

Exemptions to Local Connection

The new B-with-us Allocations Policy includes local connection criteria that applicants must meet to qualify for an active application.

In addition to the local connection criteria, there are several situations which would make an applicant exempt from requiring a local connection, meaning that they would qualify to have an active application even though they do not have a local connection to the Pennine Lancashire area covered by B-with-us.

The following applicants will be exempt from requiring a local connection:

- Statutory homeless applicants and applicants who are victims of domestic abuse, threats of domestic abuse or those escaping domestic abuse
- Applicants who are in a reasonable preference category under section 166A of the Housing Act 1996, and a prevention or relief duty is owed by one of the local authority partners
- Applicants who need to move to take up an offer of permanent employment in any of the five local authority areas - proof of the offer of employment will be required and applicants will need to demonstrate that they are unable to accept the offer of employment without moving into one of the five local authority areas (see appendix one for more information)
- Applicants who have a continuing care responsibility for someone who is resident in the five local authority areas (evidence will be required)
- Applicants who have or are due to undertake training or higher education in any of the five local authority areas with a duration of at least six months (evidence will be required)
- Applicants who are looked after, accommodated or fostered by Lancashire or Blackburn children service authorities in any of the five local authority areas
- Applicants who were looked after, accommodated or fostered by any other children service authority in any of the five local authority areas, providing they were resident in any of the Lancashire County Council district plus Blackburn with Darwen for a continuous period of 16 weeks or more
- Applicants who were accommodated under Section 95 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 and granted leave to remain in any of the five Local Authority areas/Pennine Lancashire
- Applicants who are serving or former members of the UK Armed Forces or the Reserve Armed Forces (or their bereaved spouse or civil partners who are leaving military accommodation, where the death of their spouse can be partially or wholly attributed to the armed forces) - evidence of service will be required
- Applicants who are divorced or separated spouses of members of the UK Armed Forces or the Reserve Armed Forces, where their lack of local connection can be attributed to the armed forces

Her Majesty's Armed Forces can be defined as any of the military services which are tasked with the defence of the United Kingdom and its overseas territories and the Crown dependencies. Her Majesty's Armed Forces consist of the Royal Navy, the Royal Marines, the British Army and the Royal Air Force.