



Housing Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 52

PART VII

HOMELESSNESS^[F1]: ENGLAND]

Duties to persons found to be homeless or threatened with homelessness

[F1]189B Initial duty owed to all eligible persons who are homeless

- (1) This section applies where the local housing authority are satisfied that an applicant is—
 - (a) homeless, and
 - (b) eligible for assistance.
- (2) Unless the authority refer the application to another local housing authority in England (see section 198(A1)), the authority must take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure that suitable accommodation becomes available for the applicant's occupation for at least—
 - (a) 6 months, or
 - (b) such longer period not exceeding 12 months as may be prescribed.
- (3) In deciding what steps they are to take, the authority must have regard to their assessment of the applicant's case under section 189A.
- (4) Where the authority—
 - (a) are satisfied that the applicant has a priority need, and
 - (b) are not satisfied that the applicant became homeless intentionally,the duty under subsection (2) comes to an end at the end of the period of 56 days beginning with the day the authority are first satisfied as mentioned in subsection (1).
- (5) If any of the circumstances mentioned in subsection (7) apply, the authority may give notice to the applicant bringing the duty under subsection (2) to an end.
- (6) The notice must—

Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1996, Section 189B is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 05 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

- (a) specify which of the circumstances apply, and
 - (b) inform the applicant that the applicant has a right to request a review of the authority's decision to bring the duty under subsection (2) to an end and of the time within which such a request must be made.
- (7) The circumstances are that the authority are satisfied that—
- (a) the applicant has—
 - (i) suitable accommodation available for occupation, and
 - (ii) a reasonable prospect of having suitable accommodation available for occupation for at least 6 months, or such longer period not exceeding 12 months as may be prescribed, from the date of the notice,
 - (b) the authority have complied with the duty under subsection (2) and the period of 56 days beginning with the day that the authority are first satisfied as mentioned in subsection (1) has ended (whether or not the applicant has secured accommodation),
 - (c) the applicant has refused an offer of suitable accommodation and, on the date of refusal, there was a reasonable prospect that suitable accommodation would be available for occupation by the applicant for at least 6 months or such longer period not exceeding 12 months as may be prescribed,
 - (d) the applicant has become homeless intentionally from any accommodation that has been made available to the applicant as a result of the authority's exercise of their functions under subsection (2),
 - (e) the applicant is no longer eligible for assistance, or
 - (f) the applicant has withdrawn the application mentioned in section 183(1).
- (8) A notice under this section must be given in writing and, if not received by the applicant, is to be treated as having been given to the applicant if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by or on behalf of the applicant.
- (9) The duty under subsection (2) can also be brought to an end under—
- (a) section 193A (consequences of refusal of final accommodation offer or final Part 6 offer at the initial relief stage), or
 - (b) sections 193B and 193C (notices in cases of applicant's deliberate and unreasonable refusal to co-operate).]

Textual Amendments

F1 S. 189B inserted (3.4.2018) by [Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 \(c. 13\)](#), **ss. 5(2)**, 13(3); [S.I. 2018/167](#), [reg. 3\(e\)](#) (with [reg. 4\(1\)](#))

Changes to legislation:

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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. 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](#)