



Housing Act 1996

1996 CHAPTER 52

PART VII

HOMELESSNESS^[F1]: ENGLAND]

Supplementary provisions

[F1]213A Co-operation in certain cases involving children

- (1) This section applies where a local housing authority have reason to believe that an applicant with whom a person under the age of 18 normally resides, or might reasonably be expected to reside—
 - (a) may be ineligible for assistance; ^[F2]or
 - (b) may be homeless and may have become so intentionally; ^{F3}...
 - ^{F3}(c)
- (2) A local housing authority shall make arrangements for ensuring that, where this section applies—
 - (a) the applicant is invited to consent to the referral of the essential facts of his case to the social services authority for the district of the housing authority (where that is a different authority); and
 - (b) if the applicant has given that consent, the social services authority are made aware of those facts and of the subsequent decision of the housing authority in respect of his case.
- (3) Where the local housing authority and the social services authority for a district are the same authority (a “unitary authority”), that authority shall make arrangements for ensuring that, where this section applies—
 - (a) the applicant is invited to consent to the referral to the social services department of the essential facts of his case; and
 - (b) if the applicant has given that consent, the social services department is made aware of those facts and of the subsequent decision of the authority in respect of his case.

Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1996, Section 213A is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 30 July 2024. There are changes that may be brought into force at a future date. Changes that have been made appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

- (4) Nothing in subsection (2) or (3) affects any power apart from this section to disclose information relating to the applicant’s case to the social services authority or to the social services department (as the case may be) without the consent of the applicant.
- (5) Where a social services authority—
- (a) are aware of a decision of a local housing authority that the applicant is ineligible for [^{F4}assistance or became homeless intentionally], and
 - (b) request the local housing authority to provide them with advice and assistance in the exercise of their social services functions under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 [^{F5}or Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014], the local housing authority shall provide them with such advice and assistance as is reasonable in the circumstances.
- (6) A unitary authority shall make arrangements for ensuring that, where they make a decision of a kind mentioned in subsection (5)(a), the housing department provide the social services department with such advice and assistance as the social services department may reasonably request.
- (7) In this section, in relation to a unitary authority—
- “the housing department” means those persons responsible for the exercise of their housing functions; and
- “the social services department” means those persons responsible for the exercise of their social services functions under Part 3 of the Children Act 1989 [^{F6}or Part 6 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014].]

Textual Amendments

- F1** S. 213A inserted (30.9.2002 for W. and 1.10.2002 for E.) by 2002 c. 7, s. 12 (with s. 20(4)); S.I. 2002/1736, art. 2(1), Sch. 1 Pt. 1; S.I. 2002/1799, art. 3
- F2** Word in s. 213A(1)(a) inserted (3.4.2018) by Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (c. 13), ss. 4(7)(a)(i), 13(3); S.I. 2018/167, reg. 3(d) (with reg. 4(1))
- F3** S. 213A(1)(c) omitted (3.4.2018) by virtue of Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (c. 13), ss. 4(7)(a)(ii), 13(3); S.I. 2018/167, reg. 3(d) (with reg. 4(1))
- F4** Words in s. 213A(5)(a) substituted (3.4.2018) by Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 (c. 13), ss. 4(7)(b), 13(3); S.I. 2018/167, reg. 3(d) (with reg. 4(1))
- F5** Words in s. 213A(5)(b) inserted (6.4.2016) by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/413), regs. 2(1), 150(a)
- F6** Words in s. 213A(7) inserted (6.4.2016) by The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 (Consequential Amendments) Regulations 2016 (S.I. 2016/413), regs. 2(1), 150(b)

Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- specified provision(s) savings for amendments by 2018 anaw 1, s. 6, Sch. 6 by [S.I. 2019/110 reg. 5](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Act associated Parts and Chapters:

- Act savings and transitional provisions for amendments by S.I. 2022/1166 by [S.I. 2022/1172 Regulations](#)

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Act (including any effects on those provisions):

- s. 124(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 20\(2\)](#)
- s. 124(6) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 20\(6\)](#)
- s. 124A124B inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 21](#)
- s. 125A(3A)(3B) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 22\(3\)](#)
- s. 130A inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 7](#)
- s. 133(1A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 9\(2\)](#)
- s. 143J(3A) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 13\(2\)](#)
- s. 143J(7)(a) words omitted by [S.I. 2022/1166 reg. 25\(11\)\(b\)](#) (This amendment comes into force immediately after 2016 c. 22, s. 120 and Sch. 8 para. 13(3) come into force)
- s. 143GA143GB inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 8 para. 10](#)
- s. 143MA(3A)-(3D) inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 27\(3\)](#)
- s. 143MB inserted by [2016 c. 22 Sch. 7 para. 28](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A(1A) inserted by [2024 c. 22 Sch. 13 para. 6\(3\)](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 10A(6) inserted by [2024 c. 22 Sch. 13 para. 6\(6\)](#)