



DEBATE PACK

Number CDP-2017-0216, 3 November 2017

Use of temporary accommodation in England

Summary

This Backbench Business debate on temporary accommodation is sponsored by Siobhain McDonagh MP and will take place in the Chamber on 7 November 2017. The debate will last for 3 hours. Ms McDonagh put the following motion to the Backbench Business Committee:

That this house notes with concern the increased use by Local Authorities of temporary accommodation for 77,240 homeless families in priority need, including 120,540 children or expected children; further notes more than a quarter of these households have been placed in temporary accommodation in a different local government area; notes the draft consultation 'Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities'; further notes the pressure on Local Authorities and increasing demands that they face and as a result of these pressures calls on the Government to: a) provide a framework for monitoring and enforcement to ensure the quality and location of temporary accommodation; b) require that local authorities appoint a designated officer to be informed of the arrival of homeless families in their area; c) ensure that homeless families have appropriate contact with health, education and social services whilst in temporary accommodation.

Local housing authorities in England use temporary accommodation for homeless households while they are conducting inquiries into applications and, increasingly, for those households that qualify for assistance, pending an offer of more permanent housing. The numbers placed in temporary accommodation have increased since 2011. There are particular concerns about the number of families with children in B&B style accommodation, and those placed outside of their local areas (out-of-borough placements).

The House of Commons Library prepares a briefing in hard copy and/or online for most non-legislative debates in the Chamber and Westminster Hall other than half-hour debates. Debate Packs are produced quickly after the announcement of parliamentary business. They are intended to provide a summary or overview of the issue being debated and identify relevant briefings and useful documents, including press and parliamentary material. More detailed briefing can be prepared for Members on request to the Library.

Wendy Wilson
Cassie Barton
Andrew Mackley

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1. Local authorities' duty to accommodate

Local housing authorities in England have a duty to secure accommodation for eligible unintentionally homeless households in priority need under Part 7 of the *Housing Act 1996* (as amended).

The priority need categories are set out in section 189 of the 1996 Act and include households with dependent children, households containing a pregnant woman, and those who may be vulnerable for a number of reasons such as old age or physical or mental ill health.

In performing their duties to homeless people under the 1996 Act local authorities are obliged to have regard to statutory guidance: [Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities](#) (July 2006).

An interim duty to accommodate

A local authority's **interim duty to accommodate** arises where the authority has reason to believe that a household may be homeless, eligible for assistance, and has a priority need (section 188(1) of the 1996 Act).

Typically, homeless households will be placed in temporary accommodation (TA) on an interim basis pending the completion of inquiries into an application for assistance.

Temporary accommodation provided pending the discharge of the main homelessness duty

When a local authority has completed its inquiries into a homeless application and determined that a 'main homelessness duty' is owed, i.e. there is a duty to secure accommodation for an unintentionally homeless household in priority need, the household may continue to spend time in temporary accommodation until an offer of accommodation in discharge of this duty is made.

2. Standards and suitability of TA

The accommodation provided under section 188(1), the interim duty, must be **suitable** for the applicant and his or her household. Applicants do not have a right to request a review of the suitability of temporary accommodation offered under section 188(1), but the [Code of Guidance](#) states: “housing authorities are reminded that such decisions could be subject to judicial review” (para 7.5).

Applicants living in TA after the authority has accepted a main homelessness duty is owed, may seek a review of the suitability of that accommodation.

Chapter 17 of the [Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities](#) provides guidance on the factors to be taken into account when determining suitability. Key factors include:

- the needs, requirements and circumstances of each household;
- space and arrangement;
- health and safety considerations;
- affordability for applicants; and
- location.

Bed and breakfast accommodation

Authorities use a range of types of temporary accommodation, the most controversial of which is Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation. The Code of Guidance states that the use of B&B accommodation should be avoided where possible:

Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation caters for very short-term stays only and generally will afford residents only limited privacy and may lack certain important amenities, such as cooking and laundry facilities. Consequently, where possible, housing authorities should avoid using B&B hotels to discharge a duty to secure accommodation for applicants, unless, in the very limited circumstances where it is likely to be the case, it is the most appropriate option for an applicant. The Secretary of State considers B&B hotels as particularly unsuitable for accommodating applicants with family commitments and applicants aged 16 or 17 years who need support. See paragraphs 17.23 et seq in Chapter 17 for guidance on suitability and Chapter 12 for more detailed guidance on 16 and 17 year olds.¹

Nevertheless, many local authorities do use B&B accommodation due to an overall shortage of accommodation in their areas.

Limits on the length of time in B&B accommodation

[The Homelessness \(Suitability of Accommodation\) \(England\) Order 2003](#) (SI 2003/3326), which came into force on 1 April 2004, provides that homeless families with children, or where a member of the household is pregnant, should not be placed in B&B accommodation unless there is an emergency, and even then only for a maximum of six weeks.

¹ Department for Communities and Local Government, [Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities](#), 24 July 2006, Para. 16.28

There is [Guidance](#) for local authorities on the implementation and interpretation of the Order. For the purposes of the Order, B&B accommodation is defined as:

B&B accommodation means accommodation (whether or not breakfast is included)–

(a) which is not separate and self-contained premises; and

(b) in which any one of the following amenities is shared by more than one household–

(i) a toilet;

(ii) personal washing facilities;

(iii) cooking facilities,

but does not include accommodation which is owned or managed by a local housing authority, a non-profit registered provider of social housing or a voluntary organisation.

Failure to comply with the Order puts local authorities at risk of judicial review proceedings. The Local Government Ombudsman has also upheld complaints where authorities have kept families in B&B-style accommodation for long periods. Most recently, Redbridge Council attracted criticism for keeping families with children in B&B accommodation for eight months, see: [Councils reminded of their duty to homeless families following Ombudsman investigation](#), (September 2017).

Standards in B&B accommodation

Where a local authority is unable to avoid using B&B accommodation, they are required to ensure that it is of a suitable standard.

Annex 17 of the statutory [Code of Guidance](#) sets out recommended minimum standards for B&B accommodation with respect to:

- Space standards for sleeping accommodation.
- Installation for Heating.
- Facilities for the storage, preparation and cooking of food and disposal of waste water.
- Toilet and personal washing facilities.
- Management standards.

B&B/hostel accommodation used as TA may amount to a house in multiple occupation (HMO). Where this is the case, if the HMO is privately owned, it must adhere to requirements set out in the *Housing Act 2004* in relation to management standards and licensing (where applicable).

Standards of TA in general

Section 206 of the 1996 Act provides that where a housing authority discharges its functions to secure that accommodation is available for an applicant the accommodation must be suitable. Suitability of accommodation is governed by section 210. Section 210(2) provides for the Secretary of State to specify by order the circumstances in which accommodation is or is not to be regarded as suitable for someone, and

matters to be taken into account or disregarded in determining whether accommodation is suitable for someone.

Section 210 requires local authorities to have regard to certain standards of accommodation when assessing the suitability of accommodation for an applicant. These standards include:

- Parts 9 and 10 of the [Housing Act 1985](#) (slum clearance and overcrowding); and
- Parts 1 to 4 of the [Housing Act 2004](#) (housing conditions, licensing of houses in multiple occupation, selective licensing of other residential accommodation and additional control provisions in relation to residential accommodation.)

In summary, in order to be suitable, TA should be free from Category 1 hazards, and should not be statutorily overcrowded. It must also meet the various management standards and licensing requirements (where applicable) to HMOs and private rented housing.

Free from Category 1 hazards

The Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) was introduced by the *Housing Act 2004* and has been in force since April 2006. The HHSRS is a risk based assessment tool which is used by environmental health officers to assess the risk (the likelihood and severity) of a hazard in residential housing to the health and safety of occupants or visitors.

The Homelessness Code of Guidance recommends that when determining the suitability of accommodation secured under the homelessness legislation, local authorities should, as a minimum, ensure that all accommodation is free of Category 1 hazards.

The Commons Library Briefing Paper on [The Housing Health and Safety Rating System \(HHSRS\)](#) (May 2016) provides further information about the HHSRS.

Overcrowding

Part 10 of the *Housing Act 1985* is intended to tackle the problems of overcrowding in dwellings and specifies statutory standards for assessing levels of overcrowding. The statutory overcrowding standards are set out in **Annex 16** of the Code of Guidance.

'Crowding and space' is also one of the hazards assessed by the HHSRS. Any breach of the room and space standards under Part 10 is likely to constitute a Category 1 hazard.

Houses in multiple occupation

The Commons Library Briefing Paper [Houses in multiple occupation \(HMOs\) England and Wales](#) (July 2017) sets out the legal framework in England and Wales for controlling standards in HMOs.

More generally, MPs and voluntary groups have expressed concern about the increase in the number of households placed in temporary accommodation, the length of time some households have to stay in temporary accommodation, and the costs to local authorities of using temporary accommodation. These broader issues are outlined in the

Commons Library Briefing Paper [Households in temporary accommodation \(England\)](#) (July 2016).

3. Out-of-borough placements

Of the 78,180 households in temporary accommodation 30 June 2017, 22,050 (28%) were in accommodation in another local authority's district. This is an increase of 7% from 20,650 at the same date in 2016.² Between March 2011 and March 2017 households placed in temporary accommodation outside the local authority that recorded them as homeless increased by 248%.³

Out of borough placements increased by 248% between March 2011 and March 2017.

Several media reports in April/May 2012 referred to certain councils in London seeking accommodation outside of the capital for use as temporary and permanent housing for households to whom they owed a statutory housing duty.⁴ These councils argued that a combination of the Olympics, Housing Benefit restrictions and high demand for privately rented housing had made it very difficult to find suitable temporary accommodation in London. Part two of the Government's consultation paper, [Homelessness \(Suitability of Accommodation\) \(England\) Order 2012](#), said:

It has come to light that some local authorities are seeking accommodation for households owed the main homelessness duty far outside their own district. Government is willing to explore whether protections around location of accommodation need to be strengthened and how this might be done. We expect that any measures adopted following this consultation process would apply to any accommodation offered by authorities in discharge of their duties under Part VII of the Housing Act 1996, including temporary accommodation, private rented sector offers and social housing.⁵

The [Homelessness \(Suitability of Accommodation\) \(England\) Order 2012](#) was brought into force on 9 November 2012. There is [Statutory guidance on the Order](#) to which local authorities must have regard when discharging (ending) their duties to homeless households by using private rented accommodation. The guidance describes situations in which private rented housing should be regarded as unsuitable; the location requirements of the Order also extend to any accommodation secured under Part 7 of the 1996 Act, including temporary accommodation.

The then Minister met with 18 London authorities reporting high homelessness numbers, including households in temporary accommodation, on 4 December 2012. Representatives of the local authorities highlighted the following challenges:

- difficulties in procuring private rented housing at affordable rates;

² DCLG, [Statutory homelessness live table 775](#), 28 September 2017

³ [HC 308 Session 2017-19](#), September 2017, p4

⁴ See for example *Guardian*, "[London looks to export council tenants](#)", 27 April 2012

⁵ DCLG, [Homelessness \(Suitability of Accommodation\) \(England\) Order 2012](#), May 2012, paras 38-39

- private landlords are less inclined to lease properties to councils or let to tenants in receipt of LHA as they have access to alternative tenants willing to pay higher rents.⁶

In [Homelessness Monitor: England 2016](#)⁷ (January 2016) the authors referred to an increase in out of district placements “linked closely with the broader ‘displacement’ effects of welfare reform.”

In a [unanimous judgement](#) handed down on 2 April 2015 the Supreme Court held that there is a statutory duty to accommodate homeless households in-borough “where reasonably practicable” failing which “authorities are under a duty to place the household as close as possible to where they were previously living.”⁸ In addition, authorities were advised that they should produce and publish a policy on the procurement of temporary accommodation.

Written evidence submitted by some London authorities to the Communities and Local Government Committee’s 2015-16 inquiry into homelessness called for greater flexibility to house homeless families in cheaper areas without the threat of legal challenge. For example, [Westminster City Council - written evidence](#) said:

Suitability of accommodation - we aim to place homeless households in private rented accommodation which they can afford. However the law requires local authorities to offer housing ‘in borough’ where it is ‘reasonably practicable’. While every effort is made to do this, we simply cannot procure enough affordable TA or PRS accommodation in-borough (or even very close to the borough). The expectation that homeless families should be placed ‘in borough’, or very close to the borough, also applies to those who do not have longstanding connections to Westminster. Many of our out of borough placements are challenged. While we acknowledge that some households need to be able to remain in Westminster – we suggest that the law or code of guidance should be changed so that affordability is a key issue when making placements and offers, so that people can live in good quality private rented homes which they can afford in areas where they can set down roots. Currently a number of households can only remain in Westminster as they receive Discretionary Housing Payment which is not a long term solution. The offer of private rented housing in an area which is affordable in the long term is often preferable to a wait of many years for a social home.⁹

A Supreme Court judgement in 2015 held that authorities should accommodate households in-borough where reasonably practicable.

There is support amongst some local authorities for more flexibility to place households in temporary accommodation in cheaper areas.

4. Supporting households in TA

Chapter 4 of the [Homelessness Code of Guidance](#) provides detailed advice for authorities on supporting households placed in TA. Section 208 of the *Housing Act 1996* requires that the ‘placing’ authority should notify the ‘receiving’ authority where a household is placed in accommodation in another authority’s area. This notice should be given

⁶ DCLG, Homelessness Roundtable, 4 December 2012

⁷ This report is the fifth of a five-year project (2011-2016) which is tracking the impact on homelessness of economic and social policy developments. The research is being conducted by Heriot-Watt University and the University of York on behalf of Crisis.

⁸ [Nzolamesco v City of Westminster](#) [2015] UKSC 22 (para 19)

⁹ [Westminster City Council - written evidence](#), February 2016

in writing and at least 14 days before the household is placed in the area. The 'receiving' authority should be given:

- a) the name of the applicant,
- b) the number and description of other persons who normally reside with him as a member of his family or might reasonably be expected to reside with him,
- c) the address of the accommodation,
- d) the date on which the accommodation was made available to him, and
- e) which function under this Part the authority was discharging in securing that the accommodation is available for his occupation.

The Code of Guidance states:

The provision of support to households placed in temporary accommodation is essential to ensure that they are able to continue to enjoy a reasonable quality of life and access the range of services they need. In formulating their homelessness strategies, housing authorities should consider what arrangements need to be in place to ensure that households placed in temporary accommodation, within their district or outside, are able to access relevant support services. In particular households will need to be able to access:

- primary care services such as health visitors and GPs;
- appropriate education services;
- relevant social services; and
- employment and training services.

Housing authorities will need to liaise and work collaboratively with the relevant service providers to ensure that appropriate arrangements are put in place and monitored. When households are placed in temporary accommodation, it is recommended that housing authorities offer to liaise with the relevant health, education and social services departments in the area in which the households are temporarily housed. **Liaison will be particularly important in cases where households have to be accommodated in the district of another housing authority.**

5. The cost of TA

The National Audit Office (NAO) published a report on [Homelessness](#) in September 2017 in which the cost of temporary accommodation is highlighted:

In 2015-16, local authorities spent £1,148 million on homelessness services. The single largest component of this spending was on temporary accommodation, which increased by 39% in real terms between 2010-11 and 2015-16, from £606 million to £845 million. Three-quarters of the spending in 2015-16 – £638 million – was funded by housing benefit, of which £585 million was recovered from the Department for Work & Pensions. Over the same period spending on other components of homelessness services – mainly prevention, support, and administration – fell by 9% in real terms from £334 million to £303 million. The overall increase in spending on homelessness

services has an impact on spending on other elements of housing services.¹⁰

The NAO found a significant increase in spending on nightly paid accommodation:

Spending on nightly paid accommodation increased fourfold between 2010-11 and 2015-16. Nightly paid accommodation is different from bed and breakfast accommodation because the household has sole use of kitchen and bathroom facilities. A quarter of families in temporary accommodation were in nightly paid accommodation at the end of 2016-17. As the use of this type of temporary accommodation has increased, there has been a fall in the use of accommodation held on a lease from the private sector.¹¹

Shelter's June 2004 report, *Living in Limbo*, which was based on a survey of more than 400 homeless households living in temporary accommodation in England, found that it had a "devastating impact on the health, education and job opportunities of the homeless." What is described as the "further unquantified cost of homelessness to wider public services" was considered by the NAO:

This includes the additional burden on public services of homeless people who experience poorer health outcomes, or require more public sector intervention than the average person. It includes admissions to hospital and outpatient services, policing, and costs to the justice system. Because the Department does not have a robust estimate of these costs, and therefore does not currently know the full cost of homelessness, it is unable to fully quantify the benefit of a reduction in homelessness.¹²

6. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

Bob Blackman MP drew second place in the Private Members' Bill ballot 2016/17. His *Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17* attracted Government and cross-Party support and gained Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. The Act's main thrust is to refocus English local authorities on efforts to prevent homeless. The Act has amended Part 7 of the *Housing Act 1996*. Its measures include:

- An extension of the period during which an authority should treat someone as threatened with homelessness from 28 to 56 days.
- Clarification of the action an authority should take when someone applies for assistance having been served with a section 21 notice of intention to seek possession from an assured shorthold tenancy.
- A new duty to prevent homelessness for all eligible applicants threatened with homelessness.
- A new duty to relieve homelessness for all eligible homeless applicants.

The Homelessness Reduction Act gained Royal Assent on 27 April 2017. It is expected to come into force in April 2018.

¹⁰ [HC 308 Session 2017-19](#), September 2017, para 1.27

¹¹ *Ibid.*, para 2.6

¹² *Ibid.*, para 1.29

- A new duty on public services to notify a local authority if they come into contact with someone they think may be homeless or at risk of becoming homeless.

When fully in force in April 2018, the Act will create new duties for English local authorities and a good deal of debate in Public Bill Committee and on Report focused on how much these duties would cost, and whether they would be fully funded by the Government. On 17 January 2017 the Minister, Marcus Jones, [announced](#) that funding of £48 million would be provided to meet the additional costs for local authorities. Subsequent amendments to the Act resulted in this sum increasing to £61 million. Authorities' representatives gave this announcement a 'cautious' welcome but asked the Government to commit to a review of the Act's impact after two years "to ensure that authorities are fully equipped and funded to deliver the Bill's ambitions."

On 16 October 2017 the Government announced that it would provide £72.7 million to local authorities to "meet the new burdens costs associated with the additional duties contained within the Act over the course of the Spending Review." Individual authorities' allocations are contained in: [Homelessness Reduction Act: allocation of new burdens funding](#). London Councils issued a [press release](#) following publication of the funding allocations:

£73m over three years nationally will not enough to deliver the broader homelessness prevention and relief services set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act. In London alone we estimate the Act will cost £77m per year to implement. However we welcome the clear indication that the actual cost incurred will be reviewed in order to enable future funding to be considered.

[...]

It remains the case that London boroughs have increasing homelessness duties, with decreasing funds and decreasing social housing stock, and must contend with increasingly unaffordable private sector rents. We are highly motivated to prevent and relieve homelessness, but cannot adequately do so without sufficient resources and joined up policy making.

Consultation on a new Code of Guidance is underway (closes 11 December 2017): [Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities: consultation paper](#). The [draft Code of Guidance](#) recognises that households are spending longer in TA and advises:

Housing authorities should review their need for and use of temporary accommodation and, where necessary, identify what improvements will be made to procurement plans within their homelessness strategy. The aim will be to maximise the supply of good quality accommodation to meet the needs of homeless households, and reduce the financial burden of temporary accommodation on the applicant, authority and public purse. Housing authorities who use bed and breakfast to accommodate families in emergencies should consider including a plan to reduce or eliminate its use. (para 2.49)

On supporting households in TA, the draft Code states:

The provision of support to households placed in temporary accommodation is essential to ensure that they are able to continue to enjoy a reasonable quality of life and access the range of services they need. In formulating their homelessness strategies, housing authorities should consider what arrangements need to be in place to ensure that households placed in temporary accommodation, within their district or outside, are able to access relevant support services. In particular households will need to be able to access:

- a) primary care services such as health visitors and GPs;
- b) appropriate education services;
- c) relevant social services; and
- d) employment and training services. (para 2.47)

Chapter 17 of the draft Code contains an updated and extended version of the suitability requirements in the current Code.

On out-of-borough placements in TA the draft Code advises:

Housing authorities, particularly those that find it necessary to make out of district placements, are advised to develop policies for the procurement and allocation of temporary accommodation which will help to ensure suitability requirements are met. This would provide helpful guidance for staff responsible for identifying and making offers of accommodation, and would make local arrangements, and the challenges involved with sourcing accommodation, clearer to applicants. (para 17.57)

More information on the Act can be found in these Library papers:

[Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17](#) and [Homelessness Reduction Bill 2016-17: Progress in the Commons and Lords](#).

7. Temporary accommodation statistics

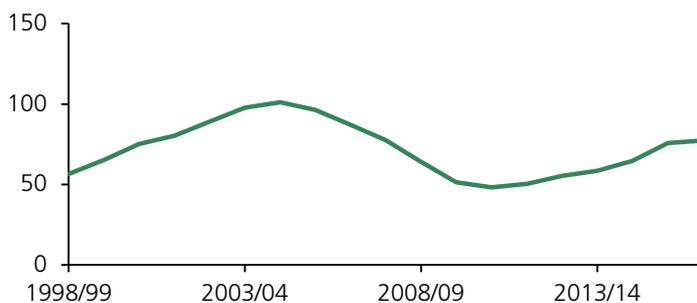
How many households are in temporary accommodation?

Use of temporary accommodation is currently increasing. There were **78,180** households in temporary accommodation at the end of June 2017, an increase of 7% on the same date a year previously. There were **120,170** children or pregnant women in these households, an increase of 5% on the end of June 2016.

The chart below shows the longer-term trends. Use of temporary accommodation peaked in 2004. It has since declined but has been on the rise again since the start of 2011.

Households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities

England, end of financial year 1998/99 to 2016/17 (thousands)



Source: DCLG, [Statutory homelessness live table 775](#), 28 September 2017

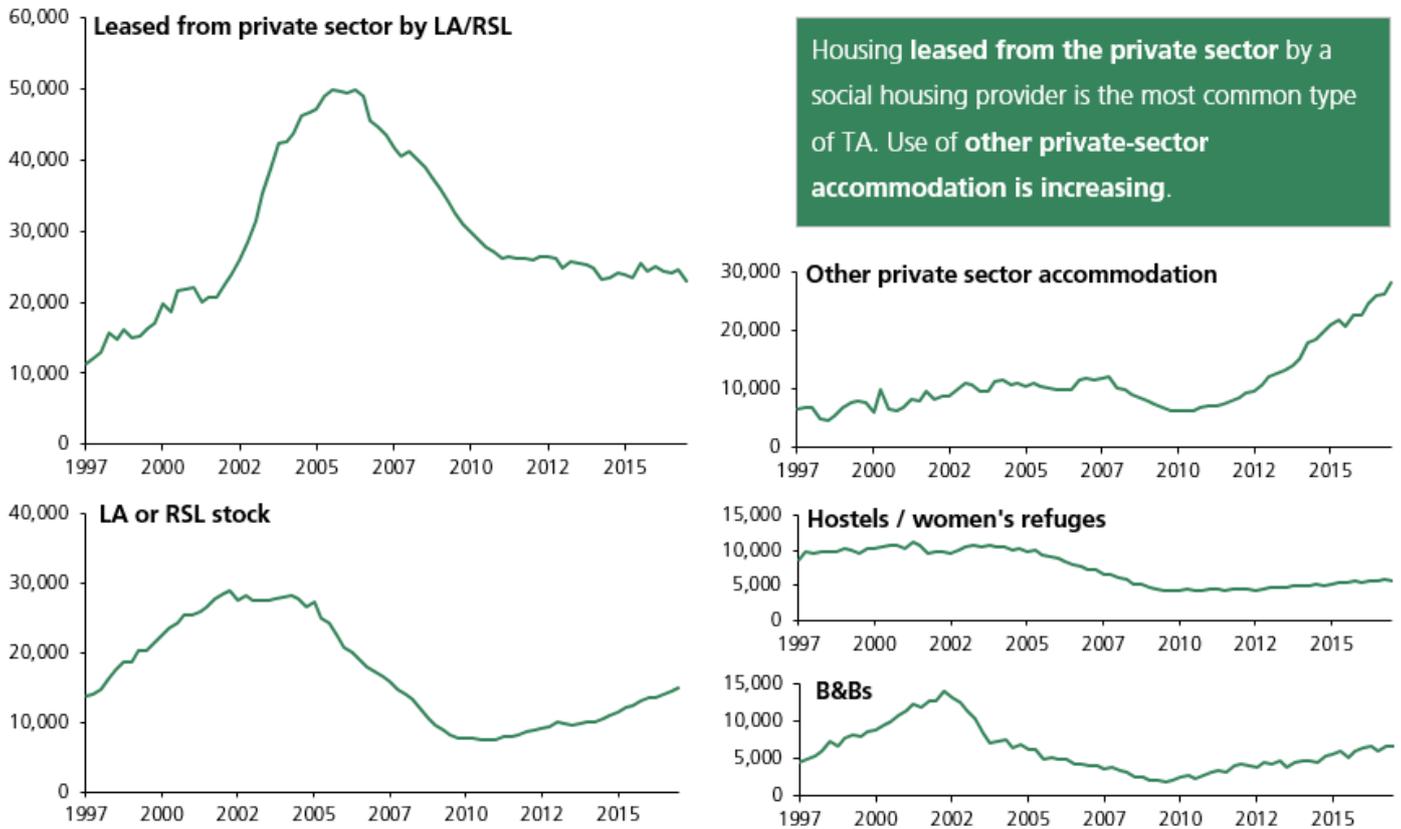
Types of temporary accommodation

The chart overleaf shows trends in the use of different kinds of temporary accommodation. Housing leased from the private sector by a local authority (LA) or registered social landlord (RSL) has been the most common single type used since 2003, although it has declined over the last ten years. Use of other private sector accommodation, including private landlords, is increasing. Hostels, women's refuges and B&Bs have typically made up a smaller proportion of accommodation, although use of both has increased in recent years following a decline in the mid-2000s.

At the end of June 2017, there were 23,000 households in TA leased from the private sector, 14,890 in local authorities' or housing associations' own stock, 28,030 in 'other' private sector accommodation, 6,660 in B&B-style accommodation, and 5,660 in hostels or women's refuges.

Households in TA by type of accommodation

England: quarterly to end of June 2017



Source: DCLG, [Statutory homelessness live table 775](#), 28 September 2017

B&B-style accommodation and dependant children

The table below shows the number of households with dependant children or pregnant women in temporary accommodation, and the number of these housed in B&B-style accommodation. Overall, there were 60,550 households with dependant children in temporary accommodation, of which 2,710 were housed in B&B-style accommodation.

Households in B&B-style temporary accommodation

England, at end of March 2017

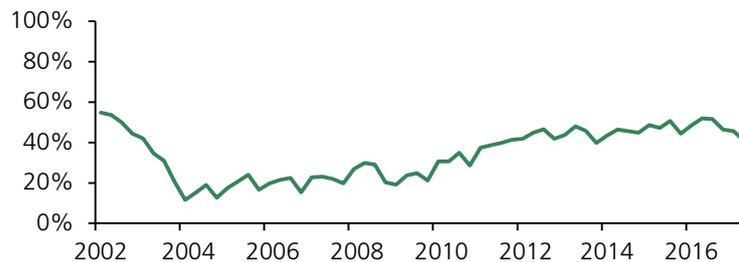
	Households with dependant children			
	Total households	Number of households	% of all households in category	% change on year before
Number in temporary accommodation	78,180	60,550	77.4%	+ 4.1%
Number in B&B-style accommodation	6,660	2,710	40.7%	- 19.6%
Of which, for more than 6 weeks	..	1,200		- 3.2%

Source: DCLG, [Statutory homelessness live table 775](#), 28 September 2017

The proportion of households in B&B-style accommodation that include dependant children has increased in recent years, subject to some seasonal variation, but has fallen since mid-2016.

Proportion of households in B&B-style accommodation which include children or expectant mothers

England, quarterly to end of June 2017



Source: DCLG, [Statutory homelessness live table 775](#), 28 September 2017

Use of out-of-borough placements

There is also increasing use of out-of-borough placements, where households are put in accommodation in a different local authority area. This is much more common in London than in the rest of England, as the table below shows. 36% (19,500) of London households in temporary accommodation at the end of June 2017 were housed out-of-borough, compared to 11% in the rest of England (2,550 households).

Households in temporary accommodation (TA)

England, at end of June 2017

	Total	% of total	% change on year before
England			
Total in TA	78,180		+ 7.0%
Of which, out-of-borough	22,050	28.2%	+ 6.8%
London			
Total in TA	54,180		+ 2.6%
Of which, out-of-borough	19,500	36.0%	+ 4.3%
Rest of England (without London)			
Total in TA	24,000		+ 18.6%
Of which, out-of-borough	2,550	10.6%	+ 30.8%

Source: DCLG, [Statutory homelessness live table 775](#), 28 September 2017

8. Parliamentary Questions

8.1 Written Parliamentary Questions

- [Temporary Accommodation: Children](#)

Asked by: Cunningham, Mr Jim

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of children in temporary accommodation in each of the last five years.

Answering member: Mr Marcus Jones | **Department:** Department for Communities and Local Government

Temporary accommodation ensures that no child is left without a roof over their head.

My Department publishes regular statistics on rough sleeping, statutory homelessness and homelessness prevention and relief in England. These are published at a local authority level. Statistics for each of the past five years can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>.

01 Nov 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 109682

Date tabled: 25 Oct 2017 | **Date for answer:** 30 Oct 2017 | **Date of holding answer:** 30 Oct 2017 | **Date answered:** 01 Nov 2017

- [Temporary Accommodation: Greater London Temporary Accommodation: Greater London](#)

Asked by: Reeves, Ellie

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of households in the London Borough of (a) Lewisham and (b) Bromley who have been living in temporary accommodation for more than six months.

Answering member: Mr Marcus Jones | **Department:** Department for Communities and Local Government

Time spent in temporary accommodation means people are getting help and it ensures no family is without a roof over their head.

We are implementing the most ambitious legislative reform in decades, the Homelessness Reduction Act, in April 2018, which will ensure that more people get the help they need earlier to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place.

DCLG publishes regular statistics on rough sleeping, statutory homelessness and homelessness prevention and relief in England. These are published at a local authority level. The latest statistics can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>.<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>.

We are remodelling the statutory homelessness data collection alongside the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act to give us better insights into the causes of homelessness and the support people need.

31 Oct 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 109081

Date tabled: 23 Oct 2017 | **Date for answer:** 25 Oct 2017 | **Date answered:** 31 Oct 2017

- [Temporary Accommodation](#)

Asked by: Lammy, Mr David

To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what assessment his Department has made of the (a) safety and (b) adequacy of living conditions in temporary accommodation.

Answering member: Mr Marcus Jones | **Department:** Department for Communities and Local Government

Time spent in temporary accommodation means people are getting help and it ensures no family is without a roof over their head. The numbers of households in temporary accommodation remains well below the September 2004 peak.

Local authorities have a duty to ensure that any accommodation provided for a homeless household under the homelessness legislation must be suitable. In considering 'suitability' authorities must, by law, consider whether the accommodation is affordable for the applicant, its size, its condition, its accessibility and also its location.

In 2012, we changed the law so that councils can place families in decent and affordable private rented homes. This now means homeless households do not have to wait as long for settled accommodation, spending less time in temporary accommodation.

In addition, we have allocated £550 million until 2020 to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping, as well as supporting the Homelessness Reduction Act, including: protecting £315 million of funding to local authorities and £149 million of central government funding for homelessness programmes.

We have also replaced the Department for Work and Pension's Temporary Accommodation Management Fee with a Flexible Homelessness Support Grant which local authorities can use more strategically to prevent and tackle homelessness. This amounts to £402 million over the two years from 2017/18.

DCLG publishes regular statistics on rough sleeping, statutory homelessness, temporary accommodation and homelessness prevention and relief. These are published at national, London and local authority level. The latest statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics>.

18 Sep 2017 | Written questions | Answered | House of Commons | 9811

Date tabled: 11 Sep 2017 | **Date for answer:** 13 Sep 2017 | **Date answered:** 18 Sep 2017

8.2 Oral Parliamentary Questions

- [Children in Temporary Accommodation](#)

Asked by: Melanie Onn (Great Grimsby) (Lab)

Despite the shocking increases in homelessness overseen by this Government, the recent National Audit Office report found that the Department has not produced a strategy to tackle homelessness. When is it going to come up with a plan and publish it, so we can finally see some action for the 120,000 homeless children in Britain today?

Answered by: Mr Jones | **Department:** Communities and Local Government

As the hon. Lady knows, the Government are doing a significant amount to change the culture across the country and make sure that we do far more in relation to prevention. Through the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, we are confident that we are going to see significant progress. As I said at the start of this group of questions, we are putting £950 million into this up to 2020.

30 Oct 2017 | Oral questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 630 c561

Date answered: 30 Oct 2017

- [Engagements](#)

Asked by: Jeremy Corbyn

I was asking the Prime Minister how many of the 11 million renters are living in homes that do not meet the decent homes standard and are, therefore, substandard. I will help him. One third of homes in the private rented sector do not meet the decent homes standard. Shelter has found that six out of 10 renters have to deal with issues such as damp, mould and leaking rooves and windows. It is simply not good enough.

Millions are struggling to get the home that they deserve. More families are slipping into temporary accommodation. The elderly are threatened with eviction. Homelessness is rising. Too few homes are being built. Social housing is under pressure. Families are being forced into low-standard, overpriced private rented accommodation. Young people are unable to move out of the family home and start their own lives. When is the Prime Minister going to realise there is a housing crisis in Britain? His Government need to address it now so that this dreadful situation does not continue.

Answered by: The Prime Minister | **Department:** Prime Minister

Let me just take one of the figures that the right hon. Gentleman mentions. Homelessness today is less than half what it was at its peak under the last Labour Government. There is a simple point here. You can only invest in new houses, you can only restore existing houses, you can only build new houses and you can only support people into those houses if you have got a strong economy. We inherited mass unemployment, an economy that had completely collapsed and a banking crisis. Now we have got zero inflation, wages growing, unemployment at 5%, an economy growing and people able, for the first time, to look to their future and see that they can buy and own a house in our country.

10 Feb 2016 | Prime Minister's questions - Supplementary | Answered | House of Commons | 605 c1570 **Date answered:** 10 Feb 2016

8.3 Parliamentary Debates

- [Children in Temporary Accommodation](#) (HC Deb 30 October 2017, cc559-61)

9. Press articles

[The domestic violence victims 'left begging for a home'](#)

BBC News, 31 October 2017

[Concern over rising emergency housing demand in Wales](#)

BBC News, 26 October

[This is about temporary and emergency housing in Wales, including the Welsh Local Government Association's concern about rising demand, and the Welsh Government's commitment to provide extra funding over the next 2 years]

[More homeless people forced to move away](#)

BBC News, 9 October 2017

[The family crammed into one bedroom](#)

BBC News, 7 October 2017

[What does the Programme for Government mean for housing in Scotland?](#)

Inside Housing, 13 September 2017

[This outlines the provisions for housing policy in the Scottish Government's new 'Programme for Government', including temporary accommodation standards]

[Vulnerable children in England 'falling through cracks' in social services](#)

The Guardian, 14 August 2017

[Families forced into homelessness](#)

BBC News, 31 March 2017

[More than 2,500 children unlawfully housed in B&Bs](#)

The Guardian, 15 December 2016

[England's 50 worst homelessness hotspots revealed as study finds 255,000 people have no permanent home](#)

The Independent, 1 December 2016

10. Press notices

[Whitehall announces 'flexible funding' for supported housing](#)

LocalGov, 31 October 2017

[Majority of social landlords say welfare policy harms homelessness work](#)

Inside Housing, 21 September 2017

[Watchdog criticises government for 'light touch approach' to homelessness](#)

Public Finance, 13 September 2017

[Housing our homeless households](#)

Local Government Association, 5 July 2017

[This outlines the LGA's report which explores the increasing demand for temporary accommodation, and what certain local authorities are doing in response]

[Temporary accommodation: Here's what we should do to prevent homelessness](#)

Shelter, 16 March 2017

[Housing shortage forces councils to spend £2 million a day on temporary accommodation](#)

Local Government Association, 4 March 2017

11. Further reading

- Commons Library statistics CBP07586, [Local authority homelessness statistics](#) [a tool that allows you to view statistics on homeless acceptances and temporary accommodation for individual local authorities]
- Commons Library briefing SN02110, [Households in temporary accommodation \(England\)](#)
- Commons Library briefing SN01164, [Statutory Homelessness in England](#)
- Commons Library SN02646, [Homelessness in England: Social Indicators page](#)
- Commons Library briefing CBP07201, [Comparison of homelessness duties in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland](#)
- Crisis, [Moving On: Improving Access to Housing for Single Homeless People in England](#), October 2017
- National Audit Office, [Homelessness](#), September 2017
- Sheffield Solutions, [Tackling Homelessness Together](#), September 2017
- Sheffield Solutions, [Going Further Back](#), September 2017
- Crisis, [Homelessness projections: Core homelessness in Great Britain](#), August 2017
- Crisis, [The Homelessness Monitor: England 2017](#), March 2017
- Communities and Local Government Select Committee, [Homelessness](#), HC 40, August 2016

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