

Ms DB
7 Tennyson Close
Enfield
EN3 4SN

Please reply to: Lisa Colosso
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Enfield
EN3 4EN
E-mail: Lisa.colosso@enfield.gov.uk
Phone: 0208 379 1000
Textphone:
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My Ref: LC/****/9007***
Your Ref:
Date: 29 September 2020

Dear Ms DB

Re: Your request for a Review

I write in response to your letter of which requests a review of the Council's decision in respect of your housing register application.

In conducting this appeal, I have had regard to the following information:

- Your Housing Assessment application dated 18 March 2020
- The Medical Assessment Officer's health & wellbeing assessment dated 18 May 2020
- The housing register decision dated 27 May 2020
- GP report dated 11 May 2020
- PIP award letter dated 25 February 2020
- Tenancy report from London & Quadrant dated 31 March 2020
- Transfer information provided by London & Quadrant dated 9 September 2020
- Mental Health Assessment Panel minutes dated 23 September 2020
- The Council's Allocation Scheme
- The Health & Wellbeing Assessment Guidelines

Background

You have confirmed that you currently reside in a one-bedroom London & Quadrant property. You are the sole occupant therefore under the council's Allocations Scheme, you are deemed to have a one bedroom need for housing. As you are not currently lacking any bedrooms, I am satisfied your application was correctly assessed as having no points based on housing need.

Sarah Cary
Executive Director Place
Enfield Council
Civic Centre, Silver Street
Enfield EN1 3XY

www.enfield.gov.uk

In addition to assessing your housing need, I am further obliged to consider whether you are entitled to any medical priority for housing. It should be noted that a medical priority will only be considered where an applicant's living conditions have a negative effect on their or, someone in their family's health and wellbeing.

London & Quadrant referred your application to join the housing register on the basis that you suffer from medical issues that they state renders it unsuitable. They have confirmed you are on their transfer list and are able to bid for alternative accommodation however, you have not yet been successful.

Upon receipt of the referral the Assessment Team wrote to your GP to request confirmation of your diagnosed conditions. In a report dated 11 May 2020 it was confirmed that you suffer from depression and anxiety for which you have been prescribed anti-depressant medication. The report was considered by the Council's Medical Assessment Officer (MAO) who concluded that you do not qualify for a medical priority.

A zero health and wellbeing award is applied when it is determined that-

- An applicant's current situation has no adverse impact on the health issues presented, or a move would offer no improvement, or a solution other than moving into a social rented home is available. e.g. adaption of the current home, a move to a private rented home.

You requested a review of this decision and in a letter dated 8 August 2020 advised that in 2017 you had been subjected to a violent assault which took place at your property. You state you have not felt safe since that time and that this is having a negative impact on your depression. Your low mood has also been affected by some recent issues you experienced with a neighbour who accused you of stealing his keys and attempted to spy on you through your letterbox.

Decision

As part of the review process I discussed your case at the Council's Mental Health Assessment Panel which is attended by myself, the Medical Assessment Officer and a Mental Health Social Worker.

The Panel noted that you had contact with the Community Mental Health Team in 2008 following a GP referral in 2008. You were diagnosed with low mood by the Complex Care Team however as you were not considered to be in a mental health crisis, you were advised to contact MIND for support. In April 2020 you contacted the Mental Health Hub for advice as you were experiencing poor sleep and appetite however, again, you were not assessed as requiring secondary care. Consequently, you were advised to self-refer to IAPT for online therapy tutorials.

The Panel acknowledge that the incidents in 2017 left you shaken, and you continue to be

fearful. Additionally, more recently, you have had difficulties with a neighbour's anti-social behaviour. However, there is no evidence to suggest the incidents have caused your depression to deteriorate to great extent. You do not require the input of the Community Mental Health Team nor have you reported symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder. Your low mood is managed with a standard dose of anti-depressant medication and you have been referred for counselling which should assist you in managing your mood and anxiety. As a result, it was concluded that a low medical priority should be awarded, the definition of which is:

- An applicant's living conditions cause difficulty in carrying out daily activities, but this is neither life threatening nor would greater harm or progression of the illness be caused if not moved.

A low medical priority attracts 50 points therefore your case has now been passed to the Housing Assessments Team so that they can process your application.

If you believe that in reaching this decision the council has erred in law, you have the right to seek legal advice to apply to the court by way of Judicial Review.

Yours sincerely

Lisa Colosso

Lisa Colosso
Housing Review Officer
Assessments & Allocations Team
HOUSING & REGENERATION - LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD

IMPORTANT – Enfield residents should register for an online Enfield Connected account. Enfield Connected puts many Council services in one place, speeds up your payments and saves you time – to set up your account today go to www.enfield.gov.uk/connected
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