



Housing Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 52

PART VII

HOMELESSNESS^[F1]: ENGLAND]

Homelessness and threatened homelessness

177 Whether it is reasonable to continue to occupy accommodation.

- (1) It is not reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation if it is probable that this will lead to ^[F1]violence or domestic abuse] against him, or against—
- (a) a person who normally resides with him as a member of his family, or
 - (b) any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him.

^[F2](1A) For this purpose—

- (a) “domestic abuse” has the meaning given by section 1 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021;
 - (b) “violence” means—
 - (i) violence from another person; or
 - (ii) threats of violence from another person which are likely to be carried out.]
- (2) In determining whether it would be, or would have been, reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation, regard may be had to the general circumstances prevailing in relation to housing in the district of the local housing authority to whom he has applied for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order specify—
- (a) other circumstances in which it is to be regarded as reasonable or not reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation, and
 - (b) other matters to be taken into account or disregarded in determining whether it would be, or would have been, reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation.

Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1996, Section 177 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in [s. 177\(1\)](#) substituted (5.7.2021) by [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(c. 17\)](#), **ss. 78(2)(a)**, 90(6); [S.I. 2021/797](#), [reg. 2\(2\)](#) (with [reg. 4\(1\)](#))
- F2** [S. 177\(1A\)](#) substituted (5.7.2021) by [Domestic Abuse Act 2021 \(c. 17\)](#), **ss. 78(2)(b)**, 90(6); [S.I. 2021/797](#), [reg. 2\(2\)](#) (with [reg. 4\(1\)](#))

Commencement Information

- I1** S. 177 wholly in force 20.1.1997: s. 177 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 232(1)-(3); s. 177(3) in force at 1.10.1996 by [S.I. 1996/2402](#), **art. 3** (with transitional provisions and savings in the [Sch.](#)); s. 177 in force at 20.1.1997 to the extent it is not already in force by [S.I. 1996/2959](#), **art. 2**

Changes to legislation:

Housing Act 1996, Section 177 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 22 April 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations.

[View outstanding changes](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) savings for amendments by 2018 anaw 1, s. 6, Sch. 6 by [S.I. 2019/110 reg. 5](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 124(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 20\(2\)](#)
- s. 124(6) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 20\(6\)](#)
- s. 124A124B inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 21](#)
- s. 125A(3A)(3B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 130A inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 7](#)
- s. 133(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 143J(3A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 13\(2\)](#)
- s. 143J(7)(a) words omitted by [S.I. 2022/1166 reg. 25\(11\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment comes into force immediately after 2016 c. 22, s. 120 and Sch. 8 para. 13(3) come into force)
- s. 143GA143GB inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 10](#)
- s. 143MA(3A)-(3D) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 27\(3\)](#)
- s. 143MB inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 28](#)