



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

**Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local
Government**

Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

G Taylor
Email

Tel: 0303 444 0000
Fax: 020 7035 0018

www.gov.uk/mhclg

Our Ref:3874683

Date:**24 August 2018**

Dear G Taylor

Thank you for contacting the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. In your email you asked about eligibility for social housing and if foreign refugees have a right to social housing.

Local councils are responsible for drawing up and operating their own allocation scheme within the framework of legislation. By law, certain people must be given 'reasonable preference' (priority) under an allocation scheme, including people who are homeless, in overcrowded housing or who need to move for medical or welfare reasons. This is to ensure that the priority for social housing goes to those who need it most.

Most foreign nationals who have recently come to England are not eligible for social housing. Where they are, they will have their housing needs considered on the same basis as other eligible applicants in accordance with the local council's housing allocation scheme. Foreign nationals do not get any extra priority, and research shows they are much more likely to own or privately rent their home than live in social housing.

If you need assistance with housing your council's housing team is best placed to offer you advice and assistance in relation to your housing situation, including assessing your housing circumstances and your priority for housing, and providing you with advice about your housing options available locally.

If you need independent advice about finding accommodation, general housing issues or about your legal rights, we strongly recommend that you contact a housing advice centre or legal advice centre in your local area, such as the Citizens' Advice. You can find out where your local Citizens' Advice is by ringing 03444 111 444 or from their website at www.citizensadvice.org.uk.

Yours sincerely

Linda Higgs
Social Housing Division
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government