

EEA nationals: homelessness rules

Whether EEA nationals can get homelessness help from a council depends on their status under the EU Settlement Scheme.

You're an EEA national if you are a citizen of an EU country, Switzerland, Norway, Iceland or Liechtenstein.

If you have settled status

If you have settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme, you are eligible for homelessness assistance.

You must be habitually resident. This means your normal home must be in the UK, Ireland, Channel Islands, or the Isle of Man.

If you have pre-settled status

If you have pre-settled status you are not automatically eligible for homelessness help.

You might be eligible if you are either:

- working or self-employed
- looking for work after working in the UK
- unable to work because of ill health or pregnancy
- looking after a child at school in the UK and you or the other parent have worked in the UK

If you're waiting for a decision from the scheme

If you made your application before 30 June 2021 and haven't received a decision you will have temporary protection. You must have had a right to reside in the UK under EU law on 31 December 2020.

You also need to show you meet the same conditions as someone with pre-settled status, for example that you are working or self-employed.

Factsheet

If you moved to the UK after 31 December 2020

You may need an immigration visa to come to the UK. This will state if you can work and apply for benefits.

You are unlikely to be eligible for homelessness help under the EEA rules if you don't have status under the EU Settlement Scheme, unless you are an Irish citizen.

What the council must do

If the council decides that you are eligible for assistance and homeless or likely to be homeless within 56 days, it must assess your housing and support needs and take reasonable steps to help you keep your home or find somewhere else to live.

Depending on your circumstances, the council might have to provide emergency accommodation while it makes the decision.

If the council says you're not eligible

You can ask for a review if you think the council's decision is incorrect.

If you have children or care needs, social services might be able to help with accommodation and other support.

You can get further advice from england.shelter.org.uk/housing_advice, a local Shelter advice service or local Citizens Advice.

If you have nowhere to sleep tonight, are at risk of harm or losing your home within the next 2 months, call Shelter Helpline on 0808 800 4444 for advice and information on your options. Calls are free from UK landlines and main mobile networks.

