

Commitment to Refer Scheme

What is the Commitment to Refer?

Since 1 October 2018, as part of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, public bodies have been bound by the Duty to Refer. This is an obligation to refer anyone to a local authority if they are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

The Act focuses on prevention and, in a significant change, anyone who is homeless or at risk of homelessness will be able to access meaningful help, regardless of their priority need status. It also encourages local collaboration to enable people to access the right support for them.

Waterloo Housing have signed up to the Commitment to Refer scheme.

What is the definition of the Commitment to Refer?

It is a voluntary commitment that a housing association will refer an individual or household to a local housing authority if they are homeless or threatened with homelessness, thereby supporting the aims of the Homelessness Reduction Act and particularly the Duty to Refer.

Who is the information shared with?

The relevant Local Authorities, including:

Ashfield District Council, Bassetlaw Borough Council, Blaby District Council, Boston Borough Council, Broxtowe Borough Council, Charnwood Borough Council, City of Lincoln Council, Derbyshire Dales District Council, East Lindsey District Council, East Northamptonshire Council, East Staffordshire Borough Council, Erewash District Council, Gedling Borough Council, Harborough District Council, Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council, Kettering Borough Council, Leicester City Council, Lichfield District Council, Melton Borough Council, Newark & Sherwood District Council, North East Derbyshire District Council, North Kesteven District Council, North West Leicestershire District Council, Oadby Borough Council, Rugby Borough Council, Rushcliffe Borough Council, Rutland County Council, South Derbyshire District Council, South Kesteven District Council and South Holland District Council.

This list is not exhaustive and is subject to change.

Please note, your information will only be shared with the relevant Local Authority as and when applicable.

What information is shared with the Local Authorities?

Name, address, contact details, amount of debt (where applicable), reasons for the risk of possible homelessness. Information shared will be kept to a minimum and will be enough to process the referral to the appropriate Local Authority.

Legal basis for sharing?

Waterloo Housing have a Legitimate Business Interest in sharing the information with the aforementioned Local Authorities where appropriate. This is because by doing so support and advice may be forthcoming to a tenant or leaseholder which is in their legitimate interest as it could remove or reduce the risk of homelessness and help maintain a tenancy or lease.