

Sheltered housing: Renting for people who may be considered a low priority

FirstStop is often contacted by people who have been given, or are likely to be given, a low priority, by councils or housing associations for rented sheltered or retirement accommodation. Most such housing to rent is provided by councils and housing associations (social landlords) and in most areas they have more applicants than available housing.

Social landlords are expected to give priority to those people who live in their area or have a strong connection with it, are assessed as being in the greatest housing need and who also need the services provided in sheltered housing. Most housing allocations will be made from a central waiting list, managed by or on behalf of the local council, though some housing associations may accept a proportion of direct applications.

This means that in many areas people who own a property, have sufficient funds to be able to buy, are not considered to be in need, or who do not have a sufficient local connection, may have difficulty getting a rented property.

However the housing associations below may be worth contacting. They are the largest providers of rented sheltered housing in England, may consider direct applications, and can sometimes be more flexible and assist people who would not normally be considered a high priority for rented social housing.

Housing 21

0345 606 6363 www.housing21.co.uk

Anchor

0845 140 2020 www.anchor.org.uk

Hanover

0800 280 2575 www.hanover.org.uk

There is also one UK-wide company, Girlings, with a limited amount of private rented retirement housing:

Girlings Retirement Options

Tel: 0800 525 184; www.girlings.co.uk

If you have access to the internet, also check currently advertised vacancies on EAC's HousingCare / FirstStop website.

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