

Useful Information about finding a home with Darlington Borough Council

The information below is to provide a general overview of how our Council homes are allocated.

If you want to find out more about our allocation policy, how to apply and other general frequently asked questions please go to [Darlington BC - Finding a home or garage](#).

How does the Council assess an applicant's need for a council house?

We assess housing need using the [Housing Services Allocation policy](#).

Once people have applied and provided all the required documents, we will assess applications. Subject to checks, we consider a household's current circumstances and medical needs, where applicable, and people are placed in a band relevant to their housing need.

The bands are numbered from 1 to 4, with most applicants placed in Band 4 when they first register, which will allow people to apply for homes. If they are later found to have a higher housing priority, they may be moved to a higher priority band. [Summary of housing priority bands](#)

We operate a banding quota system for our homes, meaning that most of our homes are allocated to those in the highest housing need (band 1).

How do people get a council house once they've been put in a priority band?

Once an application has been accepted, people are then able to express an interest (bid) for properties that meet their housing needs (for example, the number of bedrooms in the property).

Once the advertising period ends, this normally lasts around a week, Housing Officers will then look at the shortlist of people that have applied.

How does the Council decide who gets a council house once people have bid on a property?

Households that have been in the banding the property was advertised for, for the longest, will be at the top of the list. Housing Officers will then assess whether the property fully meets their needs, look at the individual circumstances, check references and if all checks are completed successfully, an offer will be made.

The only exception to this is veterans, who will be automatically placed at the top of the list, as long as they are in the banding the property was advertised for.

Do people have to be local to get a Council home?

No, but people with a local connection will always get a priority over those who don't, unless they are a veteran, a domestic abuse survivor or have previously been in local authority care, as a child.

Do veterans get priority for council housing?

Yes. Veterans will be automatically placed at the top of the list for a home they bid on, as long as they are in the banding the property was advertised for.

Do asylum seekers get Council homes?

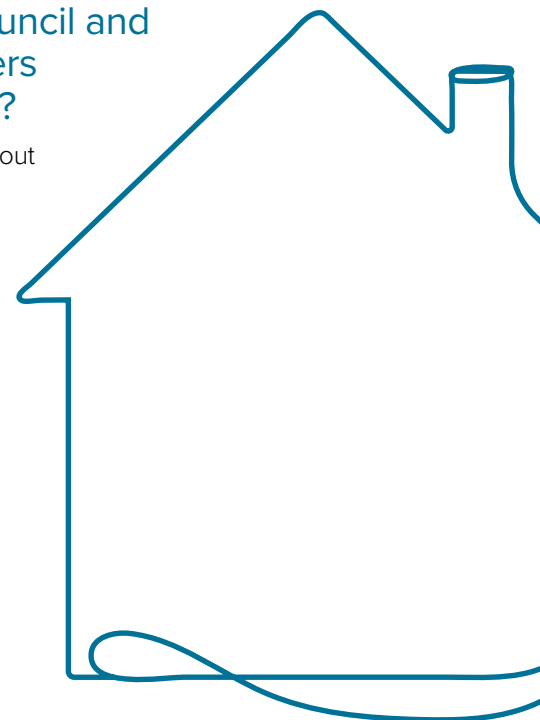
No. Asylum seekers are housed by the Home Office.

Does the Council house illegal immigrants?

No. People living here illegally can't be housed by the Council.

Where can I find information about the Council and asylum seekers and refugees?

More information about asylum seekers and refugees can be found on our website [here](#).



DARLINGTON
Borough Council

