

Criteria for the Urgent Gold and Gold Priority Awards

Background

The City of Edinburgh Council works in partnership with 18 registered social landlords in the city to provide a single housing register for Edinburgh. This is called the EdIndex Partnership.

This gives housing applicants access to over 95% of social rented housing in the city through the completion of a single form.

To ensure that housing is allocated fairly and according to housing need, the Council has a Letting Policy. This outlines how people can register on EdIndex, and how their housing needs might be assessed, if appropriate.

Under certain circumstances, and in accordance with statutory and regulatory requirements, applicants may be awarded priority for rehousing. This is to make sure that those assessed as being in the greatest housing need can access a suitable home as quickly as possible. Due to the significant demand for social housing in Edinburgh the reality is, however, that not all households interested in homes with the Council or Housing Associations will be successfully housed.

If someone is assessed as having priority status for Choice based letting, this means that the applicant is awarded extra 'points' on their EdIndex application. Choice based letting does not award points for individual circumstances but are used to enable 'ranking' of households in line with the priority categories set for Choice.

(These categories do not apply to landlords who let under the points based system).

Priority awards are managed as follows:

Urgent Gold Priority	85,000 points
Gold Priority	80,000 points
Silver Priority	40,000 points
- Statutorily homeless	
- Overcrowding (capped at 40,366 points)	
- Under occupying	
- Demolition/Disposal	
- Exceptional housing need	

Applicants then get an additional waiting time per day, from the date their application is registered.

If applicants do not qualify for a priority award, they are classed as a Mover, and will be awarded one point per day from the date they moved in to their current home.

Housing Need Assessments

The Home Accessibility Referral Team (HART) is responsible for assessing EdIndex applicants who may be eligible for gold priority, as their current home does not meet and cannot be adapted to meet their mobility needs.

Applications are screened by the Edindex Team to establish if the applicant or anyone in their household may qualify for gold priority based on their responses to the questions on the EdIndex form. If the application indicates that someone may potentially be eligible for gold priority, the assessment is sent to HART for further action.

HART officers will assess against the following criteria:

Urgent Gold Priority

The applicant or someone in their household must:

- Be in hospital and assessed by their Consultant as medically fit for discharge
- Be unable to return to the house from which they were admitted to hospital as it no longer meets their mobility needs
- Be assessed as not being likely to make a recovery with regard to mobility

Urgent gold priority is normally only awarded in exceptional circumstances to prevent a long-term hospital or care home admission, providing there is supporting evidence from a Specialist Consultant or a Council or NHS Occupational Therapist.

Gold Priority

The applicant or someone in their household must:

- Have assessed mobility issues that mean they need ground floor or accessible accommodation
- Be able to provide proof of their requirement for ground floor accommodation from a Specialist Consultant or a Council or NHS Occupational Therapist (please note that a letter from a GP or a privately funded Occupational Therapy assessment will not be accepted)
- Have professionally assessed evidence that the mobility issue is enduring and life-long (it must be ongoing with no chance of improvement)
- Have professionally assessed evidence that their current home cannot be adapted to meet their needs

Gold priority will not be awarded if the mobility issue is short term (for example prior to or following a surgery (such as a knee or hip replacement), where recovery is expected after a suitable period of time).

Only Edindex applicants currently living in Edinburgh are eligible to be assessed for gold priority.

For further information on gold priority, contact HART on 0131 529 7661 or email HART@edinburgh.gov.uk.