A review of your application, or a change in your situation?

Applicants often ask us to review their housing register application, hoping for a better chance of an offer of housing. However, in the majority of cases where we are asked to reconsider an applicant's situation, applicants are usually telling us that something has changed in their circumstances, not that our decision was wrong.

Change of circumstances

If your situation has changed you are legally obliged to tell us and should contact the Housing Allocations Team on email housingallocations@wealden.gov.uk with any change in your circumstances.

A change in your circumstances might affect your banding or bedroom entitlement and may result in an increase, or decrease, in your banding or bedroom need. If, as a result of your change in circumstances, your banding is changed you will be informed automatically. You do not need to ask for a review of your application if your circumstances have changed.

Does the type of housing you need, exist?

Another reason why applicants ask for a banding increase is because they don't see the type of property they need becoming available. Sometimes, applicants feel that if they are in a higher band this will mean a property will be offered that meets their need. Unfortunately, in most cases, a higher band does not mean a property will become immediately available.

In rural areas, some property types do not exist within the social housing stock at all. Many rural parishes do not have any one-bedroom or four-bedroom homes. In many other areas, specific types of accommodation, such as level access or disabled adapted homes, rarely become available. If you are seeking a specific type of property in a particular area, a banding review will not result in a suitable property becoming available.

When you *can* request a review

If you have communicated your situation with the Housing Allocations Team and it is agreed that there has been no change in your situation, but you disagree with your banding or bedroom entitlement, you can request a review of your banding providing that:

1. The request must be made within 21 days from the date on your Homemove Welcome letter, or other written decision on your housing application. If your request is received outside of the 21 days following a decision, your request will not normally be considered.
2. The request must be made in writing, this can be sent by email to: housingallocations@wealden.gov.uk.
3. The request must state the reasons why you consider the decision is incorrect.
4. If you think your band is incorrect, your request must state the banding you think your application should be in, and the band reason that you think applies to your case and why. You should refer to the Council's Allocations Policy for this information, which can be found on the Council's website: https://www.wealden.gov.uk/housing-health-and-advice/housing/housing-optionshomelessness-advice/housing-options/allocation-of-homes-banding-and-categories/
5. You will need to provide evidence to support your request for a review, such as letters from other professionals dealing with your case.

Requests for a review that do not include all of the above information will not usually be considered.

You can ask someone to help you submit a review, such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.