



**Health and medical
rehousing:
criteria for applying**

Health and medical rehousing allows customers to apply for a priority banding to rehouse on health and medical grounds.

Homesearch members

A Homesearch member can apply for a priority move on medical grounds by applying for health and medical rehousing:

Applicants must be 18 or over and: Have a physical disability (as defined in the Equality Act 2010).

or

A long-term medical condition that prevents them from accessing essential facilities within their home (for example the bathroom or bedroom).

Customers living in one of our homes

People living in one of our homes must also be either:

A permanent tenant or Identified as a permanent member of the household

And:

Have lived in the current home for longer than six months (unless a new or unexpected issue has arisen within that time that is preventing you from accessing essential facilities within your home).

Illness or disability

The illness or disability must have a substantial and long-term effect as described by one of the statements below:

- Has affected the ability to perform normal day to day activities for the last 12 months.
- Is likely to have an effect for at least 12 months.
- Is likely to have an effect for the rest of the person's life.

Anyone applying for health and medical rehousing should have looked at all equipment and adaptation options before they apply.

It's the applicant's responsibility to provide evidence if requested about why their current home is no longer suitable and what steps they've taken to address the difficulties they are experiencing.

If the applicant is currently in private rented housing, we may require written evidence from the landlord giving reasons why they won't allow adaptations to the home.



Reasons not accepted for health and medical rehousing

We wouldn't accept an application for health and medical rehousing based on the following:

- Requiring a move to the same type of home (such as moving from one from ground floor home to another ground floor home unless there were significant access or bathing problems that could not be fixed)
- Needing access and / or storage for motorised scooters
- Moving because of antisocial behaviour
- Poor condition of current home (for example: damp, lack of heating, poor upkeep)
- Financial reasons (for example: repossession)
- Downsizing of home
- Relationship breakdowns
- Overcrowding
- Homelessness
- Temporary medical conditions where recovery is likely (for example awaiting hip and knee replacements, recent fractures, recent surgery)

Applications to be directed to local authorities

We don't assess people applying for health and medical rehousing on grounds of mental health. We direct applications for priority due to mental health to local authorities who assess all applications against their criteria.

Local Authorities considers applications from a range of individuals including but not limited to those with:

- Mental health issues
- Learning disabilities
- Complex care needs
- Young people transitioning from care
- Planned move on from supported housing

Applications will be directed to the local authority where customers:

- Are in hospital and unable to return home
- Are in residential rehabilitation or care
- Have a complex disability requiring specialist or purpose-built accommodation such as a disabled home
- Are under 18 years old
- Have a moderate to severe learning disability



- Applying on the grounds of mental health (including combined physical and mental health conditions).

Customers living outside the Wakefield district

Applications from customers living outside the Wakefield district who wish to move to the Wakefield area will only be considered where a Local Connection has been confirmed by the Homesearch Team, in line with the Choice Based Lettings Policy.

Customers who wish to be housed in an area outside of Wakefield district, should apply to the local authority in the area they wish to live.

For applicants living outside the Wakefield area an occupational therapy rehousing assessment may need to be provided.

You can get an Occupational Therapy assessment through:

- The College of Occupational Therapy Specialist Section Independent Practice: Phone 0203 1 414 600 or through their website www.rcot.co.uk (Please note there may be a charge for this service)
- Your local authority who may already be involved in providing you with a service

When a home is already suitable

If a customer's current home is considered suitable for their needs:

- They will not meet the criteria for health and medical rehousing assessment
- Their case will be referred to the Health and Medical Rehousing Panel where medical recommendations for suitable property types will be added to their Homesearch application where appropriate, but no priority will be awarded.

Contact our Adaptations Team

Phone: 01977 724460

Email: adaptations@vicohomes.co.uk

Website: www.vicohomes.co.uk/health-and-wellbeing/adaptations-to-your-home

