



Housing (Scotland) Act 1987

1987 CHAPTER 26

PART II

HOMELESS PERSONS

Duties of local authorities with respect to homelessness and threatened homelessness

28 Inquiry into cases of possible homelessness or threatened homelessness.

- (1) If a person (“an applicant”) applies to a local authority for accommodation, or for assistance in obtaining accommodation, and the authority have reason to believe that he may be homeless or threatened with homelessness, they shall make such inquiries as are necessary to satisfy themselves as to whether he is homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- (2) If the authority are so satisfied, they
 - [^{F1}(b) may, if they think fit, make any further inquiries necessary to satisfy themselves as to] whether he became homeless or threatened with homelessness intentionally;and if the authority think fit, they may also make inquiries as to whether he has a local connection with the district of another local authority in Scotland, England or Wales.

Textual Amendments

- F1** Words in s. 28(2) substituted (7.11.2019) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\), ss. 4\(1\), 14\(1\)](#); [S.S.I. 2019/316, art. 2](#)

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C1** S. 28 extended (26.7.1993) by [1993 c. 23, s. 4\(5\), Sch. 1 para. 2](#) (with [Sch. 1 para. 8](#)); [S.I. 1993/1655, art. 2](#).

Changes to legislation: Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Duties of local authorities with respect to homelessness and threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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

29 Interim duty to accommodate ^{F2}....

- (1) If the local authority have reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless ^{F3} . . . , they shall secure that accommodation is made available for his occupation
- [^{F4}(a)] pending any decision which they may make as a result of their inquiries under section 28.
- [^{F5}(b)] where the applicant has, under section 35A, requested a review of a decision of the authority, until they have notified him in accordance with section 35B of the decision reached on review.]
- [^{F6}(c)] where, by virtue of a decision referred to in paragraph (a) or (b), the authority have a duty under section 31 to secure that accommodation of a particular description becomes available for the applicant’s occupation, until such accommodation becomes available.]
- (2) This duty arises irrespective of any local connection which an applicant may have with the district of another local authority.
- [^{F7}(3) In subsection (1), “accommodation”, in the first place where the expression occurs, does not include accommodation of such description as the Scottish Ministers may, by order made by statutory instrument, specify.
- (4) Such an order may—
- specify any description of accommodation subject to conditions or exceptions,
 - make different provision for different purposes and different areas.
- (5) A statutory instrument containing an order under subsection (3) is subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.]

Textual Amendments

- F2** Words in s. 29 heading omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, 6
- F3** Words in s. 29(1) repealed (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(2\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 3, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F4** Words in s. 29(1) renumbered as para. (a) (1.4.2002) by virtue of [2001 asp 10, s. 4\(1\)\(a\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F5** S. 29(1)(b) inserted (1.4.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 4\(1\)\(b\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (subject to transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F6** S. 29(1)(c) inserted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), **ss. 9(1)(a)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F7** S. 29(3)-(5) inserted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), **ss. 9(1)(b)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C2** S. 29(1)(b) restricted (8.1.2003) by [2002 c. 41, s. 54, Sch. 3 para. 1\(1\)\(f\)](#) (with s. 159); S.I. 2002/2811, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions in arts. 3-6)
- S. 29(1)(b) restricted (8.1.2003) by [2002 c. 41, s. 55\(4\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 159); S.I. 2002/2811, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions in arts. 3-6)

Changes to legislation: Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Duties of local authorities with respect to homelessness and threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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

30 Notification of decision and reasons.

(1) On completing their inquiries under section 28, the local authority shall notify the applicant of their decision on the question whether he is homeless or threatened with homelessness.

^{F8}(2)

(3) If they notify him that their decision is that he [^{F9}is homeless or threatened with homelessness], they shall at the same time notify him—

- (a) [^{F10}where they have made inquiries under section 28(2)(b),] of their decision on the question whether he became homeless or threatened with homelessness intentionally, and
- (b) whether they have notified or propose to notify any other local authority under section 33 that his application has been made.

^{F11}(3A) If they decide that he is homeless [^{F12}or threatened with homelessness,] but would not have done so without having had regard to a restricted person, they shall also notify him of—

- (a) the fact that their decision was reached on that basis,
- (b) the name of the restricted person,
- (c) the reason why the person is a restricted person, and
- (d) the effect of section 31(2G) or (as the case may be) 32(2A) and (2B).]

(4) If they notify him—

- (a) that they are not satisfied—
 - (i) that he is homeless or threatened with homelessness, ^{F13}
 - ^{F13}(ii)
- (b) that they are satisfied that he became homeless or threatened with homelessness intentionally, or
- (c) that they have notified or propose to notify another local authority under section 33 that his application has been made,

they shall at the same time notify him of their reasons.

^{F14}(4A) They shall also notify him—

- (a) that he may request a review of the decision and of the time within which such a request must be made, and
- (b) of the advice and assistance that is available to him in connection with any such review.]

(5) The notice required to be given to a person under this section shall be given in writing and shall, if not received by him, be treated as having been given to him only if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.

^{F15}(6) In this Part “a restricted person” means a person—

- (a) who is not eligible for assistance under this Part,
- (b) who is subject to immigration control within the meaning of the Asylum and Immigration Act 1996, and
- (c) either—
 - (i) who does not have leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom, or

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- (ii) whose leave to enter or remain in the United Kingdom is subject to a condition to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependants, without recourse to public funds.]

Textual Amendments

- F8** S. 30(2) omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **7(a)**
- F9** Words in s. 30(3) substituted (31.12.2012) by [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **7(b)**
- F10** Words in s. 30(3)(a) inserted (7.11.2019) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. **4(2)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2019/316, art. 2
- F11** S. 30(3A) inserted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 11(2)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F12** Words in s. 30(3A) substituted (31.12.2012) by [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **7(c)**
- F13** S. 30(4)(a)(ii) and word omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **7(d)**
- F14** S. 30(4A) inserted (1.4.2002) by [2001 asp 10](#), s. **4(2)**; S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F15** S. 30(6) inserted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 11(3)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C3** S. 30 modified (26.7.1993) by [1993 c. 23](#), s. 4(5), **Sch. 1 para. 3(4)** (with Sch. 1 para. 8); S.I. 1993/1655, art. 2.

31 Duties to persons found to be homeless.

- (1) This section applies where a local authority are satisfied that an applicant is homeless.
- (2) Where they ^{F16}... are not satisfied that he became homeless intentionally, they shall, unless they notify another local authority in accordance with section 33 (referral of application on ground of local connection) secure that [^{F17}permanent] accommodation becomes available for his occupation.
- [^{F18}(2A) In a restricted case the local authority shall cease to be subject to the duty under subsection (2) if the applicant, having been informed of the matters mentioned in subsection (2B)—
- (a) accepts a private accommodation offer, or
 - (b) refuses such an offer.
- (2B) The matters are—
- (a) the possible consequence of refusal of the offer, and
 - (b) that the applicant has the right to request a review of the decisions mentioned in section 35A(2)(e).
- (2C) In this section “a restricted case” means a case falling within subsection (2) where the local authority would not be satisfied as mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) without having had regard to a restricted person.
- (2D) For the purposes of this Part an offer is a private accommodation offer if—

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- (a) it is an offer of a short assured tenancy made by a landlord to the applicant in relation to any accommodation which is, or may become, available for the applicant's occupation,
 - (b) it is made, with the approval of the local authority, in pursuance of arrangements made by them with the landlord with a view to bringing their duty under subsection (2) to an end, and
 - (c) the tenancy being offered is for a period of at least 12 months.
- (2E) The local authority shall not approve a private accommodation offer unless they are satisfied that it is reasonable for the applicant to accept the offer.
- (2F) For the purposes of subsection (2E) an applicant may reasonably be expected to accept an offer even though he is under contractual or other obligations in respect of his existing accommodation, provided he is able to bring those obligations to an end before he is required to take up the offer.
- (2G) In a restricted case the local authority shall, so far as reasonably practicable, bring their duty under subsection (2) to an end as mentioned in subsection (2A).
- (2H) Subsections (2A) to (2G) are without prejudice to any other way in which the local authority can cease to be subject to the duty under subsection (2).]
- (3) [F19[F20In any other case], they][F19In a case not falling within subsection (2), the local authority] shall—
- (a) secure that accommodation is made available for [F21his][F21the applicant's] occupation for such period as they consider will give him a reasonable opportunity of himself securing accommodation for his occupation; and
 - (b) furnish him with advice and [F22assistance of such type as may be prescribed], in any attempts he may make to secure that accommodation becomes available for his occupation.
- F23(4)
- [F24(5) For the purposes of subsection (2), “permanent accommodation” includes accommodation—
- (a) secured by a Scottish secure tenancy,
 - F25(b)
 - (c) where paragraph 1[F26, 2 or 2A] of schedule 6 to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp10) is satisfied in relation to the applicant, secured by a short Scottish secure tenancy.
 - F27(d) [secured by a private residential tenancy.]]

Textual Amendments

- F16** Words in s. 31(2) omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **8**
- F17** Words in s. 31(2) inserted (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(3\)\(a\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F18** S. 31(2A)-(2H) inserted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 12(2)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F19** Words in s. 31(3) substituted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 12(3)(a)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3

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- F20** Words in s. 31(3) substituted (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(3)(b)(i); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F21** Words in s. 31(3)(a) substituted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (c. 17), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 12(3)(b)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F22** Words in s. 31(3)(b) substituted (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(3)(b)(ii); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F23** S. 31(4) repealed (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(3)(c); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F24** S. 31(5) inserted (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(3)(d); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F25** S. 31(5)(b) repealed (1.12.2017) by Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 19), s. 79(2), **sch. 4 para. 4(4)(a)**; S.S.I. 2017/346, reg. 2, sch.
- F26** Words in s. 31(5)(c) substituted (1.5.2019) by Housing (Scotland) Act 2014 (asp 14), ss. 7(5), 104(3); S.S.I. 2018/153, art. 2, sch. (with arts. 3, 9)
- F27** S. 31(5)(d) inserted (1.12.2017) by Private Housing (Tenancies) (Scotland) Act 2016 (asp 19), s. 79(2), **sch. 4 para. 4(4)(b)**; S.S.I. 2017/346, reg. 2, sch.

32 Duties to persons found to be threatened with homelessness.

- (1) This section applies where a local authority are satisfied that an applicant is threatened with homelessness.
 - (2) Where they ^{F28}... are not satisfied that he became threatened with homelessness intentionally they shall take reasonable steps to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available for his occupation.
- ^{F29}(2A) Subsection (2B) applies in a restricted threatened homelessness case where, in pursuance of the duty under subsection (2), the local authority secure that accommodation other than that occupied by the applicant when he made his application is available for occupation by him.
- (2B) The provisions of section 31(2A) to (2H) (circumstances in which duty in restricted case ceases) apply, with any necessary modifications, in relation to the duty under subsection (2) as they apply in relation to the duty under section 31(2) in a restricted case (within the meaning of that section).]
- (3) [^{F30}[^{F31}In any other case] they shall furnish him][^{F30}In a case not falling within subsection (2) the local authority shall furnish the applicant] with advice and [^{F32}assistance of such type as may be prescribed], in any attempts he may make to secure that accommodation does not cease to be available for his occupation.
 - (4) Nothing in subsection (2) shall affect any right of a local authority to secure vacant possession of accommodation, whether by virtue of a contract or of any enactment or rule of law.
 - (5) In section 31 and in this section, “accommodation” does not include accommodation
 - ^{F33}(a) that is overcrowded within the meaning of section 135 or which may endanger the health of the occupants.
 - ^{F34}(b) that does not meet any special needs of the applicant and any other person referred to in section 24(2), or
 - (c) that it is not reasonable for the applicant to occupy.]

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[^{F35}(5A) In this section “a restricted threatened homelessness case” means a case falling within subsection (2) where the local authority would not be satisfied as mentioned in subsections (1) and (2) without having had regard to a restricted person.]

[^{F36}(6) Regulations made by virtue of section 31(3)(b) or subsection (3) above may make different provision for different purposes and different areas.

(7) Before making any such regulations, the Scottish Ministers shall consult—

- (a) such associations representing local authorities, and
- (b) such other persons,

as they think fit on the proposed regulations.

(8) In exercising their functions under section 31 or this section in respect of a person [^{F37}with whom dependent children reside or might reasonably be expected to reside], the local authority shall have regard to the best interests of the dependent children ^{F38}... [^{F39}and shall, without prejudice to subsection (5) above and section 41, ensure that accommodation provided for such a person’s occupation is suitable for occupation by such children, so far as consistent with their best interests].]

Textual Amendments

- F28** Words in s. 32(2) omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **9(a)**
- F29** S. 32(2A)(2B) inserted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 13(2)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F30** Words in s. 32(3) substituted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 13(3)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F31** Words in s. 32(3) substituted for words and paras. (a)(b) in s. 32(3) (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(4\)\(a\)\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F32** Words in s. 32(3) substituted (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(4\)\(a\)\(ii\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F33** Words in s. 32(5) renumbered as para. (a) (1.4.2002) by virtue of [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(4\)\(b\)\(i\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F34** S. 32(5)(b)(c) inserted (1.4.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(4\)\(b\)\(ii\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F35** S. 32(5A) inserted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), **Sch. 15 para. 13(4)**; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F36** S. 32(6)-(8) inserted (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10, s. 3\(4\)\(c\)](#); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, **Sch.** (with transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F37** Words in s. 32(8) substituted (31.12.2012) by [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **9(b)(i)**
- F38** Words in s. 32(8) omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **9(b)(ii)**
- F39** Words in s. 32(8) inserted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), **ss. 9(2), 14(1)**; S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2

[^{F40}32A Power of the Scottish Ministers to modify application of sections 31 and 32

(1) The provisions of—

- (a) section 31(2) so far as requiring that accommodation is to be permanent accommodation (within the meaning of section 31(5)), and

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(b) section 32(5)(b),
do not apply in such circumstances as may be prescribed.

(2) Where—

- (a) accommodation has been provided under section 31(2), and
- (b) by virtue of subsection (1) above, that accommodation is not permanent accommodation (within the meaning of section 31(5)) or does not meet the special needs of the applicant and any other person referred to in section 24(2), section 26 does not apply.]

Textual Amendments

F40 S. 32A inserted (30.9.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 3(5); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, Sch. (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3-5)

[^{F41}32B Housing support: persons found to be homeless or threatened with homelessness

- (1) Subsection (2) applies where a local authority—
 - (a) are subject to the duty under section 31(2) or 32(2) in relation to an applicant; and
 - (b) have reason to believe that the applicant may be in need of prescribed housing support services.
- (2) The local authority must assess whether the applicant, and any other person residing with the applicant, needs prescribed housing support services.
- (3) In carrying out such an assessment the local authority must—
 - (a) conduct inquiries of such type as may be prescribed; and
 - (b) have regard to any prescribed matters.
- (4) Following such an assessment, the local authority must ensure that prescribed housing support services are provided to any person assessed as being in need of them.
- (5) The Scottish Ministers may by regulations made by statutory instrument make further provision about the provision of prescribed housing support services in pursuance of subsection (4) and may, in particular, specify—
 - (a) the period for which services are to be provided;
 - (b) matters to which a local authority are to have regard when ensuring provision of services.
- (6) Regulations made under this section may make different provision for different purposes and different areas.
- (7) Before making any regulations under this section, the Scottish Ministers must consult—
 - (a) such bodies representing local authorities;
 - (b) such bodies representing the interests of homeless persons; and
 - (c) such other persons,
 as they think fit.

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- (8) Regulations under this section may be made only if a draft of the statutory instrument containing the regulations has been laid before, and approved by resolution of, the Scottish Parliament.
- (9) In this section, “housing support services” includes any service which provides support, assistance, advice or counselling to an individual with particular needs with a view to enabling that individual to occupy, or to continue to occupy, residential accommodation as the individual's sole or main residence.]

Textual Amendments

F41 S. 32B inserted (7.10.2011 for specified purposes, 1.6.2013 in so far as not already in force) by Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 (asp 17), ss. 158, 166(2); S.S.I. 2011/339, art. 2; S.S.I. 2012/283, art. 3

33 Referral of application to another local authority.

- (1) If a local authority—
 - (a) are satisfied that an applicant is homeless ^{F42}... and are not satisfied that he became homeless intentionally, but
 - (b) are of opinion that the conditions are satisfied for referral of his application to another local authority,they may notify that other local authority in Scotland, England or Wales of the fact that his application has been made and that they are of that opinion.
- (2) The conditions of referral of an application to another local authority are—
 - (a) that neither the applicant nor any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him has a local connection with the district of the authority to whom his application was made,
 - (b) that the applicant or a person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him has a local connection with that other local authority's district, and
 - (c) that neither that applicant nor any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him will run the risk of domestic [^{F43}abuse] in that other local authority's district.
- (3) For the purposes of this section a person runs the risk of domestic [^{F44}abuse] —
 - (a) if he runs the risk of [^{F45}abuse (within the meaning of the Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 14))] from a person with whom, but for the risk of [^{F44}abuse], he might reasonably be expected to reside, or from a person with whom he formerly resided, ^{F46}...
 - ^{F46}(b)
- (4) The question whether the conditions for referral of an application are satisfied shall be determined by agreement between the notifying authority and the notified authority, or in default of agreement, in accordance with such arrangements as the Secretary of State may direct by order made by statutory instrument.
- (5) An order may direct that the arrangements shall be—
 - (a) those agreed by any relevant authorities or association of relevant authorities,or

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- (b) in default of such agreement, such arrangements as appear to the Secretary of State to be suitable, after consultation with such associations representing relevant authorities, and such other persons, as he thinks appropriate.
- (6) No order shall be made unless a draft of the order has been laid before and approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.

Textual Amendments

- F42** Words in s. 33(1)(a) omitted (31.12.2012) by virtue of [The Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012 \(S.S.I. 2012/330\)](#), arts. 2, **10**
- F43** Word in s. 33(2)(c) substituted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. **10(3)(a)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F44** Word in s. 33(3) substituted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. **10(3)(b)(i)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F45** Words in s. 33(3) substituted (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. **10(3)(b)(ii)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2
- F46** S. 33(3)(b) and word repealed (30.1.2004) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. **10(3)(b)(iii)**, 14(1); S.S.I. 2003/609, art. 2

Modifications etc. (not altering text)

- C4** S. 33(1) modified (29.11.2022) by [The Homeless Persons \(Suspension of Referrals between Local Authorities\) \(Scotland\) Order 2022 \(S.S.I. 2022/356\)](#), arts. 1(1), **2** (with art. 3)

[^{F47}33A Power to modify section 33

- (1) The Scottish Ministers may by order made by statutory instrument provide that, for so long as the order is in force, the power of a local authority under subsection (1) of section 33 to notify another local authority of the matters referred to in that subsection—
- (a) shall not be exercisable by such local authorities or such descriptions of local authority as are specified in the order, or shall be exercisable by such local authorities or descriptions of local authority as are specified in the order only in such circumstances, or with such modifications, as are specified in the order;
 - (b) shall not be exercisable in relation to such local authorities or such descriptions of local authority as are specified in the order, or shall be exercisable in relation to such local authorities or descriptions of local authority as are specified in the order only in such circumstances, or with such modifications, as are specified in the order.
- (2) An order under this section may—
- (a) provide for this Part to apply with such modifications, and
 - (b) make such transitional, transitory or saving provision,
- as the Scottish Ministers think necessary or expedient in consequence of the order.
- (3) A statutory instrument containing an order under this section is, if made without a draft having been laid before, and approved by a resolution of, the Scottish Parliament, subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of the Scottish Parliament.

Changes to legislation: Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Duties of local authorities with respect to homelessness and threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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

F47 Ss. 33A, 33B inserted (7.11.2019) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. 8, 14(1); S.S.I. 2019/316, art. 2

33B Statement on exercise of power to modify section 33

(1) The Scottish Ministers must, before the expiry of the period of [^{F48}18] months beginning with the coming into force of this section, prepare and publish a statement setting out the circumstances in which, and the general criteria by reference to which, the power under section 33A is to be exercised.

[The Scottish Ministers may by regulations modify subsection (1) so as to extend the ^{F49}(1A) period mentioned in subsection (1).

(1B) But the power may not be exercised to extend the period—

- (a) by more than 6 months, or
- (b) more than once.]

(2) The Scottish Ministers—

- (a) must keep the statement under review;
- (b) may from time to time modify the statement; and
- (c) must publish any modified statement.

(3) Before preparing or modifying the statement, the Scottish Ministers must consult—

- (a) such associations representing local authorities; and
- (b) such other persons,

as they think fit.

[Regulations under subsection (1A) are subject to the affirmative procedure.]]
^{F50}(4)

Textual Amendments

F47 Ss. 33A, 33B inserted (7.11.2019) by [Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003 \(asp 10\)](#), ss. 8, 14(1); S.S.I. 2019/316, art. 2

F48 Word in s. 33B(1) substituted (27.5.2020) by [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) \(No.2\) Act 2020 \(asp 10\)](#), s. 16(1), [sch. 3 para. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#) (with s. 9)

F49 S. 33B(1A)(1B) inserted (27.5.2020) by [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) \(No.2\) Act 2020 \(asp 10\)](#), s. 16(1), [sch. 3 para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#) (with s. 9)

F50 S. 33B(4) inserted (27.5.2020) by [Coronavirus \(Scotland\) \(No.2\) Act 2020 \(asp 10\)](#), s. 16(1), [sch. 3 para. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#) (with s. 9)

34 Duties to persons whose applications are referred.

(1) Where, in accordance with section 33(1), a local authority notify another authority of an application, the notifying authority shall secure that accommodation is available for occupation by the applicant until it is determined whether the conditions for referral of his application to the other authority are satisfied.

(2) [^{F51}If it is determined that the conditions for referral—

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- (a) are satisfied, the notified authority are subject to the duty under section 31(2);
 - (b) are not satisfied, the notifying authority are subject to that duty.]
- (3) When the matter has been determined, the notifying authority shall notify the applicant—
- (a) [^{F53}whether they or the notified authority are subject to the duty under section 31(2),] and
 - (b) of the reasons why the authority subject to that duty are subject to it.
- [^{F54}(3A) The notifying authority shall also notify him—
- (a) that he may request a review of the determination and of the time within which such a request must be made, and
 - (b) of the advice and assistance that is available to him in connection with any such review.]
- (4) The notice required to be given to a person under [^{F55}this section] shall be given in writing and shall, if not received by him, be treated as having been given to him only if it is made available at the authority’s office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.
- [^{F56}(5) For the purposes of subsection (1), “accommodation” has the meaning given in section 32(5).
- (6) [^{F57}For the purposes of subsections (2) and (3)(a), “permanent accommodation” has the meaning given in section 31(5) as read with section 32(5).]]

Textual Amendments

- F51** S. 34(2) substituted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), [Sch. 15 para. 14\(2\)](#); S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F52** Words in s. 34(2)(3)(a) inserted (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10](#), s. 3(6)(a)(b); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, [Sch.](#) (subject to transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F53** S. 34(3)(a) substituted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), [Sch. 15 para. 14\(3\)](#); S.I. 2009/415, art. 3
- F54** S. 34(3A) inserted (1.4.2002) by [2001 asp 10](#), s. 4(3)(a); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, [Sch.](#) (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F55** Words in s. 34(4) substituted (1.4.2002) by [2001 asp 10](#), s. 4(3)(b); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, [Sch.](#) (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F56** S. 34(5)(6) inserted (30.9.2002) by [2001 asp 10](#), s. 3(6)(c); S.S.I. 2002/321, art. 2, [Sch.](#) (subject to transitional provisions and savings in arts. 3-5)
- F57** S. 34(6) repealed (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by [Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 \(c. 17\)](#), s. 325(1), [Sch. 15 para. 14\(4\)](#), [Sch. 16](#); S.I. 2009/415, art. 3

35 Supplementary provisions.

- (1) A local authority may perform any duty under section 31 or 34 (duties to persons found to be homeless to secure that accommodation becomes available for the occupation of a person)—
- (a) by making available accommodation held by them under Part I (provision of housing) or under any other enactment,
 - (b) by securing that he obtains accommodation from some other person, or

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- (c) by giving him such advice and assistance as will secure that he obtains accommodation from some other person.
- (2) Without prejudice to section 210(1), a local authority may require a person to whom they were subject to a duty under section 29, 31 or 34 (interim duty to accommodate pending inquiries and duties to persons found to be homeless)—
- (a) to pay such reasonable charges as they may determine in respect of accommodation which they secure for his occupation (either by making it available themselves or otherwise), or
 - (b) to pay such reasonable amount as they may determine in respect of sums payable by them for accommodation made available by another person.

^{F58}**35A Right to request review of decision**

- (1) Where an applicant requests a review of a decision to which subsection (2) applies, the local authority concerned shall review the decision.
- (2) This subsection applies to the following decisions of a local authority—
- (a) any decision as to what duty (if any) is owed to the applicant under section 31 or 32,
 - (b) any decision to notify another authority under section 33(1),
 - (c) any determination under section 33(4) or 34(2) as to whether the conditions for referral of an application are satisfied,
 - (d) where accommodation is secured for the applicant under section 31, 32 or 34, any decision as to whether the provision of that accommodation discharges the authority's duty to the applicant under that section.
- ^{F59} [in a case where a private accommodation offer is made to the applicant, any decision—
- (i) that the accommodation offered is not accommodation falling within section 32(5)(a) to (c), or
 - (ii) that the authority have discharged their duty to the applicant under section 32(8).]

(3) A request for a review shall be made before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the day on which the applicant is notified of the decision or such longer period as the authority may allow.

(4) There is no right to request a review of a decision reached on review.]

Textual Amendments

- F58** S. 35A inserted (1.4.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 4(4); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, Sch. (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)
- F59** S. 35A(2)(e) inserted (2.3.2009 for specified purposes) by Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 (c. 17), s. 325(1), Sch. 15 para. 15; S.I. 2009/415, art. 3

^{F60}**35B Procedure on review**

- (1) A review under section 35A shall be carried out by a person senior to the person who made the decision being reviewed and who had no involvement in the making of that decision.

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- (2) The authority, or as the case may be either of the authorities, concerned shall notify the applicant of the decision reached on review.
- (3) If the decision is—
 - (a) to confirm the original decision on any issue against the interests of the applicant, or
 - (b) to confirm a previous decision—
 - (i) to notify another authority under section 33(1), or
 - (ii) that the conditions are met for referral of his case,
 the authority shall also notify him of the reasons for the decision.
- (4) Where subsection (3) applies, notice of the decision shall not be treated as given unless and until that subsection is complied with.
- (5) Any notice required to be given to an applicant under this section shall be given in writing and shall, if not received by him, be treated as having been given to him only if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.

Textual Amendments

F60 S. 35B inserted (1.4.2002) by 2001 asp 10, s. 4(4); S.S.I. 2002/168, art. 2, Sch. (with transitional provisions and savings in art. 3)

36 Protection of property of homeless persons and persons threatened with homelessness.

- (1) This section applies where a local authority have reason to believe that an applicant is homeless or threatened with homelessness (or, in the case of an applicant to whom they owe a duty under section 29 (interim duty to accommodate pending inquiries), that he may be homeless) and that—
 - (a) there is a danger of loss of, or damage to, any moveable property of his by reason of his inability to protect it or deal with it, and
 - (b) no other suitable arrangements have been or are being made.
- (2) If the authority have become subject to a duty towards the applicant under section 29, 31(2) or (3)(a), 32(2) or 34 (duty to accommodate during inquiries and duties to persons found to be homeless or threatened with homelessness), then, whether or not they are still subject to such a duty, they shall take reasonable steps to prevent the loss of the moveable property or prevent or mitigate damage to it; and if they have not become subject to such a duty, they may take any steps they consider reasonable for that purpose.
- (3) The authority may for the purposes of this section—
 - (a) enter, at all reasonable times, any premises which are the usual place of residence of the applicant or which were his last usual place of residence, and
 - (b) deal with any moveable property of his in any way which is reasonably necessary, in particular by storing it or arranging for its storage.
- (4) The authority may decline to take action under this section except upon such conditions as they consider appropriate in the particular case, which may include conditions as to—

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- (a) the making and recovery by the authority of reasonable charges for the action taken, or
 - (b) the disposal by the authority, in such circumstances as may be specified, of moveable property in relation to which they have taken action.
- (5) When in the authority's opinion there is no longer any reason to believe that there is a danger of loss of or damage to a person's moveable property by reason of his inability to protect it or deal with it, the authority shall cease to have any duty or power to take action under this section; but property stored by virtue of their having taken such action may be kept in store and any conditions upon which it was taken into store shall continue to have effect, with any necessary modifications.
- (6) Where the authority—
- (a) cease to be subject to a duty to take action under this section in respect of an applicant's moveable property, or
 - (b) cease to have power to take such action, having previously taken such action, they shall notify the applicant of that fact and of the reason why they are of opinion that there is no longer any reason to believe that there is a danger of loss of or damage to his moveable property by reason of his inability to protect it or deal with it.
- (7) The notification shall be given to the applicant—
- (a) by delivering it to him, or
 - (b) by leaving it, or sending it to him, at his last known address.
- (8) References in this section to moveable property of the applicant include moveable property of any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him.

Changes to legislation:

Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, Cross Heading: Duties of local authorities with respect to homelessness and threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 07 May 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 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\(40\)\(a\)\(b\)](#)