

Housing Information Advice Service (HIAS)

## SIGN UP NOW

### Return to your HIAS worker

If you could do with more help and support, please complete the referral form below and give it to a prison officer or worker to pass on to us.

Your name	
Location	
Prison Number	
Your date of birth	
Your nationality	
Area you are returning to	

Housing Information Advice Service (HIAS)

## WHO WE ARE

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PRISON: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

"If we don't see you on the wings, we'll arrange to see you within one week of receiving your referral form."



HIAS is a partnership of St Giles Trust and St Mungo's

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[www.stgilestrust.org.uk](http://www.stgilestrust.org.uk)

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Charity Reg: 001 355 Company Reg. No: 2175146

I&P Society No. 20598R Housing Association N: LH0279

Housing Information Advice Service (HIAS)

## HOUSING HELP IN YOUR PRISON



## WHAT IS HIAS...?

### “Housing Information Advice Service (HIAS)

Brings practical and effective housing advice to prison.”



“Offering housing advice and support to remand and sentenced prisoners

Working with your landlord to help maintain your accommodation

Planning housing options for release

Accessing support services, if needed

Organising resettlement services for sentenced prisoners

If you are on remand the uncertainty makes it difficult to make firm plans but we will offer the best advice we can”

## IF YOU HAVE JUST ARRIVED IN PRISON...

...we can provide housing advice and/or help retain existing housing (sentenced or remand prisoners). This includes:

- Advice on Housing Benefit whilst inside
- Help with shutting down a tenancy
- Help with claiming Housing Benefit (if entitled) and arranging for tenancies or hostel places to be saved
- Letting support networks know where you are and tying up loose ends

### Who is entitled to Housing Benefit?

If you are on remand you can claim Housing Benefit to help pay rent for up to 52 weeks. Sentenced prisoners whose term is six months or less are entitled to Housing Benefit for up to 13 weeks.

If sentenced to more than six than months, you consider closing your tenancy, if you have one, as debts will create bad relations with your landlord.



## IF YOU ARE DUE TO BE RELEASED...

...we can provide housing advice and/or help find housing on release. This includes:

- Advice on housing options
- Linking to existing support networks
- Support for a referral to a hostel
- Support to apply to your local authority's Homeless Persons' Unit

### What if my situation changes after my initial assessment?

You can ask for a new assessment and further advice and support. But please allow us enough time to be able to make a difference - it usually takes longer than a week!

### Remember!

Housing options can be very limited.

We aim to respond to all new applications within four working days, prioritising people with imminent release dates.

