

Housing Advice

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 was implemented on 3 April 2018.

The HRA 17 extends the statutory rehousing duty to include the duty to prevent homelessness and the duty to relieve homelessness. The two new duties apply to all eligible applicants regardless of intentionality and priority need.

The prevention duty applies to all eligible applicants regardless of local connection.

The Duty to Refer started on 1 October 2018. Certain named public bodies have a duty to refer users of their service who they have reason to believe are homeless or threatened with becoming homeless within 56 days, to a local authority of the service users' choice.

The specified public authorities subject to the Duty to Refer are (in England only):

- prisons
- young offender institutions
- secure training centres
- secure colleges
- youth offending teams
- probation services (including community rehabilitation companies)
- Jobcentres in England
- social service authorities (both adult and children's)
- emergency departments
- urgent treatment centres
- hospitals in their function of providing inpatient care
- Secretary of State for defence in relation to members of the regular armed forces.

Only the specified public authorities are subject to the Duty to Refer.

The Duty to Refer form should be completed and emailed to dutytorefer@harrow.gov.uk

Incomplete forms with limited information prevent a positive outcome.

For more information and a copy of the form please see

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-duty-to-refer>