



# Housing Act 1985

## 1985 CHAPTER 68

### PART II

#### PROVISION OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

##### *Supplementary provisions*

#### 56 Minor definitions.

[<sup>F1</sup>(1)] In this Part—

“house” includes any yard, garden, outhouses and appurtenances belonging to the house or usually enjoyed with it;

“housing accommodation” includes flats, lodging-houses and hostels, and “house” shall be similarly construed;

[<sup>F2</sup>“introductory tenancy” has the same meaning as in Chapter I of Part V of the Housing Act 1996;]

“lodging-houses” means houses not occupied as separate dwellings;

“member of family” in relation to a person, has the same meaning as in Part V (the right to buy);

“owner”, in relation to premises—

- (a) means a person (other than a mortgagee not in possession) who is for the time being entitled to dispose of the fee simple in the premises, whether in possession or in reversion, and
- (b) includes also a person holding or entitled to the rents and profits of the premises under a lease of which the unexpired term exceeds three years.

[<sup>F3</sup>“social housing” has the same meaning as in Part 2 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008.]

[<sup>F4</sup>(1A) In this Part, the following terms have the same meaning as in the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 (anaw 1)—

- (a) “contract-holder” (see section 7 (see also section 48) of that Act);
- (b) “dwelling” (see section 246 of that Act);

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*Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1985, Section 56 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 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*

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- (c) “introductory standard contract” (see section 16 of that Act);
- (d) “occupation contract” (see section 7 of that Act);
- (e) “secure contract” (see section 8 of that Act);
- (f) “standard contract” (see section 8 of that Act);
- (g) “supported standard contract” (see section 143 of that Act).]

[<sup>F5</sup>(2) For the purposes of this Part, something is within the remit of the Regulator of Social Housing if it is related to or affects the provision of social housing by a local housing authority, or county council, in England.]

#### Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 56(1): s. 56 renumbered as s. 56(1) (1.4.2010) by [The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(Registration of Local Authorities\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/844\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 16(a)**
- F2** Definition “introductory tenancy” in s. 56 inserted (12.2.1997) by S.I. 1997/74, art. 2, **Sch. para. 3(f)**
- F3** Definition “social housing” in s. 56(1) inserted (1.4.2010) by [The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(Registration of Local Authorities\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/844\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 16(b)**
- F4** S. 56(1A) inserted (1.12.2022) by [The Renting Homes \(Wales\) Act 2016 \(Consequential Amendments\) Regulations 2022 \(S.I. 2022/1166\)](#), regs. 1(1), **11(7)** (with savings and transitional provisions in S.I. 2022/1172, regs. 2, 11, 12, 19)
- F5** S. 56(2) inserted (1.4.2010) by [The Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(Registration of Local Authorities\) Order 2010 \(S.I. 2010/844\)](#), art. 1(2), **Sch. 2 para. 16(c)**

**Changes to legislation:**

Housing Act 1985, Section 56 is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 21 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.

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**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. 81A-81D and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 4](#) (This provision is amended by [2021 c. 7, ss. 79\(3\), 90\(6\)](#); [S.I. 2021/1038, reg. 3\(c\)](#))
- s. 81B(1)(b) words inserted by [2018 c. 11 s. 1\(3\)](#)
- s. 81B(2A)-(2C) inserted by [2018 c. 11 s. 1\(2\)](#)
- s. 81B(2C) words substituted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(a\)\(i\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 81B by [2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4](#) is still prospective)
- s. 81B(2C) words substituted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 81B by [2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4](#) is still prospective)
- s. 81B(2D) inserted by [2021 c. 17 s. 79\(3\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). The insertion of s. 81B by [2016 c. 22, Sch. 7 para. 4](#) is still prospective)
- s. 82(A1)(A2) inserted by [2016 c. 22 s. 119\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 82A(4A)(4B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 7\(2\)](#)
- s. 86(1A)(1B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 10\(3\)](#)
- s. 86(1C) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 2](#)
- s. 86A-86F and cross-headings inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 11](#)
- s. 86G s. 86A renumbered as s. 86G by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 3\(1\)\(a\)](#)
- s. 86G(8) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 3\(2\)](#)
- s. 88(1)(ba) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 4](#)
- s. 89(2A)-(2D) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 5\(3\)](#)
- s. 97(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 12\(3\)](#)
- s. 99A(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 13\(3\)](#)
- s. 115B115C inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 15](#)
- s. 115B115C inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 15](#)
- s. 305(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 68\(b\)](#)
- s. 306(1A) inserted by [2023 asc 3 Sch. 13 para. 69\(b\)](#)
- s. 353A inserted by [1996 c. 52 s. 73\(1\)](#) (This amendment not applied to [legislation.gov.uk](#). S. 73 repealed (6.4.2006 for E., 16.6.2006 for W.) by [2004 c. 34, Sch. 16](#); [S.I. 2006/1060, art. 2\(1\)\(e\), Sch.](#); [S.I. 2006/1535, art. 2\(c\), Sch.](#))
- s. 582(6)(aa)-(ac) substituted for s. 582(6)(a) by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- Sch. 1 para. 1ZA and cross-heading inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 17\(2\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 3(3)(aa) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(3\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#)
- Sch. 5A para. 3(6A) inserted by [2023 c. 55 Sch. 18 para. 4\(3\)\(d\)](#)