

---

*Changes to legislation: Equality Act 2010, Cross Heading: Communal accommodation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 June 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*

---

## SCHEDULES

### SCHEDULE 23

#### GENERAL EXCEPTIONS

##### *Communal accommodation*

- 3 (1) A person does not contravene this Act, so far as relating to sex discrimination or gender reassignment discrimination, only because of anything done in relation to—
- (a) the admission of persons to communal accommodation;
  - (b) the provision of a benefit, facility or service linked to the accommodation.
- (2) Sub-paragraph (1)(a) does not apply unless the accommodation is managed in a way which is as fair as possible to both men and women.
- (3) In applying sub-paragraph (1)(a), account must be taken of—
- (a) whether and how far it is reasonable to expect that the accommodation should be altered or extended or that further accommodation should be provided, and
  - (b) the frequency of the demand or need for use of the accommodation by persons of one sex as compared with those of the other.
- (4) In applying sub-paragraph (1)(a) in relation to gender reassignment, account must also be taken of whether and how far the conduct in question is a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim.
- (5) Communal accommodation is residential accommodation which includes dormitories or other shared sleeping accommodation which for reasons of privacy should be used only by persons of the same sex.
- (6) Communal accommodation may include—
- (a) shared sleeping accommodation for men and for women;
  - (b) ordinary sleeping accommodation;
  - (c) residential accommodation all or part of which should be used only by persons of the same sex because of the nature of the sanitary facilities serving the accommodation.
- (7) A benefit, facility or service is linked to communal accommodation if—
- (a) it cannot properly and effectively be provided except for those using the accommodation, and
  - (b) a person could be refused use of the accommodation in reliance on sub-paragraph (1)(a).
- (8) This paragraph does not apply for the purposes of Part 5 (work) unless such arrangements as are reasonably practicable are made to compensate for—
- (a) in a case where sub-paragraph (1)(a) applies, the refusal of use of the accommodation;

*Changes to legislation: Equality Act 2010, Cross Heading: Communal accommodation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 June 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*

- (b) in a case where sub-paragraph (1)(b) applies, the refusal of provision of the benefit, facility or service.

**Commencement Information**

- II** Sch. 23 para. 3 wholly in force at 1.10.2012; Sch. 23 not in force at Royal Assent see s. 216; Sch. 23 in force for certain purposes at 1.10.2010 by S.I. 2010/2317, art. 2(14)(e) (with art. 15); Sch. 23 in force for remaining purposes at 1.10.2012 by S.I. 2012/1569, art. 3(g)

**Changes to legislation:**

Equality Act 2010, Cross Heading: Communal accommodation is up to date with all changes known to be in force on or before 26 June 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.

[View outstanding changes](#)

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

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

- s. 40A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 1](#)
- s. 120(9) inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 2\(b\)](#)
- s. 124A inserted by [2023 c. 51 s. 3](#)