

Re-housing on Medical Grounds

Information Leaflet

Dumfries and Galloway Common Housing Register



Available for translation into community languages, large print and format
such as Braille on request

You should only apply for a medical housing assessment if you, or a member of your household, have a health issue or a disability that affects your ability to carry out everyday living activities in your home. You need to have already registered a Homes4D&G Common Housing Register (CHR) application for housing, before we can assess your medical form.

The focus of the medical housing assessment is not on the health condition itself, but on the way it affects how the person manages in their home. The person may have been diagnosed with a serious illness or condition, but may already live and manage independently in their current home.

How do I apply for a Medical Housing Assessment?

You need to complete a Re-housing on Medical Grounds Assessment form. These forms are available from your local housing office or alternatively you can download an application form from our website (details of partner offices and our website address are at the back of the assessment form).

What should I do if more than one person in the household has a medical condition?

A separate assessment form should be completed for each person requiring consideration in the household. All applications will be considered, but only one medical assessment award will be given to the household, which will be based on the assessment of the person with the highest needs.

Can I get assistance to complete the form?

Yes, you can ask a member of staff at your local housing office to help you or you can ask a friend or relative to assist. If someone else helps you to complete the application form, and you wish this person to represent you, please make sure their details are included at the end of the form.

Do I need a letter from my doctor?

No, you do not need a letter of support from your doctor to apply. However if you wish to include supporting information from a registered health professional relating to your health, medical or disability circumstances then you can enclose a copy with your application.

If you reside out-with Dumfries & Galloway or are registered with a General Practitioner out-with D&G and we require further information, we may require you to contact your GP for information.

Who will carry out the assessment?

Our CHR Registration staff will make an assessment of your housing needs on behalf of the following partners:

- Dumfries & Galloway Housing Partnership
- Home Scotland
- Irvine Housing Association
- Cunninghame Housing Association

What will happen during the assessment?

We will assess your application within 28 working days. Someone may contact you or your representative to discuss your circumstances in more detail.

This may be carried out by telephone, or a home visit may be required. In the course of a home visit you may be asked to show how your current home is affecting your health or disability. For example climbing steps or stairs or accessing toilet facilities. We may discuss adaptations that may be carried out to your current home to make it more suitable for your needs. Additionally, we will discuss any specific housing requests that you may have, for example, supported accommodation for older people.

What points can I be awarded?

There are three levels of points that can be awarded. These are:

- **75 points (Maximum) – Category A**

Where the person has extremely serious health or mobility difficulties (for example, where they cannot leave the house because of disability or illness), and their current home is completely unsuitable and they need to be re-housed as a matter of urgency.

To remain in the current home will increase risk of health deterioration. Re- Housing according to recommendations will reduce risk factors associated with the current home to an acceptable level and support functional independence and well- being.

- **50 points (Medium) – Category B**

Where the person has a serious health or mobility difficulty and their present home seriously affects daily activity. For example, getting up and downstairs is impossible and it is not practical to adapt their home, and their current home is unsuitable and re-housing would alleviate their health or mobility difficulties and/or improve their quality of life.

Rehousing will reduce risk to health, reduce difficulties and promote independence and well- being.

- **25 points (Low) – Category C**

Where the person has less serious health or mobility difficulties but their present home hinders daily activity. For example, getting up and downstairs is hard to manage and it is not practical to adapt their home, and rehousing would alleviate his/her health or mobility problems and/or improve their quality of life.

Rehousing according to Homes4D&G recommendations would support functional independence and/ or well- being.

What circumstances are unlikely to be awarded any points?

- You have a temporary condition which is expected to return to normal within 12 months, for example if you are recovering from an operation or an injury, or if you are pregnant.
- You have difficulty accessing your property with a pram
- You have difficulty looking after your garden
- You have a health condition that does not affect your ability to carry out everyday living activities in your current accommodation.

The Re-housing on Medical Grounds assessment does not consider if:

- You are overcrowded, or living with relatives;
- You are under-occupying your home (if you have unused bedrooms);
- Your home needs to be repaired or upgraded;
- You are suffering from anti-social behaviour;
- You are being harassed by, or are having problems with, your neighbours;

We consider these needs elsewhere in our housing allocation policy.

What if my circumstances change?

If your circumstances change you should tell us as soon as possible. If your health condition or disability has worsened then you may be asked to complete a new assessment form. If your condition has improved or your property has been adapted to meet your needs, your housing situation may be re-assessed and any medical housing points you were initially awarded will be reviewed.

Review

A periodic review of assessments may be undertaken. At this point your medical housing points may change. If this happens we will advise you of the reasons for this, and if you are unhappy with the outcome you will be able to appeal.

Can I re-apply?

You should not re-apply for assessment unless your circumstances have changed or your health or disability has worsened.

How do I appeal?

If you are unhappy with the outcome of the medical assessment you can appeal in writing within 28 days of the date of the decision letter. Please address any appeal to:-

CHR Manager
Homes4D&G
Freepost – RTHU-YASL-XCJC
DG12 6AJ