Full house: Councils](#)' role in allocating social housing – learning lessons from complaints
- National Federation of ALMOS publish the findings of their annual report in [Changing with the times](#)

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## Housing Matters: Issue 110 – February 2016



This issue includes:

- Margaret Williams of the East London Housing Partnership explains how survivors of domestic abuse can find move-on accommodation if homelessness is not preventable
- John Gallagher considers how recent case law has clarified the use of the High Court to enforce possession proceedings
- New rules: advising tenants facing section 21 possession proceedings flowchart

**Factsheet: Private tenants: smoke and carbon monoxide alarms**

[Also included this month: Recent homelessness and allocation cases](#)

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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).

Regards,  
The NHAS Team  
[www.nhas.org.uk](http://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.

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