

Reasons for Housing Application suspension

- You have requested that your application be suspended - For instance, due to a change in circumstances. You must let your local housing office know when you wish to return your application to 'active' status.
- You have refused two reasonable offers of housing - We limit the number of offers we make due to the high demand on our stock. After an applicant has refused two reasonable offers of housing, we will suspend their application for a period of twelve months. However, any offers of housing made prior to 1st April 2014 will not be counted when calculating a suspension. **You can appeal against any offer you feel is unreasonable.** Please note that we only make one offer to applicants under the homelessness laws.
- You have rent arrears - This is usually arrears of more than one month's rent or equal to one-twelfth of the annual amount due. We will consider carefully cases of genuine hardship. Where there is an agreement in place to pay off debt and it has been held to by the tenant for three months or more they will not be suspended. If the applicant feels that they have been suspended unfairly they have the right to appeal by contacting their local Community Housing Manager, within 21 days.
- You, or someone who lives with you, has a history of antisocial behaviour - Suspensions for antisocial behaviour should only happen when there is clear evidence and it is related to the tenancy. However, in other cases, we will consider the type of antisocial behaviour, how often it has taken place and for how long, before suspension. Should an applicant wish to appeal they should write to their local Community Housing Manager within 21 days.
- You do not have a local connection to East Lothian - We will suspend your application unless you are employed or have been offered employment in East Lothian or you are moving to East Lothian to find employment or you are moving to East Lothian to be closer to a relative or carer, or you have special medical or social reasons for wanting to be rehoused in East Lothian, or you have experienced harassment or are at risk of domestic abuse in another area, and want to come to East Lothian to escape these risks.
- You have given false or fraudulent information - If we think you have given false or fraudulent information, we will suspend your application while we investigate. Your application will be cancelled if fraud is established. Should an offer of housing have been made and accepted by you, we will take legal action to recover the property.
- You are an asylum seeker - If you are an asylum seeker placed in East Lothian, you can apply to the housing list. We will process your application but suspend you from the housing list until the Government gives you permission to stay in the United Kingdom. If your request for asylum is rejected and you are asked to return to your country of origin, your application will be cancelled.
- You have broken the terms of your tenancy agreement (transfer applicants) - If you have broken the terms of your Scottish Secure Tenancy agreement, we may suspend you from the housing list