



Housing (Scotland) Act 1987

1987 CHAPTER 26

PART II

HOMELESS PERSONS

Main definitions

24 Homeless persons and persons threatened with homelessness.

- (1) A person is homeless if he has no accommodation in [^{F1}the United Kingdom or elsewhere].
- (2) A person is to be treated as having no accommodation if there is no accommodation which he, together with any other person who normally resides with him as a member of his family or in circumstances in which the local authority consider it reasonable for that person to reside with him—
 - (a) is entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in it or by virtue of an order of a court, or
 - (b) has a right or permission, or an implied right or permission to occupy, or in England and Wales has an express or implied licence to occupy, or
 - (c) occupies as a residence by virtue of any enactment or rule of law giving him the right to remain in occupation or restricting the right of any other person to recover possession.

[^{F2}(2A) A person shall not be treated as having accommodation unless it is accommodation which it would be reasonable for him to continue to occupy.]

(2B) Regard may be had, in determining whether it would be reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation, to the general circumstances prevailing in relation to housing in the area of the local authority to whom he has applied for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation.]

- (3) A person is also homeless if he has accommodation but—
 - (a) he cannot secure entry to it, or

Changes to legislation: Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Main definitions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 July 2023. 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

- (b) it is probable that occupation of it will lead to ^{F3}abuse (within the meaning of the Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 14)),] or
 - ^{F2}(bb) it is probable that occupation of it will lead to ^{F4}abuse (within the meaning of that Act)] from some other person who previously resided with that person, whether in that accommodation or elsewhere, or]
 - (c) it consists of a movable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no place where he is entitled or permitted both to place it and to reside in it; or
 - (d) it is overcrowded within the meaning of section 135 and may endanger the health of the occupants ^{F5}; or
 - (e) it is not permanent accommodation, in circumstances where, immediately before the commencement of his occupation of it, a local authority had a duty under section 31(2) in relation to him.]
- (4) A person is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that he will become homeless within ^{F6}2 months].
- ^{F7}(5) For the purposes of subsection (3)(e), “permanent accommodation” includes accommodation—
- (a) of which the person is the heritable proprietor,
 - (b) secured by a Scottish secure tenancy,
 - (c) secured by an assured tenancy that is not a short assured tenancy,
 - (d) where paragraph 1 or 2 of schedule 6 to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10) is satisfied in relation to the person, secured by a short Scottish secure tenancy.
- ^{F8}[secured by a private residential tenancy.]]

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 24(1) substituted (1.4.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(1)(a); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F2** S. 24(2A)(2B), 24(3)(bb) inserted by Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Scotland) Act 1990 (c. 40, SIF 76:2), s. 65(2)
- F3** Words in s. 24(3)(b) substituted (30.1.2004) by Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 10), ss. 10(2)(a), 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F4** Words in s. 24(3)(bb) substituted for s. 24(3)(bb)(i)(ii) (30.1.2004) by Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003 (asp 10), ss. 10(2)(b), 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F5** S. 24(3)(e) and preceding word “or” inserted (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(1)(b); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F6** Words in s. 24(4) substituted (1.4.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(1)(c); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F7** S. 24(5) inserted (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(1)(d); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F8** S. 24(5)(e) inserted (1.12.2017) by Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 19), s. 79(2), sch. 4 para. 4(3); S.S.I. 2017/346, reg. 2, sch.

^{F9}25 Priority need for accommodation.

.....

Changes to legislation: Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Main definitions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 July 2023. 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

- F9** S. 25 omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, 4

26 Becoming homeless intentionally.

- (1) A person becomes homeless intentionally if he deliberately does or fails to do anything in consequence of which he ceases to occupy accommodation which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy.
- (2) A person becomes threatened with homelessness intentionally if he deliberately does or fails to do anything the likely result of which is that he will be forced to leave accommodation which is available for his occupation and which it would have been reasonable for him to continue to occupy.
- (3) For the purposes of subsection (1) or (2) an act or omission in good faith on the part of a person who was unaware of any relevant fact shall not be treated as deliberate.
- (4) Regard may be had, in determining for the purpose of subsections (1) and (2) whether it would have been reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation, to the general circumstances prevailing in relation to housing in the district of the local authority to whom he applied for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation.

27 Meaning of “local connection”.

- (1) Any reference in this Part to a person having a local connection with a district is a reference to his having a connection with that district—
 - (a) because he is, or in the past was, normally resident in it and his residence in it is or was of his own choice; or
 - (b) because he is employed in it, or
 - (c) because of family associations, or
 - (d) because of any special circumstances.
- (2) Residence in a district is not of a person’s own choice for the purposes of subsection (1) if he became resident in it—
 - (a) because he or any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him—
 - ^{F10}(i)
 - (ii) was detained under the authority of any Act of Parliament, [^{F11}or
 - (iii) was resident in accommodation provided in pursuance of section 95 (provision of support for asylum-seekers and dependants) of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 (c. 33),]
 - (b) in such other circumstances as the Secretary of State may by order specify.
- (3) A person is not employed in a district for the purposes of subsection (1)—
 - ^{F12}(a)
 - (b) in such ^{F13}... circumstances as the Secretary of State may by order specify.

Changes to legislation: Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Main definitions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 July 2023. 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

- (4) An order under subsections (2) or (3) shall be made by statutory instrument which shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

- F10** S. 27(2)(a)(i) repealed (1.3.2011) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 17\)](#), **ss. 156(a)**, 166(2); S.S.I. 2011/96, art. 2, sch.
- F11** S. 27(2)(a)(iii) and word inserted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), **ss. 7**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F12** S. 27(3)(a) repealed (1.3.2011) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 17\)](#), **ss. 156(b)**, 166(2); S.S.I. 2011/96, art. 2, sch.
- F13** Word in s. 27(3)(b) repealed (1.3.2011) by [Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2010 \(asp 17\)](#), **ss. 156(c)**, 166(2); S.S.I. 2011/96, art. 2, sch.

Changes to legislation:

Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Main definitions is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 08 July 2023. 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 the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

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

- s. 21(3)(i)s. 21(3)(ai)(ii) by [2001 asp 10 Sch. 10 para. 13\(3\)\(c\)para. 13\(I\)-\(iii\)](#)
- s. 24(3)(f) and word(s) inserted by [2003 asp 10 s. 5\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to legislation.gov.uk. S. 5 omitted (31.12.2012) without ever being in force by virtue of S.S.I. 2012/330, arts. 1, 13)
- s. 31(2C)(c) words substituted by [2004 asp 8 Sch. 4 para. 2](#)
- s. 61(2)(a)(ia) by [2001 asp 10 Sch. 10 para. 13\(6\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#)
- s. 63(1A)-(61C) by [2001 asp 10 s. 46\(2\)](#)
- s. 66(1)(vi)(vii) by [2001 asp 10 Sch. 10 para. 13\(9\)\(b\)](#)
- s. 286(a)(c) by [2001 asp 10 Sch. 10 para. 13\(40\)\(a\)\(b\)](#)