

How the council assesses the priority of applicants on the housing waiting list

Applicants who want to be rehoused apply to join the Council's housing waiting list and are then placed in one of three different categories according to how serious the Council believes the applicant's housing problems are:

1. High Priority Category

For people with very serious housing problems, where severe hardship is likely to result unless rehousing is offered as soon as possible.

2. Priority Category

For people with housing problems which could be improved by offering rehousing.

3. No priority Category

For people without housing problems who would like to move.

Some people wish to move home but are not felt by the Council to have a housing problem. If this is the case, the applicant is placed in the No Priority category. The chances of being rehoused if the applicant is in the No Priority category are very slim.

However, most people who apply for rehousing are placed in the Priority band as they do have a need to be rehoused. For example, they may live in insecure accommodation in the private rented sector or at home with parents and wish to set up home on their own, or they may live in a property which is in disrepair.

Most households in the Priority category will eventually be rehoused as the list works on a date order basis. There is usually a long wait and, in some cases, a very long wait, but if you are in the Priority group, the list does move and you will make progress on the list.

Many applicants feel their housing problems are especially serious and that they cannot wait their turn in the Priority category. In such cases, the applicant can request that their case is referred to the Housing Panel.

The Panel considers whether applicants should get additional priority on the waiting list because of serious housing problems. The Panel meets on a fortnightly basis and gives consideration to about 1,000 cases each year.

If the Panel decides that an applicant faces a really serious housing problem, they can award an applicant additional priority and place them in the High Priority category.

A huge number of people ask for their cases to be considered by the Panel, but only a small percentage are actually put forward because many people on the waiting list are experiencing similar problems and their cases do not warrant consideration for additional priority.

Even then, very few urgent priorities are awarded by the Panel and many families are left feeling disappointed. However, because the Panel ensures that only those cases with really serious problems are awarded a high



...applicants in the Priority band get a chance at being rehoused in turn...

priority, applicants facing extreme difficulties can move very quickly and only a few vacancies are taken by those in the High Priority category. This means that other applicants in the Priority band also get a chance at being rehoused in their turn.

If you feel that your circumstances warrant consideration by the Panel, it may help you to refer to the list below before contacting the Council. The list consists of a number of conditions and problems that the Housing Panel will **not** normally award additional priority for, unless rehousing would resolve or significantly improve the problem:

- ADHD and other behavioural problems
- Alcohol /Drug abuse
- Bedwetting
- Bronchitis
- Colostomies
- Diabetes
- Epilepsy controlled by medication
- Financial hardship
- Gastric/duodenal ulcers
- Glandular fever
- Homelessness or threatened in the future with homelessness
- Marital/neighbour problems
- Obesity/overweight
- Overcrowding
- Property related issues, i.e. No central heating, dampness, no double glazing etc
- Pregnancy
- Recurrent upper respiratory problems, e.g. coughs and colds
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Single parenthood
- Skin diseases
- Stress
- Temporary illness – eg recovering from an operation
- Temporary orthopedic problems eg. broken leg
- Unhappiness, with housing, environment etc

If, after checking this list, you still feel that your circumstances should be considered by the Panel, please telephone and ask for an application form.

If you request consideration, the Council will decide if your circumstances are such that your case should be considered by the Panel. If we do not believe your case warrants consideration, we will write to you and tell you.

If your case is put forward to the Panel, we will contact you in writing to tell you the decision. We cannot tell you the decision on the telephone as we do not have the resources to deal with such a large number of telephone enquiries

Any Questions?

Please contact:

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