

Temporary Accommodation in Edinburgh

Who should get temporary accommodation?

Temporary accommodation should be offered to anyone who makes a homeless application with the Council. Temporary accommodation should be provided while the Council investigates your homeless application. You do not need to accept the offer of temporary accommodation if you prefer to stay somewhere else. This will not affect your homeless application.

If you receive an “Unintentionally Homeless” decision, you can stay in temporary accommodation until the Council makes you one offer of permanent accommodation.

How long will I be in temporary accommodation?

There is currently a housing emergency in Edinburgh, which means that there aren't enough social homes for everyone who needs one. Depending on how many people are in your household, you may wait approximately two to five years before being offered permanent accommodation. There is unfortunately no way to make this process go faster.

It is important to bid on EdIndex three times per week while you wait for permanent accommodation. Only bid on offers that you would be willing to accept. The fewer areas you're willing to bid for, the longer your wait will be. If you have further questions about EdIndex, you can ask your housing officer.

You can also have a look at the website: [Home - EdIndex](#).

What makes temporary accommodation unsuitable?

There are Scottish housing laws that define what kind of temporary accommodation is suitable or not.

According to the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2014, suitable temporary accommodation:

- is usable 24 hours a day
- has a proper private bathroom that you can access
- is in the council area, unless you agree to stay elsewhere
- is suitable for your children to visit if they do not live with you permanently
- has enough bedrooms for the size of your household, taking into account who can share a room
- has proper cooking facilities and a living room that you can use, but this can be shared amongst other households

The Council is allowed to place you in unsuitable housing for seven days after you first present as homeless. This unsuitable housing could be accommodation such as a hotel, a hostel, or a bed and breakfast. In most cases, after seven days, the Council has a duty to provide you with accommodation that matches the definition above.



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How can I challenge unsuitable temporary accommodation?

If the Council has placed you in temporary accommodation that is unsuitable, and you have been there for over seven days, then in most cases, they have a duty to offer suitable temporary accommodation.

If they do not do this, you can ask them for suitable temporary accommodation.



You can use the template letter found here: [Challenging unsuitable temporary accommodation - Shelter Scotland.](#)

Once you have edited the letter to match your personal circumstance, the email can be sent to homeless.support@edinburgh.gov.uk.

You can also make a complaint: [Comments and complaints - The City of Edinburgh Council.](#)



Contacting a Solicitor

If the Council does not respond to you within three working days, the next step would be to contact a solicitor. You can use the following information to find a solicitor who may be able to help you challenge the unsuitable temporary accommodation.

Civil Legal Assistance Office (CLAO)

CLAO can be contacted on 0131 240 1960 or by email at Edinburgh@clao.org.uk.

Before taking on your case, CLAO would check to see whether you are eligible for legal aid funding.

Unfortunately, CLAO receive a lot of referrals and so cannot assist everyone who contacts their service.

Scottish Legal Aid Board (SLAB)

www.slab.org.uk

or Tel: 0131 226 7061 (open Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm)

SLAB has a 'Find a Solicitor' function on their website and information regarding legal aid: <https://www.slab.org.uk/new-to-legal-aid/find-a-solicitor/>

You can check whether you might be eligible for legal advice and assistance and/or civil legal aid by using the 'Eligibility Estimators':

<https://www.slab.org.uk/new-to-legal-aid/eligibility-estimators/>