

Guidance for reporting rough sleepers accommodated under a S189 power on H-CLIC

Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has recently requested that data on rough sleepers temporarily accommodated under a Housing Act power be reported on homelessness case level collection (H-CLIC). This document helps local authorities understand why, who should be reported, how and what are the long term expectations for this group.

Summary

Why – MHCLG wish to know more information about the characteristics of the rough sleepers accommodated, where they are housed, for how long and where they are 'moved on' to in the longer term.

Who – any rough sleeper who is eligible for HA96 Part 7 assistance but is not owed the S188 interim accommodation duty. This would be cases where there was no reason to believe that the applicant may have priority need and/or if no duty was owed because there had been no relevant change in circumstance since a previously accepted relief duty ended.

How – Accommodation provided under a power should be included and reported as provided under 'interim duties.' Guidance has been provided to software providers and validations for temporary accommodation duties have been relaxed. More information is available under How to record temporary accommodation provided under a HA 96 power

Over what time period should this data be provided?

This is a change we wish to make from the January to March 2020 collection onwards. Revisions to previous quarters are not required. The January to March 2020 collection will be open until the end of May 2020 for you to provide or amend this additional data. This is not a one-off change and we anticipate this data will be collected in future quarters.

What are the long-term expectations?

Any eligible rough sleeper accommodated temporarily under a power will have their outcomes tracked following their temporary accommodation stay in H-CLIC. Their reported characteristics will help build a picture of who has been moved off the streets and used to help track the long-term health, justice and housing outcomes of this group.

More information

H-CLIC background

H-CLIC replaced the P1E as the method that local authorities should provide updates on their activities undertaken under their statutory homelessness responsibilities from April 2018. The purpose of H-CLIC is to record the households that approach local authorities for assistance under the Housing Act 96 as amended by the HRA and the help they receive. This includes any temporary accommodation provided to households under interim duties, but it was not intended to capture where temporary accommodation was provided under HA 96 discretionary powers.

Improving data reporting on services to rough sleepers

Since the introduction of the HRA and H-CLIC in April 2018, a number of initiatives have been introduced to reduce the number of rough sleepers on the streets. There is very little wider information known about the characteristics of this group and their long-term outcomes. MHCLG are keen to understand how many rough sleepers are being helped off the streets, their support needs and their outcomes, including how many are offered settled housing when moving out of temporary accommodation.

We are aware that in a very limited number of cases local authorities might use HA 96 powers to secure temporary accommodation for rough sleepers who are not owed an interim accommodation duty, and that there will have been an increased use of discretionary powers to bring 'Everyone IN' due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To ensure that local authorities are able to accurately report on these cases, we are amending HCLIC guidance as set out above. This will ensure that local authorities are able to record their full response to homelessness and rough sleeping, including their use of temporary accommodation and outcome achieved.

Which rough sleepers should be recorded?

All cases where a HA 96 (part 7) homelessness duty is triggered should be included in HCLIC returns, whether or not accommodation is provided. In the limited number of cases where a local authority provides temporary accommodation as part of their S189 relief duty, using the power to secure temporary accommodation as a 'reasonable step' this can now be recorded as interim accommodation within HCLIC. Rough sleepers who are not eligible for HA96 assistance should be reported as ineligible and little further information will be required. However, any information captured as part of the eligibility assessment and temporary accommodation placements should still be reported.

How to record temporary accommodation provided under a HA 96 power

Rough sleepers should be recorded as being owed a relief duty and their temporary accommodation should be reported under interim duties under the TADUTY field, including where you have provided that accommodation under an HA 96 power. We have very recently sent around advice to all software suppliers on a series of relaxed validations that mean DELTA will not stop you from submitting this information. Many suppliers have already enforced this change on their own systems and they primarily concern the TA_DEC field, which is no longer mandatory or validated. You may need to check with your supplier that these placements are linked to the HRA case included in your extracts.

We will shortly offer a separate reporting category for rough sleepers accommodated under a power, and this can be used if your software supplier adopts this. However, due to the short turnaround of this request it is not essential that this is used over interim duties. This additional TADUTY option will be available in H-CLIC data specification v1.4.5 released May 18th 2020.

Further questions

If you have any further questions about how to manage your rough sleepers please contact HAST HAST@communities.gov.uk

If you require further advice on how to report rough sleepers in H-CLIC please contact homelessnessstats@communities.gov.uk