

Summary of Wider Grenfell Rehousing policy

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

Revised August 2024



THE ROYAL BOROUGH OF
KENSINGTON
AND CHELSEA

SUMMARY

Wider Grenfell Rehousing policy

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

Revised August 2024

The Council introduced the Wider Grenfell Rehousing Policy in February 2018 to help council tenants who do not feel able to return to, or remain in, their home in the Walkways, Treadgold House or Bramley House. Wider Grenfell priority helps Council tenants from these homes move, with a high priority, to another permanent social housing 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.

This summary has been revised to bring in into line with the Council's new Housing Allocation Scheme, introduced in July 2024.

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, you will have to show that the 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).

Waiting points

You will also be awarded *waiting points* to reflect the length of time you have waited to be rehoused to a better home. Therefore, the longer you have waited on the Register, the more points you will have. 10 waiting points will be awarded each year on the date that you joined our Housing Register. Therefore, the first 10 points will be awarded 12-months after the date of your application. They will be added on top of your main points award.

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.

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.

How does the rehousing process work?

You can express interest in properties advertised on Home Connections, the Council's online Choice Based Lettings system. You will find a link to Home Connections here: <https://rbkc.homeconnections.org.uk/>.

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 three suitable offers of an alternative home. An offer can either be a successful expression of interest or a suitable match with an available property.

What happens if I turn down three suitable offers?

If you refuse three suitable offers without good reasons, we will reset your waiting points to zero and change your priority date to the date of the last suitable offer. You will keep your other points.

If you feel that one or more of the offers of a home were **not** suitable, you can challenge, or 'seek a review', of our decision to reset your waiting points and to change your priority date.

The review will be carried out by a senior officer not involved in the offer process. If your request for a review is upheld, the decision will be reversed and one (or more) of the offers will not count as one (or more) of your three offers.

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.

How do I apply for Wider Grenfell Rehousing Priority?

If you wish to apply you can complete an application form. You can find the form online at <https://www.rbkc.gov.uk/housing/housing-consultations-and-policy/policy-and-publications> - look for the Wider Grenfell Rehousing Policy link.

Or you can pick up a form at the Lancaster West Estate Office in the Baseline Studios.

You can return completed application forms to:

Housing Needs

Kensington and Chelsea Council

Town Hall

Hornton Street

London W8 7NX

Or, you can attached a completed form to an email to: housingsolutions@rbkc.gov.uk

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.