

Haringey's Housing Allocations Policy 2015

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why has the Council changed the Housing Allocations Policy?

The previous Allocation policy was implemented in March 2011 and consists of 5 housing needs bands (A-E). However, since this time there continues to be a very high demand for social housing but the supply of available housing stock is extremely limited.

Since 2011 no applicants in bands D and E have been made an offer of a council or housing association home. This situation is not going to change and applicants in these bands have no prospect of being offered social housing.

There are over 4,500 households on the Housing Register who are in Bands A to C who have a more urgent need for accommodation than applicants in Bands D and E.

As of 31st March 2015 there were 10,782 applicants on the Housing Register. However, the Council only let 710 homes and this figure will be lower in 2016.

The new Allocations policy has been introduced to ensure that allocation of housing in the Borough is made to those in greatest need and to give applicants a clearer and more realistic view of their chances of being allocated social housing.

The new policy is effective from 29th September 2015 and can be accessed by visiting our website on:

www.haringey.gov.uk/allocations-policy

2. How does the new 2015 Housing Allocations Policy work?

The new scheme will consist of 3 Bands (A, B and C) following the deletion of Bands (D and E). Only applicants that are eligible and meet the minimum qualification criteria for placement in Bands A, B or C will be accepted on to the Housing Register.

Band A is for those applicants who have the most urgent or critical housing need.

Band B is for those applicants who have a high priority housing need.

Band C is for those applicants who have an identified housing need.

3. How will you decide which Band to place applicants in?

Banding decisions are made according to which banding criteria you meet. We will assess the individual circumstances of your application and, using the information

you have provided us with, match you to the banding criteria set out in the policy. This will enable us to decide which Band to place your application in. The banding criteria is set out in full in the Allocations Policy at:

www.haringey.gov.uk/allocations-policy

4. How will you decide the priority of applicants within each Band?

The priority of applicants within each Band is determined by the date when you first applied. This is called your 'effective date'. All applicants within the same Band are prioritised in date order. This means that if you applied on 31 March 2014 you will be lower priority than someone in the same Band who applied on 6 June 2010.

5. Will I always be in the same Band?

Yes, unless your circumstances change. If you notify us of a change in your circumstances we will re-assess your case in accordance with the criteria set out in the policy. This could result in you moving up or down to another Band, or could mean you stay in the same Band. Whatever we decide, you will be informed of the outcome.

6. If I move up a Band do I keep my previous effective date?

No, your effective date (this is the date you joined the Housing Register) will change. If you move up a Band because of a change in your circumstances, your effective date will be the date the Council accepted this change in circumstance.

7. If I move down a Band do I keep my previous effective date?

No, your effective date will change. If you move down a Band because of a change of your circumstances, your effective date will be the date the Council accepted this change in circumstance. In exceptional cases, you may be able to retain your previous effective date depending on the particular circumstances and merits of your case.

8. What if I disagree with the decision on which Band I am placed in, or think the effective date in my letter is wrong?

It is unlikely that we will place you in the wrong Band or give you the wrong effective date. However, if you disagree with us you can ask us to look at our decision again.

You can do this by e-mailing us at housing.registration@homesforharingey.org quoting your application reference number. If it is not possible to use e-mail, please contact us on 020 8489 1000. You will need to explain the reasons why you disagree and may be asked to provide evidence to support your case. We may need to contact you to check and confirm this information.

9. How do I apply for housing?

You can apply using the online form which can be found on:

www.haringey.gov.uk/housingapplication

It is important to note that not everyone who applies for inclusion will be accepted as applications will need to meet the qualification criteria in order to be accepted onto the housing register.

10. I am already a Council or housing association tenant in Haringey. How do I apply for a transfer?

You can apply using the online form which can be found on:

www.haringey.gov.uk/housingapplication

Please note that if you are adequately housed you will not be accepted onto the housing register and will instead need to consider other housing mobility schemes such as mutual exchange.

11. How do I apply for housing if English is not my first language?

If you are unable to complete the application or transfer form with the assistance of family, friends or a community worker you are dealing with, contact us on 020 8489 1000.

12. What will happen after I have applied?

We will assess your application and consider all your circumstances. We will let you know if we need you to provide more information. Based on your circumstances, we will decide which Band you have been placed in and notify you of this, within 28 days subject to the information provided. Please also see the answer to question 3 above.

13. How do I notify you of a change in circumstances after I have applied?

If any of your circumstances change from those in your application, you must complete the Change of Circumstances form available from Customer Service Centres and on the council's website at: www.haringey.gov.uk/housingregister.

The completed form can be returned to us by post, by email at housing.registration@homesforharingey.org

or in person at one of our [Customer Service Centres](#).

14. What does local connection mean?

Local connection is how we describe any links or associations you may have with Haringey. If you do not have a local connection with Haringey (or do not meet the exemptions) you will not be able to join the Housing Register. For most people, local connection means that at least one of the following applies:

- You have been living in the borough continuously for at least 3 years, or are temporarily residing outside Haringey and were living in the borough for at least 3 years before moving out;
- You have been accepted as homeless by Haringey Council.

More information on local connection is set out in full in the Allocations Policy available on our web page.

15. Do I have to renew my application at a later date?

Yes. All applicants on the Housing Register will be required to confirm their details at least once a year including whether they wish to remain on the Register. We will contact applicants to tell them how to do this. This will enable us to keep the Housing Register up-to-date and ensure applicants are in the correct Band in line with their needs and circumstances.

16. How do I apply for supported housing for older people?

The new Housing Needs Bands does not apply to those living in or residing in supported housing. You will need to request an assessment to find out if you are eligible for this type of accommodation.

The request can be made by:

Older People's Support Team
Supported Housing for Older People
2nd Floor
48 Station Road
Wood Green
N22 7TY