

---

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/1996. This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1996, Cross Heading: Application for assistance in case of homelessness or threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 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)*

---



# Housing Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 52

### PART VII

#### HOMELESSNESS

##### *Application for assistance in case of homelessness or threatened homelessness*

#### **183 Application for assistance.**

- (1) The following provisions of this Part apply where a person applies to a local housing authority for accommodation, or for assistance in obtaining accommodation, and the authority have reason to believe that he is or may be homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- (2) In this Part—
  - “applicant” means a person making such an application,
  - “assistance under this Part” means the benefit of any function under the following provisions of this Part relating to accommodation or assistance in obtaining accommodation, and
  - “eligible for assistance” means not excluded from such assistance by section 185 (persons from abroad not eligible for housing assistance) or section 186 (asylum seekers and their dependants).
- (3) Nothing in this section or the following provisions of this Part affects a person’s entitlement to advice and information under section 179 (duty to provide advisory services).

---

#### **Modifications etc. (not altering text)**

**C1** Ss. 183-218 modified (3.4.1997) by [S.I. 1997/797](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/10/1996. This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.*

*Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1996, Cross Heading: Application for assistance in case of homelessness or threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 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)*

#### Commencement Information

- II** S. 183 wholly in force 20.1.1997: s. 183 not in force at Royal Assent, see s. 232(1)-(3); s. 183(2) in force at 1.10.1996 by [S.I. 1996/2402](#), [art. 3](#) (with transitional provisions and savings in the [Sch.](#)); s. 183 in force at 20.1.1997 to the extent it is not already in force by [S.I. 1996/2959](#), [art. 2](#)

VALID FROM 20/01/1997

#### 184 Inquiry into cases of homelessness or threatened homelessness.

- (1) If the local housing authority have reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless or threatened with homelessness, they shall make such inquiries as are necessary to satisfy themselves—
  - (a) whether he is eligible for assistance, and
  - (b) if so, whether any duty, and if so what duty, is owed to him under the following provisions of this Part.
- (2) They may also make inquiries whether he has a local connection with the district of another local housing authority in England, Wales or Scotland.
- (3) On completing their inquiries the authority shall notify the applicant of their decision and, so far as any issue is decided against his interests, inform him of the reasons for their decision.
- (4) If the authority have notified or intend to notify another local housing authority under section 198 (referral of cases), they shall at the same time notify the applicant of that decision and inform him of the reasons for it.
- (5) A notice under subsection (3) or (4) shall also inform the applicant of his right to request a review of the decision and of the time within which such a request must be made (see section 202).
- (6) Notice required to be given to a person under this section shall be given in writing and, if not received by him, shall be treated as having been given to him if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.

#### Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** Ss. 183-218 modified (3.4.1997) by [S.I. 1997/797](#), [art. 2\(1\)](#)

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/10/1996. This version of this cross heading contains provisions that are not valid for this point in time.

**Changes to legislation:**

Housing Act 1996, Cross Heading: Application for assistance in case of homelessness or threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 12 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.