

Wider Grenfell Rehousing Policy

For tenants of Barandon Walk, Hurstway Walk, Testerton Walk, Treadgold House and Bramley House

The Council is introducing a rehousing policy for Council tenants who do not feel able to remain in, or return to, their home in the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House. The policy will award a high priority to these tenants for a move to another Council or housing association home.

The rehousing policy forms part of the Council's commitment to you, the residents of the wider Grenfell area following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower.

Who does the Wider Grenfell Priority apply to?

'Wider Grenfell Priority', will be given to tenants who, prior to the tragedy, were living at the following blocks as their main home:

- the Walkways (Barandon Walk, Hurstway Walk, Testerton Walk)
- Treadgold House
- Bramley House

To qualify for the priority, you must be either:

- a Kensington and Chelsea Council tenant; or
- a household placed by the Council in temporary accommodation in the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House at the time of the tragedy.

What priority will I be given?

You will be awarded 900 points for rehousing through the Council's Housing Register. This is a high priority equal to those on the Housing Register with health and independence ('medical') priority.

This is known as 'Wider Grenfell Priority'.

These 900 points reflect the fact that some tenants feel unable to remain in or return to their home due to the ongoing impact of the Grenfell tragedy.

If you are given 'Wider Grenfell Priority' you can also combine your points with either or both of the following priorities if appropriate:

i. Supporting health and independence (900 points)

Supporting health and independence points are given to households where, in their current home, a disability or long-term health condition has a substantial impact on the independence of a member of the family.

We will consider whether the family member is unable to access essential facilities, AND whether a move to a more suitable property would improve their independence.

Priority is not awarded simply because a member of the family has ill-health.

Usually, tenants or family members will have to show that their medical conditions existed before the tragedy; however, we will consider significant health problems that have developed after the tragedy.

ii. Overcrowding priority (200 points)

Overcrowding priority is given if a family needs two or more bedrooms in their new home (section 4.2 of the Wider Grenfell Rehousing Policy explains how we work out the number of bedrooms you need).

If we are asked to assess supporting health and independence or overcrowding points, we will consider where the family is actually living: at home in the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House, or in temporary housing.

What happens if I have the same priority as another tenant?

If two or more tenants with the same number of points are interested in the same property, the property will be offered first to the tenant with the earliest 'priority date'.

A priority date is worked out in the following ways.

If you are a Council tenant the priority date will be the date you first moved to into the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House.

If you were placed by the Council in temporary accommodation in the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House, your priority date will be the date of your homelessness application.

If I'm living in a hotel can I be awarded 'Wider Grenfell Priority'?

'Wider Grenfell Priority' will only be granted to tenants living in self-contained temporary accommodation provided by the Council, or those living at home in the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House.

Usually, priority will not be awarded to you if you are living in hotel accommodation or serviced apartments. However, we can review this on a case-by-case basis; for example, if it has not been possible to offer you self-contained accommodation where you do not feel able to return home.

Will I be rehoused to a suitable alternative property?

You will be offered properties with the same number of bedrooms as your home on the estate, unless you are overcrowded when you will be offered a suitable larger home. If you are living in a house larger than you need and wish to move to a smaller property, you will be given the opportunity to do so if you wish.

We will ensure that properties meet your household's health and mobility requirements.

In the coming weeks, we will be speaking to all tenants who wish to be rehoused to agree together the type of property we believe will be suitable.

How does the rehousing process work?

You can express interest in properties advertised on Home Connections, the Council's online Choice Based Lettings system (www.homeconnections.org.uk). This will be the main Home Connections site – there will not be a separate Home Connections site similar to that created for the survivors of the tragedy and former Grenfell Walk residents.

If you feel you might struggle with the online system, please let us know. We can make sure you receive details of properties and can express an interest in a property on your behalf, as long as the property is considered to be suitable.

How many suitable offers will I receive?

You can receive up to two suitable offers of accommodation. An offer can either be a successful expression of interest or a suitable match with an available property.

What happens if I turn down two suitable offers?

If you refuse two suitable offers without good reason, we will amend your priority date to the date of the last suitable offer. You will keep the same number of points.

You can seek a review (carried out by the Council) of the suitability of each of the offers. If those reviews are not successful you will have the right to appeal to an adjudicator independent of the Council.

What tenancy will I be offered and what rent will I pay?

If you are rehoused to a Council property you will be granted a lifetime tenancy, and will pay the rent and service charges for that property (i.e. your previous rent and service charges will not be protected).

If you are rehoused to a housing association property, you will pay the new landlord's tenancy, rent and service charges.

Does the 'Wider Grenfell Policy' apply to leaseholders, newly formed households, private sector tenants and lodgers?

If you fall into one of these groups, you cannot apply for 'Wider Grenfell Priority' and will be offered housing advice and support, and alternative arrangements.

The Housing Department will contact you if you are living in hotel or temporary accommodation.

How do I apply for Wider Grenfell Rehousing Priority?

You will be able to express an interest in available Council and housing association properties advertised on the Home Connections website from Monday **12 March 2018**.

Over the next few weeks, we will give you the chance to apply for 'Wider Grenfell Priority'. It is hoped that all those who wish to apply will have been registered by this date and will be able to express an interest in advertised properties.

If you wish to apply you will need to complete an application form. Application forms will be available from the Council upon request, at the Lancaster West Estate Office in the Baseline Studios, and online at <https://grenfellsupport.org.uk/housing/>.

If you wish to be registered ready for **Monday 12 March**, you should return your completed application form by **Tuesday 6 March** to the following address.

Housing Department
Kensington and Chelsea Council
Town Hall
Hornton Street
London W8 7NX

Once you have applied we will contact you with details of how to log into the Home Connections website, and with further advice about expressing an interest in advertised properties.

There is no deadline for applying for Wider Grenfell Priority. You do not have to apply by Tuesday 6 March. You can apply and start to use Home Connections at a later date.

What else do I need to know about the 'Wider Grenfell Priority'?

In the weeks after Monday 12 March, we will arrange to meet everyone who has applied for 'Wider Grenfell Priority'. At this meeting, we will ask you to provide certain documents in support of your application (for example proof of ID for all household members) and discuss and agree with you the meaning of a 'suitable property'.