

Welfare Awareness Topic: Housing and Homelessness

Overview – It is important to know your rights and responsibilities when it comes to housing in the UK, as well as knowing where to get support with housing and homelessness. People become homeless for a whole range of complex and overlapping reasons, and there is a range of support available in the UK for problems with housing, and if you are homeless or about to lose your home.

Housing Problems: Housing problems can feel very difficult to deal with, and handling problems with your landlord can sometimes be complicated. If you have an assured shorthold tenancy, it is important to know the following:

Citizens advice says asking your landlord or letting agent the following questions before you sign anything is really important to make sure the property you are going to rent is safe and affordable:

- how much rent you'll have to pay and how it should be paid
- if your rent includes any bills
- how long you can rent for - including whether you'll be able to renew your tenancy or end it early
- if you need to make [payments before you move in](#) - for example if you need to pay rent in advance or fees if you rent from a letting agent
- [how your tenancy deposit will be protected](#)
- Before renting in a shared house or flat check if the property is licensed with [your local council](#).

It is important to note- your landlord is responsible for most major repairs in your home if you rent privately, including: the structure of the property, for example walls, roof, windows and doors ;sinks, baths, toilets; pipes and wiring; heating and hot water, for example the boiler; the safety of gas and electrical appliances. You are responsible for minor repairs like changing fuses and light bulbs, and you are responsible for fixing anything you have damaged.

Homelessness: There are a range of circumstances which mean people find themselves homeless, but if you are homeless or about to lose your home, your local council might be able to help.

- You can ask any local council for help if you are homeless. If you are homeless or about to lose your home, visit the government website [here](#) to find local services to help you.
- If you need to find emergency accommodation, see Shelter's information on [emergency accommodation in England](#) or [emergency accommodation in Wales](#).
- If you are sleeping rough, or worried about someone who is, you can contact [Streetlink](#) and ask them for help.

Article/Source:

If you wish to receive independent advice for any accommodation queries you might have, you are welcome to contact the Independent Advice team for further assistance: IndependentAdvice@bpp.com

Although BPP university does not have any of its own residences or partnerships with student housing providers, if you need guidance for when things go wrong, you can visit the [accommodation page on the student association website here](#), and download the [2021 student housing guide here](#). This guide aims to provide you with more information about housing and how to get support.

If you are at risk of homelessness, please see our [help for BPP domestic students facing homelessness guide](#) for practical options for assisting you to secure accommodation.

Citizens advice has info and support for housing issues and concerns, visit their website [here](#) for more info.

Support

If you would like to talk to the safeguarding team about anything you have just read, we will listen without judgement and signpost you to support. If you would like to talk to a member of the Safeguarding Team then please get in touch: safeguarding@bpp.com