

April 2005

# Medical Priority



**SHETTLESTON  
HOUSING  
ASSOCIATION**



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# Medical Priority

## What is considered Medical Need?

The Association recognises that applicants who have a medical condition may require to move to accommodation more suitable to their needs.

The Medical List is open to all applicants who have a medical need. Having a health or medical problem will not in itself guarantee an award of Medical Priority. The key principle in determining access to this list is not the applicant's health condition in itself but whether rehousing the applicant will significantly alleviate the medical condition.

## How do I apply for Medical Priority?

On the main application form there will be a question asking if you have to move due to medical reasons. If you indicate that there is a medical need, a medical self-assessment form will be sent to you for completion. A list of non-eligible medical conditions will also be enclosed with this form.

If your medical condition falls within the list of non-eligible conditions then your application will not normally be considered for a medical award.

If an applicant is not in receipt of a qualifying benefit e.g. Disability Living Allowance, Attendance Allowance, we may require an applicant to arrange for a medical practitioner to complete a separate questionnaire. It is important that applicants recognise that in some instances their doctor may charge for this service.

## **How will my application be assessed?**

On receipt of your application, the Association will refer to the HMSO Publication “The Disability Handbook”. For all applicants eligible for assessment for the medical list, the Association will write to you to arrange a home visit.

At the home visit, Association staff will discuss in more detail how your present home is adversely affecting your health condition. Confirmation will be required if an applicant is in receipt of a qualifying benefit such as Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or Attendance Allowance.

There will be two different levels of Medical Priority, High Level and Low Level.

### **High Level**

If an applicant is offered a High Level of Medical Priority then they will be offered a ground floor property only with limited external stairs and no internal stairs.

### **Low Level**

If an applicant is offered a Low Level of Medical Priority then they will be offered a property at a maximum of first floor height and this accommodation will normally be on the one level. A property with internal stairs will only be offered where both the ground and first floors have toilet facilities.

The Stock Profile leaflet details a list of all medically suited stock, broken down into ground and first floor properties across the Association’s Stock. For further details of where the medically suited properties are, you should refer to this leaflet.

Your Medical Application will be assessed by Allocations staff and authorised by the Senior Housing Officer.

## **If I refuse an offer, what will happen?**

Applicants are entitled to three offers of medically suited properties within their chosen locations. If a second offer is refused, applicants will be offered an interview to discuss in detail their rehousing requirements to try and ensure we can endeavour to meet the applicant’s choice.

If the third offer, is however refused, applicants will be placed on the 'non active' list for a period of 12 months.

## **If I wish to appeal a decision, what will happen?**

Applications will be assessed and processed in accordance with the Allocations Policy. If an applicant is dissatisfied with the decision made, they should in the first instance, discuss the matter with the Allocation Officer or Housing Officer. If you remain dissatisfied you can arrange an Interview with the Housing Manager to discuss in detail your application.

The next formal process is following the complaints procedure of the Association.

*This document can be made available on request in a range of languages. It can also be produced on tape, Braille or large print for anyone who has difficulty with their sight. Please ask at our office.*



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## **SHETTLESTON HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

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