

# A housing guide for refugees in Scotland

## Is your accommodation too small?

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When you receive a positive decision on your asylum claim, you also receive the same rights and entitlements as other UK citizens. This includes housing of the right size for your needs. If your home is too small for the number of people living in it, it might be classified as overcrowded. This leaflet gives you some general information on overcrowding and what you can do about it.

### **What does 'overcrowded' mean?**

'Overcrowded' means that there are too many people sharing the same living space. This might happen, for instance, if you are reunited with your family but in the same accommodation you had previously.

### **How can I tell if my home is overcrowded?**

This is a general guide only. You may need to take some measurements as well.

- Do you have enough rooms? You don't if:
  - two people of the opposite sex, who are not married or in a relationship with each other, have to sleep in the same room; and
  - they are both over 10 years old.

- Do you have enough space? To find this out:
  1. Count how many people live in your home
    - Children under 10 count as half
    - Don't count children under one year old
  2. Count how many rooms you have
    - Don't include your kitchen and bathroom
  3. Use this table to compare your results:

1 room	2 people can live there
2 rooms	3 people can live there
3 rooms	5 people can live there
4 rooms	7.5 people can live there
5 rooms or more	2 people per room can live there

This assumes you have normally sized rooms. If the rooms are small, less people can live in your home.

### **Where can I find out more and get help?**

This leaflet provides general advice. The following agencies can discuss your circumstances with you and provide advice:

#### **Scottish Refugee Council's Refugee Housing Team**

Phone this number free for advice or to make an appointment with an advice worker: 0800 085 6087

#### **Shelter Scotland**

Phone this number for free advice: 0800 800 4444

#### **Positive Action in Housing**

Phone this number for information about its services: 0141 353 2220