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Guidance

EEA nationals in the UK: access to social housing and homelessness assistance in a no deal scenario

Information for local housing authorities on the rights of EEA nationals in the UK to access social housing, including supported housing, and homelessness assistance if the UK leaves the EU without a deal.

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Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government>)

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Delivering a deal remains the government's top priority. However, it is right for the government to prepare for every eventuality, including a no deal scenario.

The UK government has always been clear that we highly value the contributions EU and EEA (European Economic Area) citizens make to the social, economic and cultural fabric of the UK and that we want them to stay in the UK.

To remove any ambiguity, the Citizens' Rights - EU citizens in the UK and UK nationals in the EU (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/policy-paper-on-citizens-rights-in-the-event-of-a-no-deal-brexit>) policy paper outlines the UK government's action to protect the rights of EU citizens resident in the UK by 29 March 2019 if the UK leaves without a deal.

For EU citizens that move to the UK after we leave the EU, the government is working through options for what access they will have to benefits and services.

The rights of EEA nationals and their families currently living in the UK by 29 March 2019 to access social housing and homelessness assistance

The rights and status of EEA nationals and their family members living in the UK by 29 March 2019 will remain the same as now. This means they will continue to be eligible to access social housing, including supported housing, and homelessness assistance on the same terms as now.

The rights of EEA nationals when arriving in the UK after 29 March 2019 to access social housing and homelessness assistance

For EU citizens who move to the UK after we leave the EU, we are working through options for what access they will have to social housing and homelessness assistance if the UK leaves the EU without a deal. Any changes to accessing social housing and homelessness assistance after 29 March 2019 will be in line with the Home Office future immigration system.

What will change for local authorities?

Applications for social housing and homelessness assistance in England are managed by local authorities. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is working with local authorities to ensure they are prepared for any changes to EEA nationals' eligibility to access social housing and homelessness assistance after the UK has left the EU.

Further information on how to contact a local authority about housing in England is available at [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk) (<https://www.gov.uk/council-housing>). Housing is a devolved government function. You can access further information on social housing in Wales at gov.wales (<https://gov.wales/topics/housing-and-regeneration/?lang=en>), in Northern Ireland at [nidirect.gov](https://www.nidirect.gov.uk) (<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/information-and-services/property-and-housing/social-housing>), and in Scotland at [mygov.scot](https://www.mygov.scot) (<https://www.mygov.scot/apply-for-housing/>).

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