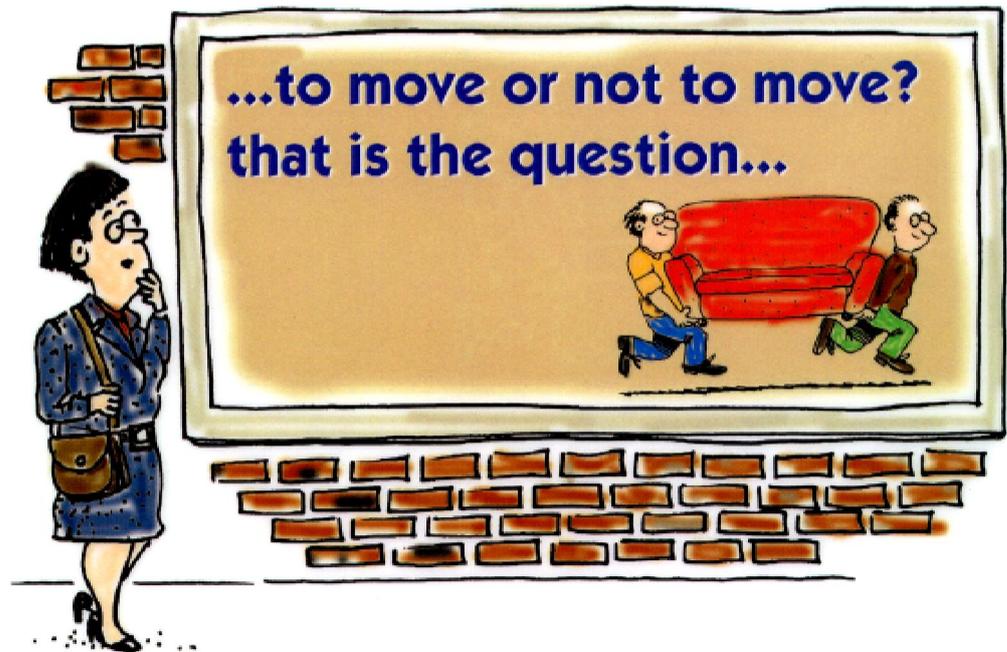


Housing Options for Older People (HOOP)



**A self-assessment form
for people wondering whether or not to move home
and seeking information on options**

Produced with support from
The Housing Corporation
Innovation and Good Practice Programme

Purpose

This questionnaire is designed to help people who are trying to decide whether or not to move home in later life.

When someone is asked whether or not they like their home, it can be difficult to answer. They may love the house or flat, but no longer like the neighbourhood. They may like the big rooms and garden but find them expensive to heat or keep up, or hard work to manage. Could something be done to deal with the problems, or is a move the answer?

The questionnaire invites you to look at nine different aspects of your home, one by one, to help clarify which things are right and where there are problems.

Its purpose is to help you think through the good and bad points – the ‘push’ and ‘pull’ factors about moving or staying – and to find out more about available options that are relevant to your situation.

What you have to do

‘Do it yourself’ or ‘interviewer service’ – the choice is yours.

This form is designed for you to fill in yourself, at your leisure, *if you would like to do so*. If you would rather wait and have the interviewer fill the form in with you, that’s fine too. The choice is yours.

If you are doing it yourself ...

1. Go through Sections 1 to 11 in turn

After a few introductory questions, each section is about a different aspect of your home: the size of it, the condition it’s in, the location and so on.

Fill in ‘Yes’, ‘No’ or any comments for each question. There are no ‘right’ or ‘wrong’ answers. What you choose to put is entirely up to you.

You will then be asked to give the score out of ten to show how you feel about each particular aspect of your home. If you are not sure about the scoring, please see the explanation at the back of the questionnaire.

2. Fill in the Chart at Section 11 with all your scores.

At this point you will have completed the assessment of your current housing. We hope this will be a useful starting point for thinking through what choices you have, or what information would be helpful.

3. You can then do any of Sections 12 to 16 you think are relevant to you, or leave them and the interviewer will go through them with you. The questions in Section 15 and 16 particularly concern the options you have and information you might want.

If you have any trouble with the questionnaire, don’t worry about it! The interviewer will be happy to go through it all with you if this is what you prefer.

Will HOOP be useful to you?

Before you go any further, please read these descriptions and look to see which best fits you. The notes below will indicate whether or not HOOP is likely to be helpful.

You have made up your mind to move, or you have to move for some reason, and want some information to help you achieve this.

If this is you, the questionnaire will probably not be helpful or appropriate for you. Please just fill in questions 1–11 of Section 1 (Introduction) and Section 16.

You are not planning any action just yet, but want to gather information about housing options now so as to be prepared for the future.

Filling in the questionnaire may be helpful if you want to clarify your thoughts – or you could just give a score out of ten for each category in the chart at Section 11. Otherwise Section 16 – and perhaps Section 13 may be all you need at this stage.

You have thought about moving but cannot make up your mind. Or perhaps another person has suggested it, but you're not sure. You would like to talk the issue through with someone.

If this describes you, you are in the group of people for whom HOOP has been chiefly designed – to fill in and talk through with an interviewer.

You have a problem but housing is only part of it.

You need to talk the problem, including the housing issue, through with someone.

Filling in the questionnaire may be helpful if you want to clarify your thoughts – or you could just give a score out of ten for each category in the chart at Section 11. Otherwise Section 16 – and perhaps Section 13 may be all you need at this stage.

Section 1

Introduction

A few basic questions about your home:

1. How long have you lived here?	
2. What type of property is it? (e.g. a 2-bedroom flat, 4-bed terraced house)	
3. Do you rent it (council, housing association, private) or own it? (freehold/leasehold – outright or with a mortgage)	
4. Is there a garden?	
5. How many people including yourself, live in your home?	
6. Do you have any pets?	

And about yourself

7. Your age?	
8. Do you have a car or access to a car?	
9. Do you have any paid help in the house? (window cleaner, home help, help with the garden)	
10. Do you have any interests or activities that require extra space in your home?	
11. Has retirement increased your need for space at home?	
12. Is it important to you to have room for family or friends to stay?	

And about moving

13. What has caused you to think about a move?	
14. Is it basically your idea, or have you felt under pressure (however slight) from others?	
15. Is it the present situation which is making you think about moving, or is it more because you are looking to the future?	Present <input type="checkbox"/> Future <input type="checkbox"/> <i>(If you have ticked 'future', there are some more detailed questions later at Section 13)</i>

Section 4

Comfort and Design

How do you feel about the design of your home? Can you live in it comfortably or is there anything which makes it awkward or uncomfortable to live in? Please put 'Yes', 'No', or other comment.

	Yes/No	Comments																						
1. Do you like the look and feel of it generally, and feel happy with it as your home?																								
2. Can you keep as warm as you want to?																								
3. Is it as light and sunny as you wish?																								
4. Is the design of your home convenient for you? (For instance can you reach cupboards and switches and manage all the steps and stairs)?																								
5. Is it decorated and furnished as you like?																								
6. Have you got an accessible bath or shower you can use if you want to?																								
7. Have you generally got things arranged in a way that suits you, with room for your possessions?																								
8. Other important points to do with comfort and design?																								
9. Is the design of your home causing any stress or any physical ill health?																								
10. Weighing these different things up, what score out of 10 for comfort would you give overall?																								
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10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0														
Perfect				Just Ok	Just not Ok					Terrible														
11. Is there any one thing which has particularly affected the score?																								
12. Is there any information which might be useful to you?																								

Section 5

Location

Does the location of your home suit you? Do you like the district? Is it near the people or things you want to be near? Again, what is important is your own point of view on these issues, not what anyone else might think. Please put 'Yes', 'No', or other comment.

	Yes/No	Comments																						
1. Is your home convenient for shops, transport, clubs or other regular activities?																								
2. Is the area familiar to you – so that you know your way about and are known in the area?																								
3. Do you feel safe in the street?																								
4. Do you like the neighbourhood?																								
5. Is it as quiet and stress free as you want?																								
6. Is it a healthy environment (air quality/traffic/green spaces/cleanliness)?																								
7. Is your home a suitable distance from family or friend(s) (however near or far you want to be)?																								
8. Is help available when needed (from neighbours, family or friends)?																								
9. Other important points about the location? (please give details)																								
10. Does the location of your home ever cause you any stress or physical ill health?																								
11. Weighing these different things up, what score out of 10 for location would you give overall?																								
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12. Is there any one thing which has particularly affected the score?																								
13. Is there any information which might be useful to you?																								

Section 6

Managing

How well do you feel you are able to manage in your home? Please put 'Yes', 'No', or other comment.

<i>Are you able to manage</i>	<i>Yes/No</i>	<i>Comments</i>
1. Keeping the house clean (including things like changing curtains, cleaning windows etc.)?		
2. Having a bath or shower?		
3. Shopping?		
4. Doing the laundry?		
5. Cooking?		
6. Carrying out minor repairs and maintenance jobs? (mending things, changing light bulbs or fuses)		
7. Decorating?		
8. Looking after the garden?		
9. Answering the door and phone?		
10. Getting up and down stairs?		
11. Having visitors?		
12. Do you feel confident that more support will be available if and when you need it?		
13. Other points about managing?		
14. Does the issue of managing your home ever cause you stress, or make you physically ill?		
15. Weighing these different things up, what score out of 10 for managing would you give overall?		
10 Perfect	9	8
7	6 Just Ok	5 Just not Ok
4	3	2
1	0 Terrible	
16. Is there any one thing which has particularly affected the score?		
17. Is there any information which might be useful to you?		

Section 8

Security and Safety

This section includes everything from burglars to fire escape. Please put 'Yes', 'No', or other comment.

	Yes/No	Comments
1. Would your home pass a safety check as being free of the hazards that can cause accidents? (e.g. worn carpets, poor lighting, loose banisters)		
2. If you had a fall and could not reach the phone, do you feel confident that help would reach you?		
3. Do you feel reasonably safe from burglary or attack when inside your home?		
4. Do you feel the house is reasonably secure if you go out or away?		
5. Do you feel happy with whatever precautions you have in your home in case of fire?		
6. Any other points relating to safety?		
7. Does any aspect of the security of safety of your home cause you stress, or physical ill health?		
8. Weighing these different things up, what score out of 10 for security and safety would you give overall? <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center; text-align: center;"> 10 Perfect 9 8 7 6 Just Ok 5 Just not Ok 4 3 2 1 0 Terrible </div>		
9. Is there any one thing which has particularly affected the score?		
11. Is there any information which might be useful to you?		

Section 12

Priorities

This form has covered the nine categories listed below. Could you arrange these in order of their importance to you, if you were moving house?

Please put (1) beside the category which would matter most to you and arrange the rest in order down to a (9) for the category which would matter least to you:

	<i>Priority</i>
Size	
Condition	
Comfort	
Location	
Managing	
Costs	
Safety/security	
Independence	
Well-being	

Note: If you feel that all are of equal importance, or several are of equal importance, just use the chart to say this. The question is included for the sake of those who have some clear priorities, or who want to think them through.

Section 13

Looking to the Future (for those who like to look ahead)

It is impossible to know what the future will bring. This section is just to help you to think about some of the possibilities.

<i>Do you think that your current housing would still suit you? ...</i>	Yes	No	Maybe	N/A
If you were left on your own?				
If your health was worse?				
If your "partner's" health was worse?				
If you had less help (from any source) than you have now?				
If your income were smaller?				
If you could no longer drive?				
If you could no longer climb stairs?				
If you wanted or needed someone to come and stay with you?				
If you wanted to spend more time at home than you do now?				
Any other issues?				

If you have put one or more 'NOs' does this mean you want to plan a move now?

.....

.....

.....

Section 14

Moving

1. Apart from the issue of whether one house or flat might suit you better than another – how do you view the prospect of moving at all: the whole process of organising it all, packing up, and making a new start in a new home?

- Unthinkable
- Very daunting
- Hard, but would do it if necessary
- Not too bad
- No problem at all

Or you can use your own words

.....

.....

.....

.....

Tick boxes as applicable

Yes	No	Maybe
-----	----	-------

2. Would you need physical help to sort and pack?

--	--	--

Do you think you would need any other support?
(For example, emotional support in sorting your things or coming to terms with moving)

--	--	--

If yes, what might this be?

.....

.....

.....

3. If you are not planning to move immediately, what might make you decide to do so?

.....

.....

.....

Section 15

Possible Action (for a first look at the options)

1. Could you recap here what you think are your main housing problems?

- (i)
- (ii)
- (iii)

2. Do you think these could be solved in any of the following ways . .

2.1 By some work on the house? Yes No Maybe

Comments

2.2 By getting some help? Yes No Maybe

Comments

2.3 By moving? Yes No Maybe

Comments

2.4 By getting some information now about options for the future?

Yes No Maybe

Comments

2.5 In any other way?

.....

.....

3. Is there any information you need to help answer these questions?

.....

.....

Section 16

Information Required

Would you like information about any of the following . . .

Tick boxes where applicable

- Accommodation to rent?
- Accommodation for sale?
- Financial information?
- Ways of reducing housing costs?
- Ways of increasing income?
- Help in getting repairs, improvements or adaptations done?
- Services in the home – including gardening?
- Retiring to another country?
- Other? (please give details)

And finally, what ethnic group do you feel best describes you? (please tick)

- Bangladeshi
- Black African
- Black Caribbean
- Black Other
- Chinese
- Indian
- Pakistani
- White
- Other (please give details)

Explanation of scoring

Sections 2 to 10 of this questionnaire cover different aspect of your home.

These are:

- Size
- Condition
- Comfort
- Location
- Managing
- Cost
- Security
- Independence
- Well-being
-

In each section you first answer Yes, No, or other comment for the detailed questions, then decide a score out of ten for the section as a whole.

In this scoring system '10' is a perfect and '1' is terrible. There is a dividing line between '5' and '6' '6' is 'Just Ok' and '5' is 'Just not Ok'.

So, if the size and space in your home is acceptable to you, you can choose '6' (just Ok) or '10' (perfect), or 7, 8, or 9 for something in between.

If, for instance, the size suited you well on the whole, but the kitchen was too small, you might choose a score of '9'. If there were other problems as well (e.g. over-large garden, no parking space), but it was still acceptable, you might give a score of 6 or 7.

Similarly, if some aspect of your home (it might be the cost) is unacceptable, you can choose any score between 5 (Just not Ok) and 1 (terrible) – depending on how bad it seems to you.

Example:



Someone has given a score of 8 for the size of their home, indicating that it's pretty good but not perfect.

*What score you give is entirely up to you.
It's your own view of your home you are recording.*