

55552 Council House Priority and Waiting Times

Comprehensive demographic data of the Edinburgh population on the housing waiting list for the year 2024/2025, including:

Age distribution

Disability status

Nationality

Ethnicity

Number of UK citizens and Scottish-born nationals residing in Edinburgh who are on the waiting list for a home.

Average waiting times for non-priority and all priority status levels (e.g., Silver, Gold, Non-priority).

Most recent updated figures for average waiting times for a home for asylum seekers in Edinburgh upon arrival.

As of 21 July 2025, there are 28,151 applications on the Housing Register. A detailed breakdown is attached.

Under a Choice-based letting system, which requires applicants to bid for suitable available homes, the average time to be housed will be dependent on how active applicants are bidding for available homes, areas/property types they are prepared to consider and the homes that become available that meet a household's need.

It is important to note the following, which determines how an applicant waiting time is calculated:

When an applicant is registered with EdIndex they are classified as either a 'Starter' or a 'Mover' based on their current housing circumstances.

Starters

Starters are generally people who do not have their own home:

- Homeless households.
- People in hostel, supported or temporary accommodation.
- People staying care of friends and family.
- New households.
- Private rented sector tenants.

Movers

Movers are people who do have a home but who wish to move:

- Council tenants (including joint tenants).
- Registered Social Landlords or other social rented sector tenants.

- Owner occupiers.
- Households in tied accommodation.

Waiting time for a Starter is calculated from the date the housing application form is registered. For example, a Starter who is registered with EdIndex for one year will have 365 waiting days and a further day is added for every day they are registered. Starters will have 1 waiting day when they first register with Edindex.

Waiting time for Movers is calculated from the date they move into their current home. For example, a Mover who has been in their home for 1 year will have 365 waiting days when they first register with EdIndex and a further day is added for every day they are registered.

We do not ask applicants their place of birth on the EdIndex application form. We do ask them their ethnicity and that is provided on the attached breakdown. It is not mandatory that the applicant answers the question.

There is a total of 23,986 applicants who reside in Edinburgh.

Based on the letting returns to the Scottish Housing Regulator, for all lets during 2024-2025 the average waiting times were as below:

Priority Group	Average Waiting Time
Gold	659 days
Silver Homeless	1,015 days
Overcrowding	250 days
Under Occupation	1,107 days
Waiting Time (non-priority)	6,629 days

Current waiting times for asylum seekers/refugees is 756 days (see information in the answer to Q1 regarding the Choice-based letting system for letting Council homes)

The proportion of the demographics listed above that have been awarded housing in the past year (2024/2025).

Please include both specific numbers and percentages.

Please refer to the table below.

Priority Group	Total Lets	Percentage of Total Lets
Gold	150	12%
Silver Homeless	1,024	82.5%
Overcrowding	19 (24)	1.5%
Under Occupation	6	0.5%

Waiting Time (non-priority)	43	3.5%
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The total number of homes available for allocation in Edinburgh during 2024/2025 for those on the waiting list, along with relevant numbers on housing availability, including breakdowns by priority status (e.g., Silver, Gold, Non-priority).

During 2024/2025 a total 1,242 homes were available for allocation by the Council. A breakdown on allocation of these homes has been provided in response to Q2.

An explanation for why Edinburgh Council has removed Edinburgh Council homes from EdIndex, which has led to a significant reduction in available homes for the Edinburgh population on the waiting list in recent months (April 2025 to present).

What are these homes currently being used for?

An explanation of the suspension of the allocation policy can be found on the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee report in April 2025. This is published on our website at:

<https://democracy.edinburgh.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=141&MId=7753>

Please refer to 'Late Reports'.