Lambeth Council's Revised Allocation Policy FAQs

What is changing?

- 1. Band Adjustments:
 - Households in Temporary Accommodation will be moved from Band C1 to Band B
 - Removal of Band D
- 2. Offer Limitations:
 - One offer for homeless households, two for other households.
- 3. Waiting Time Criteria:
 - Change waiting time calculation from time of application to time spent in Band.
- 4. Annual Login Requirement:
 - Applicants to log in annually to keep accounts active.

Proposed housing allocation policy changes timeline 2024/25



Why are the changes necessary?

These changes are a response to the ever-changing housing landscape and the feedback we've received from the community. By adjusting our allocation scheme, we aim to make the system fairer and more efficient ensuring that social housing is allocated to those who need it most. This approach also helps us to manage the financial impact of providing temporary accommodation.

Why is Band D being removed?

In Lambeth, like many London boroughs, demand for social housing greatly exceeds the supply. Band D applicants, who are considered adequately housed, have very little to no chance of being allocated social housing under the current pressures. The removal of Band D will mean we are not giving hope to those who are very unlikely be shortlisted for social housing.

Will people in Temporary Accommodation who have been moved to Band B have their time on the list reset to zero?

No, the "time on the list" for people in temporary accommodation will be taken from the time they made their homeless application.

What do I need to do?

- All applicants need to log in to your account annually to keep it active and update any
 changes to your circumstances. You will be notified when your account has been inactive for
 11 months, prompting you to sign in to keep your application active.
- All other changes will occur without you needing to do anything.

Are there any exemptions?

- Care leavers and under occupiers will not be subject to a limited number of offers.
- Those with certain medical conditions, care leavers and those in temporary accommodation will not be required to log in annually to keep their accounts active.

Did you hold a public consultation?

Yes. A consultation on the proposed changes to the allocations policy was launched on 12 October 2023, initially for a six-week period which was extended until 19 January 2024 in response to community demand. There was an excellent response to the survey with 2,000 participants. The full results of the consultation are published <u>here</u>.