Numbers currently waiting

Applying for council housing for health or medical reasons
A guide to the medical assessment process

In Islington, as in most London boroughs, demand for housing is far greater than available accommodation; even when someone does qualify for housing, they usually wait for many years before they get a property.

Over 6,000 tenants are waiting for a transfer

19,000+

Over 19,000 households in total are on the housing register!

6,000+

Between April 2014 and March 2015, we let 1200 properties in total. This means we were only able to rehouse approximately 6% of households on the housing register.

Many customers have told us that if they had realised how long the wait for housing would be, they would have been more willing to consider other options, such as a mutual exchange. To find out what housing options are available to you please look at our website: **www.islington.gov.uk/ findingahome**

If you would like this document in large print or Braille, audiotape or in another language, please contact 020 7527 2000.

✉ **Housing Options Team**
   Islington Customer Centre,
   222 Upper Street, London, N1 1XR

@ rehousing@islington.gov.uk

☎ 020 7527 4140

📠 020 7527 4136
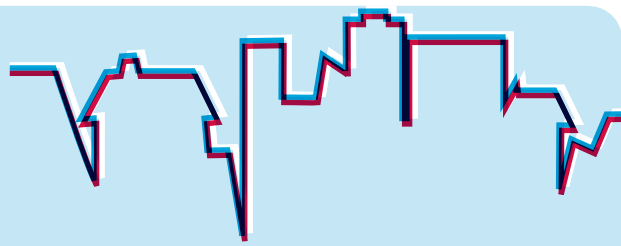
📞 0800 073 0536

🖥 www.islington.gov.uk

How to apply

If you would like the council to consider your medical condition when assessing your housing application, you should complete a medical assessment form. You can download a form at: **www.islington.gov.uk/publicrecords/library/Housing/Information/Forms/2013-2014/(2014-03-04)-Medical-Assessment-Form.pdf** or phone **020 7527 4140**.

What about a letter from my GP?

Please don't ask your GP for a supporting letter. This will not help your application. If we need more information from your GP we will contact him or her directly. When we do this, we ask them to fill in a standard form to ensure all the information we need is given to support your application.

What about my medical records?

We don't need your medical records when you apply. However, if you want you can submit a summary of your GP record which lists your major health problems. You can usually ask for a copy at your GP practice reception. This is optional but can be helpful.

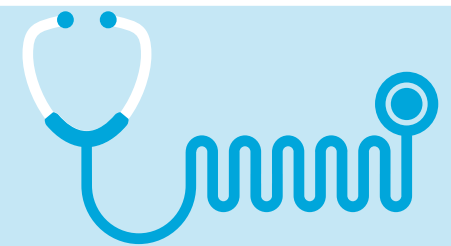### What impact will my condition have?

Having a serious illness or disability in itself is unlikely to result in additional priority or medical points.

We need you to explain how your illness or disability is made worse by your housing conditions, and why these housing conditions can't be remedied.

What happens after I've sent in the form?

The council will assess all the information on your form, so please ensure you include everything you feel is important. We aim to do this assessment within six weeks.

We will write to you to tell you the outcome of the assessment.

What could delay the assessment?

If we need more information we may contact your doctor or other health provider.

We may also ask an occupational therapist to assess how you manage in your current home and whether you need any adaptations.

What is considered in the assessment?

Additional priority or medical points are awarded only if your medical condition is made worse by your accommodation and we are sure that problems with your current home cannot be resolved. For example, problems with damp, disrepair or lift failure should usually be reported to your landlord and remedied.

What about my lift, or overcrowding? I need a second bedroom?

Most medical conditions are considered to be manageable in accommodation with a lift.

Overcrowding points are awarded separately to reflect the difficulties you are experiencing because your home is too small. Only rarely, where severe medical problems are involved, will overcrowding attract additional priority or medical points.

We only award extra bedrooms in exceptional circumstances – and on the advice of a health professional. An extra bedroom for a carer will only be recommended if you need on going, regular, night time care.

Where can I get help to complete the form, or ask other questions?

If you require any help, or have any other questions, please call the **Housing Options Team** on **020 7527 4140**.