

Applying for council housing for health or medical reasons





Introduction

If you have a medical condition that you believe is being made worse by your current accommodation, and you would like the council to consider this when assessing your housing application, you need to complete a medical assessment form.

This leaflet explains the application process.

There is a huge demand for homes to live in Islington and not enough social housing to go around. So we have to prioritise applications strictly on the basis of need.

You should be aware that having a serious illness or disability in itself is unlikely to result in you receiving additional priority – and most applications are not successful.

It is only if you can show that your illness or disability is being made worse by existing housing conditions that cannot be put right that you will be awarded ‘medical priority’ or points.

If you are living with other people whose health is also being affected by the conditions, they should make a separate application. Whoever is being affected the most by the housing conditions is the ‘main medical priority applicant’.

Factors we consider when assessing

Medical points can be awarded **only** if your medical condition is made worse by your accommodation and where we are sure that problems with your current home cannot be resolved. For example:

Lift failure

If you claim that your lifts are often broken or unusable, we will need your landlord to give us a report on the lift's reliability. We can award a medical priority if we find the lift to be unreliable. Our assessment will be based on numbers of mechanical faults and how long the lift has been out of order, not numbers of call-outs.

Damp and disrepair

Medical priority can only be given if you can show that the disrepair you feel is affecting your health cannot be put right. You should report any damp or disrepair to your landlord first.

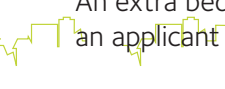
Overcrowding

There are many overcrowded households in Islington unfortunately. Only in a small minority of cases, where severe medical problems are involved, will overcrowding attract priority points, following discussion with health professionals.

Extra bedroom on medical grounds

The council only award extra bedrooms in exceptional circumstances – and on the advice of a health professional. While we will consider the needs of a family to protect a child with challenging behaviour, we cannot give guarantees. Ultimately it is the parent's duty to minimise the potential risk of harm.

Extra bedroom for full-time carer



An extra bedroom will only be recommended where an applicant needs ongoing regular night time care.



Medical priorities

There are three categories of medical priority A, B and C. These reflect how seriously the current accommodation is impacting on an applicant's health.

Category A

This category is for people whose life might be at risk due to their housing conditions or who are completely housebound because of the type of accommodation they live in.

It will also include people who have been in hospital for a long time and who cannot return home as the accommodation is unsuitable.

It will also include any members of the army, navy and air force who have been seriously injured or disabled.

Category B

This category is for people whose medical condition is affected by their housing situation, but whose need to move is less urgent.

Category C

This category is for people whose housing situation is causing or making their medical condition worse.



Points awards

If more than one member of a household submits a medical application, their medical condition will be considered separately to the priority applicant and awarded fewer points as shown in the table below.

	Category A	Category B	Category C
Priority applicant	100 points	50 points	20 points
2nd applicant	20 points	10 points	5 points
3rd applicant	15 points	10 points	5 points

There is no limit to how many people in one home who can apply for medical priority points.

How to apply

If you would like the council to consider your medical condition when assessing your housing application, you should complete a medical assessment form.

To obtain a form

Call **020 7527 4140** or drop in to the Housing Aid Centre or a Homes for Islington Area Housing Office. You can also download a form from our website at www.islington.gov.uk/housing/findingahome

You can then return the form to:

Housing Options Team
PO Box 34750,
London, N7 9WF



How to apply

Existing Islington Council tenants should return the completed medical form to:

Homes for Islington Transfer Team

Highbury House
5-6 Highbury Crescent
N5 1RN

What to do if you are awarded points

If you've been given medical points and the medical advisor's recommendation is for a specific type of housing, you can then bid for properties that meet these recommendations. For example if the medical advisor says that you need a home without stairs, you cannot bid for homes that have stairs.

You can get help with bidding for homes from the housing options team on 020 7527 4140.

How to appeal

If you are dissatisfied with the medical decision you receive, you should state your reasons, in writing, within four weeks of medical advisors decision.

Please include any additional medical information not previously considered.

Islington Council tenants should contact: **Homes for Islington's Transfer Team**

All other housing applicants should contact:
Housing Options Team.



If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please contact 020 7527 2000

Transfer Team, Homes for Islington,
Highbury House, 5-6 Highbury Crescent,
N5 1RN

E transfer.team@homesforislington.org.uk

The Housing Options Team, Islington Council,
Housing Aid Centre, 38 Devonian Road,
London, N1 8UY

E rehousing@islington.gov.uk

T 020 7527 4140 F 020 7527 4000

W www.islington.gov.uk/housing

Occupation Therapist Department

Calshot Community Care Team

57 Calshot Street, N1 9XH

E informationaccessteam@islington.gov.uk

T 020 7527 2299 F 020 7527 6420



Printed on environmentally friendly paper.
Published July 2011.