

Call for Evidence: Allocations in social housing

Sept-Oct 2025

The London Assembly Housing Committee has launched an investigation into allocations in social housing. This investigation aims to:

- To understand the variation of social housing allocation policies across local authorities in London, including the extent to which policies are applied equitably and make the best use of available housing.
- To assess how effective the Mayor's London Housing Strategy has been in shaping social housing allocation policies across councils.
- To scrutinise the effectiveness of the Mayor's Housing Moves scheme and the Seaside and Country Homes programme.
- To identify what role the Mayor could play going forward to improve the allocation of social housing in London.

Below is information about the investigation and Call for Evidence, as well as key questions the Committee is interested in hearing about.

Why is the Committee exploring this topic?

The London Assembly investigates issues of importance to Londoners and is the body that holds the Mayor to account. Londoners on waiting lists may need to wait many years to be allocated social housing. This may disproportionately affect certain demographic groups. Yet, there is very limited research on this topic in London. The Committee's investigation aims to bring these issues to the forefront and to identify recommendations for the Mayor to improve the allocation of social housing in London.

Who can submit evidence?

This Call for Evidence open to anyone with views or information on social housing allocations in London that they would like to share with the Committee. We would particularly welcome submissions from policy experts, academics, campaigners and London boroughs. The Committee has published a survey separately to gather the views of individual Londoners with first-hand experience of allocations, which can be found via the [London Assembly's investigations page](#).

Key questions

The Committee would welcome submissions addressing any of the following questions. If you would like to share information or views on other, related issues please feel free to do so.

1. To what extent are social housing allocation policies equitable? Are they applied equitably in London?
2. How are certain demographic groups disadvantaged by allocation policies and what does this look like in practice?
3. To what extent do current allocation policies in London maximise the best use of housing stock [e.g. through encouraging downsizing]? How could this be improved to free up more homes?
4. How could the Mayor and/or government improve the allocation of social housing in London?

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Additional questions for London boroughs:

5. What are the main challenges allocating social housing in your borough?
6. How does your borough ensure that your allocation policies are equitable?
7. How does your borough hear from residents to improve the allocation process?
8. Do you have any policies that encourage inter-tenure mobility and address under-occupancy? [If so, how effective are these policies at freeing up more social housing]?
9. How do your allocation policies reflect the Mayor's Housing Strategy?
10. To what extent have you engaged with the Mayor's Housing Moves scheme and Seaside and Country Homes Scheme? How could these programmes be improved?
11. How could the GLA and/or government better support local authorities with social housing allocation in London?

How to submit evidence

Please send evidence as an email attachment to: scrutiny@london.gov.uk

Please use 'Housing Committee call for evidence' as the subject line.

The deadline for submission is 31 October 2025.

You can also use this email address if you would like more information about the Committee's investigation or have suggestions for the Committee.

Further information

Will responses be published?

Yes, in most cases we will publish written submissions and the name of the individual or organisation that submitted it online. This is so that there is transparency about what evidence the Committee has received.

Exceptions to this are usually applied where there is a legal reason for non-publication or if there is a safeguarding or welfare issue. If there is a reason that you would like your evidence not to be published with your name (submitted anonymously) or to not be published (submitted confidentially), please let us know and the Committee will consider it. However, this cannot be guaranteed, and the Assembly may be required to release non-personally identifiable information if requested under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

What will the evidence I provide be used for?

The responses to this Call for Evidence will be used to develop questions to ask the GLA. These will be held as open meetings, and anyone is welcome to attend as an audience member to watch the discussion on the [Assembly webcasts page](#).

The responses to this Call for Evidence will also be used to inform recommendations to the Mayor, which will likely be in a report. If information and/or quotations from submissions to this call for evidence are used in this output, we will cite you. We inform those who have submitted evidence about the

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outcome of the investigation in the form of a link to a report or output when it is published.

Where can I find your privacy notice?

The London Assembly and the GLA are committed to protecting your privacy and personal data when you contact us or submit evidence. You can find the GLA's privacy notice [here](#).

Do I need to answer all the questions?

No, you are welcome to answer the questions that are most relevant to you or your organisations and for which you have the most expertise or experience.

About the Committee

The Housing Committee examines matters relating to housing in London and takes a lead on scrutiny of the Mayor's Housing Strategy. To read more about our previous work, please [visit our website](#).

Committee Members

- Zoë Garbett AM (Chair)
- Sem Moema AM (Deputy Chair)
- The Lord Bailey of Paddington AM
- Andrew Boff AM
- Leonié Cooper AM
- James Small-Edwards AM