

Applying to Wandsworth Council for social housing

**You can apply for a home to Wandsworth Council.
They might also call it ‘social housing’.**

If your application is accepted, you’ll go on to a waiting list of people who need a council home. Wandsworth Council will then prioritise applications based on who needs a home most urgently. The Council’s allocations scheme will give details of who gets priority for homes in the area.

Even you get on the waiting list there’s no guarantee you’ll get a home.

You could be offered a home owned by Wandsworth Council or a housing association.

How to apply?

You can apply for social housing in the borough if you are over the age of 18. However, under the allocations scheme, people who live outside of the borough and those who have not lived in Wandsworth for the last three years continuously will receive lower priority and are unlikely to receive an offer of accommodation.

To qualify for an allocation of social housing in the borough you must:

- Be eligible for an allocation of housing under immigration laws

- Be 18 years old or over (55 or over for sheltered housing applicants)
- Not have refused any offer or nomination of suitable accommodation within the last two years
- Have a housing need (e.g. are overcrowded or the accommodation is not suitable for medical reasons)
- Not have been previously involved in using false information to obtain public funds (housing or benefits)
- Not have made yourself intentionally homeless from your last home
- Have a good history of being able to manage a tenancy and pay your rent.

You can apply online at

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/apply-for-housing/>.

Once completed you will receive an acknowledgement notification advising you your application will be forwarded to one of the team for assessment.

Your application will be assessed under the council's Housing Allocation Scheme based on the information you have provided on your form and through their enquiries.

An assessment officer may contact you and request that you attend a booked appointment at the housing reception to submit supporting documents such as:

- Identification (passport or birth certificate)
- Passport sized photos of all household members
- Income details

- Any other documents reasonably required to support your application

When they have received enough information and supporting evidence to enable them to assess your application, you will be notified of the outcome within a few weeks.

You can download and read the guidance on applying for housing and transfers at:

https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/media/1214/wandsworth_applying_for_housing.pdf

How does the assessment process work?

The majority of applicants wanting to join the waiting list will join one of the following queues:

- General needs housing (for applicants who want to move from their current home into social housing)
- Sheltered housing (for applicants over the age of 55 who want to move to one of the sheltered housing schemes).

You will be assessed and your priority will be based on what points you are awarded using a points-based system which is set out in the Housing Allocation Scheme.

Applicants who will receive higher priority for housing:

- People whose current housing has a serious negative impact on their health
- People who are living in severely overcrowded housing
- Other priority groups as defined in the Allocation Policy

Applicants who will be given a lower priority for housing:

- People who have not been resident within the borough for 3 years immediately prior to making an application
- People who own or jointly own accommodation in the UK or elsewhere
- People whose income or savings are of a reasonable amount to get alternative suitable accommodation
- You are a housing association tenant and have not made a transfer application to your HA directly

If your application is accepted, you will be sent a registration letter which will include:

- Number of bedrooms you have been assessed as requiring
- The waiting list your application has been registered on
- The number of points your application has been awarded
- The priority band your application has been placed in

The number of points you receive will determine your priority band for re-housing, with band A being the highest and band D being the lowest:

- Band A - 300 points or more
- Band B - 150 to 299 points
- Band C - 50 to 149 points
- Band D - 1 to 49 points

Your position within your priority band is based on the date your application was registered. You will be contacted when the council are in a position to make you an offer.

Right to a review

If your application is assessed as not eligible or not qualifying to go onto the Housing Register, you will be advised on your right to a review. The review will consider any information that you provide that supports your view that you should qualify to join the housing waiting list.

Re-housing on medical grounds

If you need re-housing on medical grounds, you should ask the Council for a Medical Assessment Form to complete and get a supporting letter from your GP. Your need to be re-housed will be assessed by the Council's medical adviser.

You may also wish to request a formal Occupational Therapy assessment to assess the extent of your functional/mobility impairment within your accommodation. You should ask the Occupational Therapist to make a re-housing recommendation to

the Council. Contact the access team in Adult Social Care on Tel No: 020 8871 7707.

Contacting the Housing Register team

Email:

housingregisterapplications@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Will I be re-housed?

You should know that the Council are unable to provide housing for everyone who applies and even those with a high priority (in bands A or B) may have to wait several years before a suitable property becomes available. If you are in bands C or D you are unlikely, in most cases, to be offered a property.

You can find more information about waiting times for Wandsworth at <https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/apply-for-housing/social-housing-application-process/housing-waiting-list-times/>

What else can I do now to find a new home?

You should now start to think about alternative rehousing options. Below are some links that might assist you with alternative rehousing options and general enquiries. Some of these options offer social or housing association tenancies.

Move out of Wandsworth

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants-and-leaseholders/council-tenants/council-tenant-re-housing-options/move-out-of-wandsworth/>

Downsize

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants-and-leaseholders/council-tenants/council-tenant-re-housing-options/downsize-your-council-home/>

Swap your home

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants-and-leaseholders/council-tenants/council-tenant-re-housing-options/swap-your-home/>

Private rented

<https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/housing/homelessness-and-temporary-accommodation/preventing-homelessness/your-housing-options/finding-a-place-to-rent/>

