

Welsh Government Integrated Impact Assessment

Title of proposal:	Amendments to the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014 to reflect changes to eligibility rights to housing and housing assistance for individuals who were residing in Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem before 23 June 2025 and who left in connection with the conflict between Israel and Iran which escalated in June 2025.
Official(s) completing the Integrated Impact Assessment (name(s) and name of team):	John Griffiths Homelessness Prevention and Housing Management Branch
Department:	Climate Change and Rural Affairs Group
Head of Division/SRO (name):	Sarah Rhodes
Cabinet Secretary/Minister responsible:	Jayne Bryant MS, Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government
Start Date:	July 2025

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What action is the Welsh Government considering and why?

In narrative form, please describe the issue and the action proposed by the Welsh Government. How have you applied / will you apply the five ways of working in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to the proposed action, throughout the policy and delivery cycle?

In response to the escalation of conflict between Israel and Iran in June 2025, the UK Government arranged the evacuation of British nationals and others from Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (including the West Bank, Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem). Between 23 and 29 June, six flights arrived in the UK carrying 428 individuals, including 76 children and 27 Red Cross staff. While the emergency phase of the evacuation has concluded, the situation in the region remains volatile.

To support those returning to the UK, the UK Government has confirmed that individuals affected by the conflict would be exempt from the Habitual Residence Test (HRT) for a period of six months. This exemption enables immediate access to welfare benefits and housing support. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will also disapply the Past Presence Test (PPT), which normally requires a person to have been in Great Britain for a certain period before qualifying for some benefits.

To ensure consistency between housing law in Wales and welfare law across the UK, the Welsh Ministers intend to amend the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014 (“the 2014 Regulations”). These regulations determine which persons from abroad are eligible for an allocation of housing accommodation under Part 6 of the Housing Act 1996, or for housing assistance under Schedule 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The proposed amendments will create new classes of eligible persons. These include individuals who:

- were residing in Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem before 23 June 2025;
- left in connection with the conflict between Israel and Iran which escalated in June 2025;
- apply for housing or homelessness assistance within 26 weeks of either:
 - the date of evacuation under arrangements made by His Majesty’s Government, or
 - the date the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office issued an invitation to register for departure assistance;
- and meet the other conditions set out in the regulations (e.g. immigration status, no NRPF condition, not subject to sponsorship undertakings).

The amendments apply to both persons subject to immigration control (Regulations 3 and 5) and those who are not (Regulations 4 and 6).

This proposal reflects the Welsh Government's commitment to ensuring parity of access to housing and homelessness services for those affected by international crises. It also supports the Welsh Government's broader policy objectives, including its commitment to ending homelessness and promoting Wales as a nation of sanctuary.

Conclusion

How have people most likely to be affected by the proposal been involved in developing it?

As the changes made by the proposal are a product of reserved UK Government policy (immigration and welfare), it would not be possible to undertake a meaningful consultation on alternative approaches, as the effect of the proposal is to ensure consistency between Welsh housing law and immigration and welfare law.

What are the most significant impacts, positive and negative?

Positive impacts

Extending eligibility for housing and housing assistance to individuals who left Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem in connection with the June 2025 conflict will help protect them from the risk of homelessness and its associated harms. The proposal will enable the Welsh Government to demonstrate its aspirations towards global responsibility and commitment to human rights and promoting peace.

Negative impacts

There will be no long-term negative impacts of this proposal. The Welsh Government is working to ensure that the needs of this small group of people are met alongside those of people already in temporary accommodation or seeking affordable homes.

In light of the impacts identified, how will the proposal:

- **maximise contribution to our well-being objectives and the seven well-being goals; and/or,**
- **avoid, reduce or mitigate any negative impacts?**

Good quality homes are the bedrock of vibrant and cohesive communities and form the basis for individuals to flourish in all aspects of their lives. Accessing secure, affordable housing will ensure that vulnerable individuals are protected and are better able to flourish within Wales.

The proposed changes will ensure that individuals affected by the conflict can access secure, affordable housing, enabling them to settle and contribute to Welsh society. This supports the well-being goals of a more equal Wales, a healthier Wales, and a Wales of cohesive communities.

How will the impact of the proposal be monitored and evaluated as it progresses and when it concludes?

The amending Regulations will be kept under review in the normal way. Welsh Government officials will monitor any reported impacts from local authorities or Third Sector organisations supporting individuals affected by the conflict. Any necessary adjustments will be considered in light of further developments or future UK Government evacuation schemes.

Declaration

I am satisfied that the impact of the proposed action has been adequately assessed and recorded.

Name of Senior Responsible Officer / Deputy Director: Sarah Rhodes

Department: Housing and Regeneration Directorate

Date: 10 July 2025