

Request

1. How many Veterans are currently homeless in Wigan Borough?

2. Please list how many Veterans are homeless in each ward.

3. Are Veterans prioritised for housing before Asylum seekers and/or Refugees?

4. Are Veterans prioritised for housing before persons granted Refugee status?

5. Are Veterans prioritised for housing before people who arrived under The Afghan Resettlement Program ARP?

Response

For questions 1 and 2, we only hold information on those that have a veteran marker that are currently known to the homelessness service. The information below is based on this. One Veteran is currently noted on the homelessness system but has not yet been discharged. From our records, 0 veterans are currently open to the homelessness service in the borough.

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The Council does not operate a policy that automatically prioritises one applicant group over another solely on the basis that they are a veteran, asylum seeker or refugee. However, under the Council's Allocations Policy, certain former Armed Forces personnel, serving Armed Forces personnel, reservists and bereaved spouses/civil partners may qualify for Group A (Urgent Housing Need) priority where they meet the specified criteria. Applications from refugees who are eligible to join the Housing Register are assessed in accordance with the same Allocations Policy and awarded priority based on their individual housing circumstances and assessed need. Asylum seekers are generally not eligible to be allocated housing through the Housing Register unless and until they receive an appropriate immigration status permitting eligibility.

Housing Register applications are assessed in accordance with the Council's Allocations Policy. Veterans who meet the criteria for Group A priority may be awarded a higher level of priority than other applicants, including persons granted refugee status, where their circumstances satisfy the relevant policy provisions. Refugees are assessed under the same policy framework and priority is determined by assessed housing need and eligibility rather than refugee status alone.

Applicants are considered in accordance with the Council's Allocations Policy. Certain veterans and Armed Forces applicants may qualify for Group A priority where they meet the relevant criteria. Individuals who have arrived under the Afghan Resettlement Programme and who are eligible to join the Housing Register are assessed under the same allocations framework, with priority determined by their assessed housing need and circumstances rather than the route through which they arrived in the UK.