



# Housing Act 1996

## 1996 CHAPTER 52

### PART VII

#### HOMELESSNESS

##### *General functions in relation to homelessness or threatened homelessness*

#### **179 Duty of local housing authority to provide advisory services.**

- (1) Every local housing authority shall secure that advice and information about homelessness, and the prevention of homelessness, is available free of charge to any person in their district.
- (2) The authority may give to any person by whom such advice and information is provided on behalf of the authority assistance by way of grant or loan.
- (3) A local housing authority may also assist any such person—
  - (a) by permitting him to use premises belonging to the authority,
  - (b) by making available furniture or other goods, whether by way of gift, loan or otherwise, and
  - (c) by making available the services of staff employed by the authority.

#### **180 Assistance for voluntary organisations.**

- (1) The Secretary of State or a local housing authority may give assistance by way of grant or loan to voluntary organisations concerned with homelessness or matters relating to homelessness.
- (2) A local housing authority may also assist any such organisation—
  - (a) by permitting them to use premises belonging to the authority,
  - (b) by making available furniture or other goods, whether by way of gift, loan or otherwise, and
  - (c) by making available the services of staff employed by the authority.

*Status: Point in time view as at 01/11/2001.*

*Changes to legislation: Housing Act 1996, Cross Heading: General functions in relation to homelessness or threatened homelessness is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 August 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)*

- (3) A “voluntary organisation” means a body (other than a public or local authority) whose activities are not carried on for profit.

### **181 Terms and conditions of assistance.**

- (1) This section has effect as to the terms and conditions on which assistance is given under section 179 or 180.
- (2) Assistance shall be on such terms, and subject to such conditions, as the person giving the assistance may determine.
- (3) No assistance shall be given unless the person to whom it is given undertakes—
- (a) to use the money, furniture or other goods or premises for a specified purpose, and
  - (b) to provide such information as may reasonably be required as to the manner in which the assistance is being used.

The person giving the assistance may require such information by notice in writing, which shall be complied with within 21 days beginning with the date on which the notice is served.

- (4) The conditions subject to which assistance is given shall in all cases include conditions requiring the person to whom the assistance is given—
- (a) to keep proper books of account and have them audited in such manner as may be specified,
  - (b) to keep records indicating how he has used the money, furniture or other goods or premises, and
  - (c) to submit the books of account and records for inspection by the person giving the assistance.
- (5) If it appears to the person giving the assistance that the person to whom it was given has failed to carry out his undertaking as to the purpose for which the assistance was to be used, he shall take all reasonable steps to recover from that person an amount equal to the amount of the assistance.
- (6) He must first serve on the person to whom the assistance was given a notice specifying the amount which in his opinion is recoverable and the basis on which that amount has been calculated.

### **182 Guidance by the Secretary of State.**

- (1) In the exercise of their functions relating to homelessness and the prevention of homelessness, a local housing authority or social services authority shall have regard to such guidance as may from time to time be given by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The Secretary of State may give guidance either generally or to specified descriptions of authorities.

**Status:**

Point in time view as at 01/11/2001.

**Changes to legislation:**

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