



Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977

1977 CHAPTER 48

Homelessness and threatened homelessness

2 Priority need for accommodation

- (1) For the purposes of this Act a homeless person or a person threatened with homelessness has a priority need for accommodation when the housing authority are satisfied that he is within one of the following categories:—
 - (a) he has dependent children who are residing with him or who might reasonably be expected to reside with him;
 - (b) he is homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of any emergency such as flood, fire or any other disaster;
 - (c) he or any person who resides or might reasonably be expected to reside with him is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reason.
- (2) For the purposes of this Act a homeless person or a person threatened with homelessness who is a pregnant woman or resides or might reasonably be expected to reside with a pregnant woman has a priority need for accommodation.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by order, made after appropriate consultations,—
 - (a) specify further categories of persons as having a priority need for accommodation, and
 - (b) amend or repeal any part of subsection (1) or (2) above.
- (4) No order under subsection (3) above shall be made unless a draft of the order has been approved by resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) Any reference in this Act to a person having a priority need is a reference to his having a priority need for accommodation within the meaning of this section or any order for the time being in force under subsection (3) above.