

Debate Pack

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Tackling rough sleeping

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1 Background

A Westminster Hall debate on tackling rough sleeping is scheduled for Wednesday 23 October 2024 at 9.30am. The debate will be led by Deirdre Costigan MP.

This debate pack contains background information on rough sleeping, as well as some suggested further reading materials which Members may find useful in preparation for this debate.

Rough sleeping can be caused by a complex interplay between individual and structural factors such as relationship breakdowns and limited availability of affordable and social housing.

Local authorities have some duties towards people who are experiencing homelessness, but they are not obliged to secure accommodation for all of them.

The previous Conservative government committed to end rough sleeping by the end of 2024. It published the [Ending Rough Sleeping for Good strategy](#) and used other policy measures too.

The new Labour government have said they will “[develop a new cross-government strategy](#) to put Britain back on track to ending homelessness”.

1.1 What is rough sleeping?

Rough sleeping is an especially visible type of homelessness. [Government guidance](#) (for data reporting purposes) defines rough sleeping as:

- people sleeping, about to bed down (sitting on/in or standing next to their bedding) or actually bedded down in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments)
- people in buildings or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or ‘bashes’).

Causes of rough sleeping

Research into the causes of rough sleeping has identified several causes, including:

- [relationship breakdown](#)¹
- benefit changes that affect single people’s ability to find and keep affordable private rented housing:
 - The London Assembly published a report on [the impact of welfare reform on homelessness in London](#)²
 - The charity Crisis also highlighted this cause in its report, [The homelessness monitor: England 2018](#)³
- [poor mental and physical health, including substance dependence](#)⁴
- lack of suitable, affordable housing options for single people with multiple support needs:
 - The charity Homeless Link highlighted this cause in its manifesto, [A Home for Everyone](#)⁵
 - This was also set out by the Kerlake Commission report on [Turning the Tide on Rising Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#)⁶

In March 2019, the Conservative government published [a report on the causes of homelessness and rough sleeping](#). The report acknowledged “the circumstances in which families become homeless tend to differ from those of single homeless individuals”.⁷ It highlighted experiences of rough sleeping, like homelessness more broadly, can vary between groups. For example, according to a 2016 study, [young people reported the main reasons they had experienced rough sleeping](#) (or sofa surfing) were a “negative home environment and... being asked to leave by their parents”.⁸ The government report also found women are less likely to appear in official rough sleeping figures because they “have reported purposely remaining hidden while sleeping rough”.⁹

¹ Department for Communities and Local Government, [Making every contact count: A joint approach to preventing homelessness](#) (PDF), August 2012, p8

² London Assembly, [The impact of welfare reform on homelessness in London](#), 23 October 2019

³ Crisis, [The homelessness monitor: England 2018](#) (PDF), April 2018

⁴ Public Health England, [Health matters: rough sleeping](#), 11 February 2020

⁵ Homeless Link, [A Home for Everyone: Our manifesto to end homelessness together](#) (PDF), 22 February 2024

⁶ The Kerlake Commission, [Turning the Tide on Rising Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#), September 2023

⁷ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Department for Work and Pensions, [Causes of homelessness and rough sleeping: rapid evidence assessment](#) (PDF), 25 March 2019, p39

⁸ Anna Clarke, [The Prevalence of Rough Sleeping and Sofa Surfing Amongst Young People in the UK](#), 20 October 2016, p41

⁹ Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government and Department for Work and Pensions, [Causes of homelessness and rough sleeping: rapid evidence assessment](#) (PDF), 25 March 2019, p40

Information about what is understood about the causes of homelessness more broadly is provided in section 1 of the Library briefing on [Statutory homelessness \(England\): Causes and government policy](#).

1.2 Statistics on rough sleepers

The Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) publishes a ‘snapshot’ figure of the number of people sleeping rough on a given night in autumn in England.

Local authorities produce either a count of people sleeping rough in their area, or an estimate in collaboration with local organisations. The resulting statistics give an idea of the number of people sleeping rough on a single night in this period, rather than a complete picture of the number of people sleeping rough across the year.

[The latest data is for autumn 2023](#), when an estimated 3,898 people slept rough on a single night in England. This is a 27% increase compared with the previous year’s estimate (3,069 people).¹⁰

The number of people sleeping rough peaked in 2017 at 4,751 people. Numbers fell substantially during the covid-19 pandemic as the government implemented policies to reduce rough sleeping, and reached a low point of 2,443 in 2021. However, the estimate has risen in each year since then.

Data for individual local authorities is published in [tables accompanying MHCLG’s statistical release \(Excel file\)](#).

Additional data on rough sleeping is available for London. The Greater London Authority and the homelessness charity Homelessness Link maintain the CHAIN database, which records all contact between rough sleepers and outreach workers in London.

According to [the latest CHAIN annual report](#), 11,993 people were recorded who had slept rough in London at any point during the 2023/24 financial year.

1.3 Local authorities’ homelessness duties in England

Housing policy is a devolved matter and there has been some divergence in homelessness policy across the UK. The following information applies to

¹⁰ DLUHC, [Rough sleeping snapshot in England: autumn 2023](#), 29 February 2024

England. For information on homelessness policy in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland see ‘press and stakeholder materials’, below.

Local authorities in England are required to take steps to help people prevent and relieve an experience of homelessness for all eligible applicants. Eligibility is based on UK immigration and residence status. They are not, however, legally obliged to secure accommodation for all people experiencing homelessness.

Authorities must secure ‘interim’ accommodation for people they believe may be homeless and in a category of ‘priority need’ which includes people with children, some care leavers, and people who are assessed as vulnerable according to statutory criteria. See section 1 of the Library briefing on [Statutory homelessness \(England\): the legal framework and performance](#) for more information about the statutory homelessness framework, including the categories of priority need.

Authorities must also secure longer-term accommodation for eligible, unintentionally homeless households who are assessed as having a priority need. This is known as the ‘main housing duty’. In its [report on homelessness](#) (PDF), the Communities and Local Government Select Committee highlighted that “single people and couples without children who are not vulnerable according to the statutory criteria are therefore unlikely to be in priority need and qualify for the main housing duty”.¹¹ This means that people who are experiencing homelessness and are not deemed to in priority need may find themselves sleeping rough.

1.4

Policy during the 2019 Conservative government

The 2019 Conservative government committed to end rough sleeping by the end of the parliament. The Covid-19 pandemic started months after the 2019 general election, and in March 2020, the government asked all local authorities to provide accommodation to all homeless people to protect them.¹²

Rough sleeping strategy

The government published its [Ending Rough Sleeping for Good strategy](#) in 2022. It was described as “a cross-government strategy” which set out how the government and its partners would work together to deliver the government’s commitment to end rough sleeping in the 2019-24 Parliament,

¹¹ Communities and Local Government Select Committee, [Homelessness](#) (PDF), 18 July 2016, p16

¹² Commons Library briefing CBP9057, [Coronavirus: Support for rough sleepers \(England\)](#), 12 October 2021

and to do so “sustainably and for good.” The strategy focussed on prevention; intervention; recovery and ensuring a joined-up, transparent approach which [the government said](#) was to be “supported by over £2bn to tackle homelessness and rough sleeping over the next three years.”

The Rough Sleeping Initiative

The current Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) was first launched in March 2018 by the 2015-19 Conservative government. The [first-announced RSI](#) consisted of a new rough sleeping team to “drive reductions in rough sleeping”, and a £30 million fund for 2018-19 to target local authorities with high numbers of people sleeping rough.¹³ The government press release said the rough sleeping team “will work with these areas to support them to develop tailored local interventions to reduce the number of people sleeping on the streets”.¹⁴

Impact evaluation

The [first impact evaluation of the RSI](#) was published in September 2019.¹⁵ The Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) [reported some successful outcomes](#), including a reduction in the number of vulnerable people sleeping rough by 32% compared to the number it would have been if the initiative had not been in place.¹⁶

In 2024 Alma Economics conducted a feasibility study on behalf of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) into a systems-wide evaluation of the homelessness and rough sleeping system. Its report was published in January 2024, and said the following about the RSI:

The most crucial funding source for rough sleeping services across English local authorities is RSI. According to local authority representatives engaged during the current research, additional RSI funding to local authorities has improved service provision and outcomes over recent years. RSI funding is reportedly used for various services and staff covering outreach and in-reach services, temporary accommodation, and health support for rough sleepers.¹⁷

The 2022 Ending Rough Sleeping for Good strategy (mentioned above) included an extended £500 million RSI funding programme for 2022-25. [Rough Sleeping Initiative funding allocations](#) were initially announced in September 2022, and subsequently updated.¹⁸

In addition to the funding for the Rough Sleeping Initiative, the Conservative government introduced and maintained a number of different funding

¹³ MHCLG press release, [New government initiative to reduce rough sleeping](#), 30 March 2018

¹⁴ As above

¹⁵ MHCLG, [Rough Sleeping Initiative 2018: impact evaluation](#), 12 September 2019

¹⁶ MHCLG press release, [New analysis shows one third fall in number of vulnerable people sleeping rough linked to government initiative](#), 12 September 2019

¹⁷ DLUHC, [Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Systems-wide evaluation](#) (PDF), January 2024, p13

¹⁸ MHCLG and DLUHC, [Rough Sleeping Initiative: 2022 to 2025 updated funding allocations](#), 22 January 2024

initiatives as part of its overall rough sleeping strategy between 2019 and 2024, including:

- [Single homelessness accommodation programme \(SHAP\)](#)
- [Night Shelter Transformation Fund](#)
- [NHS mental health support for rough sleepers in towns with high rates of homelessness](#)
- [Rough sleeping accommodation programme](#)
- [Homelessness prevention grant](#)

Housing First

Housing First is a homelessness intervention aimed at people experiencing or at risk of rough sleeping who have multiple and complex needs. Its objective is to provide housing on an unconditional basis to help them address their needs, instead of support engagement being a condition of housing provision (as is the traditional approach).

Housing First has delivered some success in other countries and has been trialled in England since 2017. The charity Homeless Link's evaluation of the pilots found positive outcomes for participants, while also noting challenges for the local authorities delivering the initiative, such as short-term funding cycles and a shortage of affordable housing.¹⁹ More information can be found in the Library briefing [Housing First: tackling homelessness for those with complex needs](#) (last updated March 2021).

The Vagrancy Act

In February 2022, the 2019 Conservative government [committed to repeal the Vagrancy Act 1824](#) ('the 1824 act') which deems begging and some forms of rough sleeping a criminal offence in England and Wales.²⁰ However, the provision in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 which would repeal the 1824 act was not commenced. The previous government said the "repeal will not be commenced until appropriate replacement legislation is in place."²¹

The [Criminal Justice Bill](#) was introduced to Parliament on 14 November 2023. The previous government said it would:

¹⁹ Homeless Link, [More than a roof: Exploring the holistic outcomes of Housing First](#) (PDF), January 2024

²⁰ Home Office, [Repeal of the Vagrancy Act 1824: Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 factsheet](#), 20 August 2022

²¹ [As above](#)

Replace the outdated Vagrancy Act 1824 with a suite of modern replacement powers to enable the police and local authorities to respond to begging and rough sleeping where it causes nuisance to the public, including by obstructing shop doorways and aggressively begging by cash points.²²

Sector stakeholders said the bill still risked the criminalisation of many people sleeping rough. A homelessness charity, St Mungo's, said the bill "still does too much to vilify and criminalise people who rough sleep and the government's approach does too little to tackle the causes of homelessness."²³ Another homelessness charity, Crisis, argued that the police already have the necessary powers to deal with instances of genuine anti-social behaviour.²⁴

The bill did not pass before the 2024 general election. The current Labour government have not yet confirmed their position. However, responding to a parliamentary question on 24 July 2024, about a potential timeline for repealing the 1824 act, the government reaffirmed its commitment to developing a new cross-government strategy for ending homelessness, which would "include consideration of any relevant legislation including the Vagrancy Act."²⁵

For further information and background on the 1824 act see Library briefing on [Rough Sleepers: Enforcement Powers](#) (England) (April 2021).

1.5

Labour Party policy

Policy during the last Labour government

The 1997 Labour government established a Rough Sleepers Unit (RSU) and claimed to have reduced the number of rough sleepers by two-thirds by 2002, and reduced it further by 2010.²⁶ Retrospective analyses suggest the government did indeed achieve a significant reduction in the number of rough sleepers. Reasons given for this success include:

- Establishing the RSU helped to coordinate work across [different agencies](#) and [government departments](#)
- [Sufficient funding](#) to deliver outcomes

²² Home Office and Ministry of Justice, [Criminal Justice Bill: Nuisance begging and rough sleeping](#), 23 February 2024

²³ St Mungo's, [Amendments made to the Criminal Justice Bill around rough sleeping](#), 16 May 2024

²⁴ Crisis, [People sleeping rough still at risk of criminalisation despite concessions – Crisis responds](#), 13 May 2024

²⁵ PQ 521 [[on Vagrancy Act 1824](#)], 24 July 2024

²⁶ The Guardian, [Dramatic drop in number of rough sleepers](#), 3 December 2001; MHCLG, [Rough sleeping hits 11-year-low](#), 15 July 2010

Among other policy measures, the government also replaced the [Rough Sleeping Initiative](#) with the Homelessness Action programme in 1999.

1.6 Plans for the 2024 parliament

There was no explicit mention of tackling rough sleeping in the Labour manifesto or the King's Speech of 17 July 2024. The government has said [the Renter's Rights Bill would reform private sector tenancies](#) to increase stability and security, and reduce the risk of homelessness.²⁷ It has also said it will “develop a new cross-government strategy to put Britain back on track to ending homelessness”.²⁸

There have also been media reports suggesting [the government is planning to create an 'ending homelessness unit'](#) in a newly created Office for the Deputy Prime Minister, but there have been no official statements about this.²⁹

Responding to a [parliamentary question on 14 October 2024](#) on whether the Rough Sleeping Initiative might be extended, the government confirmed it will publish an interim report on the [systems-wide evaluation of the homelessness and rough sleeping system](#) in summer 2025, followed by a final report in spring 2027.³⁰ In the same parliamentary question response, it has also said that “spending plans for 2025-26 will be set alongside the Budget on 30th October.”³¹

Ongoing challenges

In its 2023 report, the Kerslake Commission on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping found that although the 2019 government would not meet its target of ending rough sleeping by the end of 2024, some progress had been made including:

- improvements to joint commissioning and partnership working
- uprating of some benefits in line with inflation
- additional funding to expand NHS specialist mental health services for rough sleepers

²⁷ Prime Minister's Office, [King's Speech 2024: background briefing notes](#), 17 July 2024

²⁸ PQ 1337 [\[on Homelessness\]](#), 26 July 2024

²⁹ Bloomberg UK [may require subscription], [Starmmer Deputy Revives Blair-Era Approach to Cut UK Homelessness](#), 10 June 2024

³⁰ PQ 6796 [\[on Sleeping Rough\]](#), 14 October 2024

³¹ As above

- targeted action to reduce homelessness among ex-offenders and people leaving prison³²

Various other stakeholders have identified ongoing challenges in tackling homelessness, including:

- the rising cost of living³³
- welfare policies and their effect on people's capacity for rent repayments³⁴, including the level of Local Housing Allowance rates³⁵
- an undersupply of social housing³⁶
- difficulties in accessing support for people with mental health and substance abuse issues³⁷
- insecurity in the private rented sector³⁸
- large increases in the use of temporary and emergency accommodation to fulfil statutory obligations and continued increases in rental prices in the private sector³⁹
- A lack of sustainable and streamlined funding for long-term support, and of a cross-departmental response to end homelessness⁴⁰

1.7

Rough Sleeping data framework

Working in partnership with the Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI), the previous government developed a definition of what it would mean to end rough sleeping in England. In February 2023, [the CHI explained the new definition is](#) that “rough sleeping must be prevented or, if it does occur, it is a

³² The Kerslake Commission, [Turning the Tide on Rising Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#) (PDF, September 2023)

³³ Changing Lives, [Response to the Rough Sleeping Strategy](#), September 2022

³⁴ Crisis, [Crisis responds to Government's refreshed Rough Sleeping Strategy](#), 3 September 2022

³⁵ Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee, [Reforming the Private Rented Sector](#) (PDF), 6 February 2023

³⁶ Crisis, [12% increase in people new to rough sleeping in London - Crisis responds](#), 31 July 2023; The Kerslake Commission, [Turning the Tide on Rising Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#) (PDF, September 2023)

³⁷ Crisis, [Homelessness and housing organisations respond to Government Rough Sleeping Strategy](#), 13 August 2018

³⁸ Inside Housing [subscription required], [With a 15-month recession on the cards, the government's rough sleeping plan will need adjusting](#), 30 September 2022

³⁹ The Kerslake Commission, [Turning the Tide on Rising Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#) (PDF, September 2023)

⁴⁰ Homeless Link, [More than a roof: Exploring the holistic outcomes of Housing First](#) (PDF), January 2024

rare, brief and non-recurring experience.”⁴¹ The definition underpins what CHI refers to as a “new data-driven approach to tackling rough sleeping” aimed at “giving fresh insights into the nature of rough sleeping in each area of England and help local leaders drive progress towards ending it.”⁴²

The previous government worked with CHI and five local authority areas to develop a new rough sleeping data framework made up of eight “core indicators”. The current Labour government has published [information about the first five core indicators](#), which were rolled out nationally in May 2023.⁴³ Information about the remaining three indicators, which were rolled out nationally in June 2024, will be reported on in future publications.

⁴¹ CHI, [New data points the way to ending rough sleeping for good](#), 28 February 2023

⁴² As above

⁴³ MHCLG, [Rough Sleeping Data Framework, June 2024](#), 3 October 2024

2

Parliamentary material

2.1

Parliamentary questions

[Sleeping Rough](#)

14 October 2024 | UIN 6788

Asked by: Deirdre Costigan

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to help local authorities reduce rough sleeping.

Answering member: Rushanara Ali | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Homelessness and rough sleeping levels in England are far too high. This has a devastating impact on those affected and harms our communities.

We must address this and deliver long-term solutions. The Government is taking action by setting up a dedicated Inter-Ministerial Group which the Deputy Prime Minister will chair, bringing together ministers from across government to develop a long-term strategy to put us back on track to ending homelessness.

Whilst we develop our new strategy, the Rough Sleeping Initiative is providing £547 million over the period from April 2022 to March 2025 to 300 local authorities across England for local, tailored rough sleeping services.

[Sleeping Rough](#)

14 October 2024 | UIN 6796

Asked by: Deirdre Costigan

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, whether she has made an assessment of the potential merits of extending the Rough Sleeping Initiative.

Answering member: Rushanara Ali | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

We conducted an evaluation of the RSI in 2018 and a link to report can be found [here\(opens in a new tab\)](#). We have also commissioned a systems wide evaluation of the homelessness and rough sleeping system and further information can be found [here\(opens in a new tab\)](#). The aim of this evaluation is to assess the interaction between different interventions, understand what works, and identify the most effective points at which to prevent

homelessness. MHCLG is due to publish an interim report in summer 2025, followed by a final report in spring 2027.

We will develop a new cross government strategy to put us back on track to ending homelessness and rough sleeping. As announced by the Chancellor on 29th July, spending plans for 2025-26 will be set alongside the Budget on 30th October.

Health Services: Sleeping Rough

14 October 2024 | UIN 6773

Asked by: Deirdre Costigan

To ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, what steps he is taking to improve coordination between health services and homelessness support organisations to tackle the healthcare needs of rough sleepers with (a) substance misuse and (b) mental health challenges.

Answering member: Andrew Gwynne | Department: Department of Health and Social Care

The Department is funding the Rough Sleeping Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) in 83 local authorities, of which Ealing is one. This programme funds targeted services to improve drug and alcohol treatment and support to people who sleep rough, or who are at risk of sleeping rough, and who have substance misuse needs. These services work closely with local homelessness organisations to ensure that coordinated support is provided, as well as providing support around people's co-occurring substance misuse and mental health needs.

In addition to the RSDATG, the Department is working to expand mental health outreach services to improve co-ordinated care for homeless individuals with co-occurring mental health needs. Since 2019/20 there has been a £30 million investment to meet the health needs of people sleeping rough, allowing for the establishment of 37 sites with new mental health provision for rough sleepers. Beyond 2023/24, NHS England will provide recurrent annual funding of £9 million to support the specialist services that have been established as part of the NHS Long Term Plan programme.

Women: Sleeping Rough

9 October 2024 | UIN 900451

Asked by: Paula Barker

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what discussions she has had with the Minister for Women and Equalities on reducing the number of women sleeping rough.

Answering member: Rushanara Ali | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

We recognise that women sleeping on the streets have different experiences and needs to men, particularly relating to experiences of violence and abuse.

£9.2 million funding is available for women-specific rough sleeping services. We will take action to tackle rising levels of rough sleeping and develop a strategy to get us back on track to ending homelessness.

Homelessness

11 September 2024 | UIN 3996

Asked by: Rachael Maskell

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, what steps she is taking to reduce levels of homelessness in winter 2024-25.

Answering member: Rushanara Ali | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

The Government will develop a new cross-government strategy, working with mayors and councils across the country to get us back on track to ending homelessness and rough sleeping once and for all.

Whilst we develop our new strategy, the Rough Sleeping Initiative (RSI) is providing £547 million over the period from April 2022 to March 2025 to 300 local authorities across England for local, tailored rough sleeping services.

Sleeping Rough

31 July 2024 | UIN 1437

Asked by: Mr Richard Holden

To ask the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, how many people are sleeping rough.

Answering member: Alex Norris | Department: Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

According to the official Rough Sleeping Snapshot statistics, 3,898 people were estimated to be sleeping rough on a single night in England in autumn 2023. This was 27% higher than the previous year and represented an annual increase for the second year in a row.

The Government is committed to taking action to address all forms of homelessness and will develop a new cross-government strategy, working with mayors and councils across the country to get us on back on track to ending homelessness once and for all.

We will deliver the biggest increase in social and affordable housebuilding in a generation and deliver 1.5 million new homes over the next Parliament. I refer the Hon Member to the written statement made on 30 July 2024 ([HCWS48](#)), setting out our first steps on how we achieve this.

Oral questions

2.2

Debates

[Youth Homelessness](#)

1st May 2024 | House of Commons | 749 cc136-151WH

[Rough Sleeping](#)

22nd April 2024 | House of Commons | 748 c644

[Rough Sleeping and Homelessness](#)

4th March 2024 | House of Commons | 746 cc622-623

[Policing Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#)

26th February 2024 | House of Commons | 746 c4

2.3

Written statements

[Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Funding](#)

28 February 2024 | HCWS297

[Homelessness Prevention Grant: Additional Funding](#)

5 December 2022 | HCWS410

[Rough Sleeping Strategy](#)

5 September 2022 | HCWS283

[Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme Funding](#)

18 March 2021 | HCWS861

3

Press and stakeholder material

The following is a selection of news and media articles relevant to this debate.

Please note: the Library is not responsible for either the views or the accuracy of external content.

United Kingdom and Great Britain

[Deaths of people sleeping rough up 42% as nearly 1,500 homeless people died last year](#)

The Independent
15 October 2024

[New research shows 1474 homeless people died in 2023 - a mounting national crisis revealed](#)

Museum of Homelessness
16 October 2024

England

[Homelessness services face cliff-edge unless Labour gives budget boost](#)

The Big Issue
3 October 2024

[Rough sleeping will soar unless Labour fills £1bn shortfall, charities say](#)

The Guardian
9 October 2024

[Manchester turns to 'housing first' scheme to eradicate rough sleeping](#)

The Guardian
10 September 2024

[What Angela Rayner's new homelessness unit can learn from New Labour](#)

Institute for Government
12 June 2024

[Can We Really End Rough Sleeping?](#)

Centre for Homelessness Impact
31 May 2024

[Rough sleeping has increased by 120% since 2010: An open letter to the next Government](#)

St Mungo's
31 May 2024

[Homelessness: Number of rough sleepers up by a quarter in England](#)

BBC News

29 February 2024

[Sharp increase in rough sleeping and child homelessness: the next government cannot afford to ignore the housing emergency](#)

Shelter England

29 February 2024

[Greater Manchester's expansion of 'A Bed Every Night' prevents major rise in rough sleeping](#)

Greater Manchester Combined Authority

February 2023

Scotland

[Rachel Reeves urged by SNP minister to help 'collective effort' to fix Scotland's housing emergency](#)

Daily Record

16 October 2024

[Scots seeking homeless help rises by 3000 as rough sleeping soars](#)

The Herald Scotland

27 February 2024

[Glasgow charity hands out sleeping bags as rough sleeping rises](#)

BBC News

18 August 2023

[Glasgow faces rough sleeping rise after funding reduced, charity warns](#)

BBC News

6 July 2023

Wales

[Huge rise in the number of former prisoners sleeping rough in Wales](#)

Wales Online

3 October 2024

[Wales homelessness and housing organisations speak out against plans to criminalise rough sleeping](#)

Crisis

15 March 2024

[Our response to Welsh Government's White Paper on Ending Homelessness](#)

The Wallich

16 January 2024

Northern Ireland

[Local authorities underreporting rural rough sleeping, charity says](#)

The Irish Times

15 October 2024

[Hundreds of people sleep out at Stormont to raise awareness of homelessness](#)

The Irish News

12 October 2024

[Under The Radar: Unveiling Hidden Homelessness Across the Island of Ireland](#)(PDF)

Simon Community

June 2024

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Press releases and government publications

Press releases

[London's housing crisis 'threatens to break borough budgets' amid £700m funding shortfall](#)

London Councils

12 September 2024

[Support for rough sleepers while tackling antisocial behaviour](#)

Home Office

15 May 2024

Government publications and statistics

England

[Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2023-24](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

3 October 2024

[Statutory homelessness in England: financial year 2023-24](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)

3 October 2024

[Homelessness Prevention Grant: 2023 to 2025](#)

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

28 February 2024

[Ending Rough Sleeping Data Framework, September 2023](#)

Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)

30 November 2023

Wales

[Homelessness accommodation provision and rough sleeping](#)

Welsh Government

last updated 29 August 2024

[National rough sleeper count](#)

Welsh Government

last updated 20 August 2024

Scotland

[Homelessness in Scotland: 2022-23](#)

Scottish Government

29 August 2023

Northern Ireland

[Rough Sleeping Counts Street Estimates 2023](#) (PDF)

Northern Ireland Housing Executive

March 2024

[Northern Ireland Homelessness Bulletin October - March 2024](#)

Department for Communities (Northern Ireland), Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency and Northern Ireland Housing Executive

13th June 2024

Reports

[Reforming the Private Rented Sector](#) (PDF)

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Committee

6 February 2023

[Turning the Tide on Rising Homelessness and Rough Sleeping](#)

The Kerslake Commission

September 2023

5 Further reading

5.1 House of Commons Library

- [Statutory homelessness \(England\): Causes and government policy](#), July 2024
- [Youth homelessness](#), April 2024
- [Rough sleeping \(England\)](#), March 2023
- [Rough Sleepers: Enforcement Powers \(England\)](#), April 2021
- [Housing First: tackling homelessness for those with complex needs](#), March 2021
- [Rough sleeping statistics: How reliable are they?](#), March 2020
- [Rough sleepers: access to services and support \(England\)](#), October 2019
- [Comparison of homelessness duties in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland](#), April 2018

5.2 Other

- Chapter 5 of the [UK Housing Review 2023](#) (PDF) compares homelessness policies, trends and outcomes in England, Scotland, and Wales in 2022.
- [Housing in London 2021](#) (PDF, October 2021) - the evidence base for the London housing strategy - provides an overview of rough sleeping in the capital.
- The Mayor's [London Housing Strategy](#) (PDF, May 2018) listed “tackling homelessness and helping rough sleepers” as one of its top five priorities.

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