

**Homelessness and the Prevention of Homelessness
(Covid-19 Response) Bill**

CONTENTS

Part 1

HOMELESSNESS

- 1 Application
- 2 Interim duty to accommodate
- 3 Inquiry into cases of homelessness
- 4 Duty to accommodate
- 5 Discharge of functions by local housing authorities
- 6 Assessments and personalised plan
- 7 Relief duty
- 8 Reviews and appeals
- 9 Consequential provision
- 10 Benefits and tax credits
- 11 Interpretation
- 12 Extent

Part 2

PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS

- 13 Application
- 14 Housing Act 1985: high rent arrears court discretion
- 15 Housing Act 1988: high rent arrears court discretion
- 16 Expiry or termination of assured shorthold tenancies: court discretion
- 17 Rent Act 1977: high rent arrears court discretion
- 18 Powers of the court in other possession claims
- 19 Guidance to authorities by the Secretary of State in relation to introductory and demoted tenancies
- 20 Interpretation
- 21 Extent

Part 3

BENEFIT CAP

- 22 Suspension of Benefit Cap

Part 4

MISCELLANEOUS AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

23	Public Funds: Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man
24	Commencement, extent and short title

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BILL

To

Make provision for the accommodation of homeless people, and the prevention of homelessness, for the purposes of preventing the spread of Covid-19; and for connected purposes including housing and welfare.

BE IT ENACTED by the Queen's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows: -

PART 1

HOMELESSNESS

1. Application

- (1) The following provisions of this Part apply during the relevant period where a person applies to a local housing authority in England for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation and the authority have reason to believe that he is or may be homeless.
- (2) In this Part:
 - “applicant” means a person making such an application;
 - “assistance under this Part” means the benefit of any such function under the following provisions of this Part relating to accommodation or assistance in obtaining accommodation; and
 - “homeless” means “homeless” within the meaning of Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 save that when a local housing authority is considering whether it has reason to believe a person is homeless, or whether it is satisfied a person is homeless, no account may be taken of the prospective availability or otherwise of the powers of the Secretary of State to provide accommodation and support to a person under sections 4, 95 or 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or under paragraph 9 of Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016.
- (3) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by statutory instrument prescribe matters to be taken into account by local housing authorities when exercising their functions under this Part.
- (4) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under subsection (3) –
 - (a) Must be laid before Parliament after being made, and
 - (b) Ceases to have effect at the end of the period of 40 days, beginning with the day on which the instrument is made unless, during that period, the instrument is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (5) In calculating the period of 40 days for the purposes of subsection (4), no account is to be taken of any time during which –
 - (a) Parliament is dissolved or prorogued, or
 - (b) Either House of Parliament is adjourned for more than 4 days.
- (6) If regulations cease to have effect as a result of subsection (4(b)), that –

- (a) Does not affect the validity of anything previously done under the regulations, and
 - (b) Does not prevent the making of new regulations.
- (7) The power to make regulations under subsection (3) does not include the power to make different provision for different categories of person to whom they apply by reference to a person's date of arrival in the United Kingdom, their immigration status, their nationality, or otherwise.
- (8) In the exercise of their functions under this Part, local housing authorities shall have regard to such guidance as may from time to time be given by the Secretary under this Part and under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.
- (9) The Secretary of State may give guidance either generally or to specified descriptions of local housing authorities.

2. Interim duty to accommodate

- (1) Where a local housing authority has reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless, they must secure that accommodation is available for the applicant's occupation.
- (2) The duty under subsection (1) comes to an end upon the authority notifying the applicant of their decision under section 3.
- (3) Where the applicant has requested a review of the authority's decision in accordance with section 8(1), the authority shall secure that accommodation is available for the applicant's occupation pending a decision on review.

3. Inquiry into cases of homelessness

- (1) If the local housing authority has reason to believe that an applicant may be homeless, they shall make such inquiries as are necessary to satisfy themselves:
- (a) whether any duty is owed to him under the following provisions of this Part; and
 - (b) whether any duty to accommodate him is owed under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.
- (2) On completing their inquiries the authority shall notify the applicant of their decision and, so far as any issue is decided against his interests, inform him of the reasons for their decision.
- (3) Where the authority has decided that a duty is owed to the applicant under Part 7 Housing Act 1996, the provisions of Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 shall apply.
- (4) A notice given under (2) shall also inform the applicant to his right to request a review of the decision and of the time within which such a request must be made (see section 8).
- (5) Notice required to be given to a person under this section shall be given in writing and, if not received by him, shall be treated as having been given to him if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.

4. Duty to accommodate

- (1) This section applies where the local housing authority is satisfied that an applicant is homeless and that no duty to accommodate him is owed under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996.
- (2) The authority shall secure that accommodation is available for occupation by the applicant.
- (3) The authority shall cease to be subject to the duty under this section if it notifies the applicant in writing that it is satisfied that:
- (a) the applicant has accepted an offer of suitable accommodation that is likely to

- be available for occupation by the applicant for at least 6 months, or such longer period not exceeding 12 months as may be prescribed, from the date of the notice;
- (b) a duty to accommodate is owed to him under Part 7 Housing Act 1996;
 - (c) the applicant has been provided with accommodation and support by the Secretary of State under sections 4, 95 or 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or under paragraph 9 of Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016; or
 - (d) the relevant period has ended.
- (4) A notice given under (3) shall also inform the applicant to his right to request a review of the decision and of the time within which such a request must be made (see section 8).
 - (5) Notice required to be given to a person under this section shall be given in writing and, if not received by him, shall be treated as having been given to him if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.
 - (6) Where the applicant has requested a review of the authority's decision in accordance with section 8(1), the authority shall secure that accommodation is available for the applicant's occupation pending a decision on review.

5. Discharge of functions by local housing authorities

- (1) A local housing authority may discharge their housing functions under this Part only in the following ways:
 - (a) by securing that suitable accommodation provided by them is available;
 - (b) by securing that he obtains suitable accommodation from some other person; or
 - (c) by giving him such advice and assistance as will secure that suitable accommodation is available from some other person.
- (2) A local housing authority may require a person in relation to whom they are discharging such functions:
 - (a) to pay such reasonable charges as they may determine in respect of accommodation which they secure for his occupation (either by making it available themselves or otherwise);
 - (b) to pay such reasonable amount as they may determine in respect of sums payable by them for accommodation made available by another person.
- (3) Accommodation shall be regarded as suitable for a person's occupation only if it is available for occupation and suitable for him together with:
 - (a) any other person who normally resides with him as a member of his family; or
 - (b) any other person who might reasonably be expected to reside with him.
- (4) In determining for the purposes of this Part whether accommodation is suitable for a person:
 - (a) the provisions of Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996, with necessary modifications, shall apply;
 - (b) the local housing authority shall comply with guidance issued by the Secretary of State and/or the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care concerning measures to be taken as protection from the spread or effects of coronavirus.
- (5) Where a local housing authority has reason to believe that there is a danger of loss of, or damage to, any personal property of an applicant by reason of his inability to protect it or deal with it and no other suitable arrangements have been or are being

made, if the authority have been subject to a duty towards the applicant under section 2 or section 4, then, whether or not they are still subject to a such a duty, they shall take reasonable steps to prevent the loss of property or prevent or mitigate damage to it.

- (6) The provisions of section 211(4) and (5) and section 212 Housing Act 1996 apply to subsection (5).

6. Assessments and personalised plan

- (1) If the local housing authority is satisfied that an applicant is homeless and that a duty is owed to him under section 4, the authority must make an assessment of the applicant's case.
- (2) The authority's assessment of the applicant's case must include an assessment of:
- (a) The circumstances that caused the applicant to become homeless;
 - (b) The housing needs of the applicant including, in particular, what accommodation would be suitable for the applicant and any person with whom the applicant resides or might reasonably be expected to reside ("other relevant persons"), and
 - (c) What support would be necessary for the applicant and any other relevant person to be able to have and retain suitable accommodation.
- (3) The authority must notify the applicant, in writing, of the assessment that the authority make.
- (4) After the assessment has been made, the authority must try to agree with the applicant:
- (a) Any steps the applicant is to be required to take for the purposes of securing that the applicant and any other relevant persons have and are able to retain suitable accommodation, and
 - (b) The steps the authority are to take under this Part for those purposes.
- (5) If the authority and the applicant reach an agreement, the authority must record it in writing.
- (6) If the authority and the applicant cannot reach an agreement, the authority must record in writing-
- (a) Why they could not agree,
 - (b) Any steps the authority consider it would be reasonable to require the applicant to take for the purposes mentioned in subsection 4(a), and
 - (c) The steps the authority are to take under this Part for those purposes.
- (7) The authority may include in a written record produced under subsection (5) or (6) any advice for the applicant that the authority consider appropriate (including any steps the authority consider it would be a good idea for the applicant to take but which the applicant should not be required to take).
- (8) The authority must give to the applicant a copy of any written record produced under subsection (5) or (6).
- (9) Until such time as the authority has notified the applicant in writing that they no longer owe the applicant a duty under section 4 of this Part, the authority must keep under review-
- (a) Their assessment of the applicant's case, and
 - (b) The appropriateness of any agreement reached under subsection (4) or steps recorded under subsection (6)(b) or (c).
- (10) If-
- (a) The authority's assessment of any of the matters mentioned in subsection (2) changes, or
 - (b) The authority's assessment of the applicant's case otherwise changes such that the authority consider it appropriate to do so,

The authority must notify the applicant, in writing, of how their assessment of the applicant's case has changed (whether by providing the applicant with a revised written assessment or otherwise).

- (11) If the authority consider that any agreement reached under subsection (4) or any step recorded under subsection (6) (b) or (c) is no longer appropriate-
 - (a) The authority must notify the applicant, in writing, that they consider the agreement or step is no longer appropriate,
 - (b) Any failure, after the notification is given, to take a step that was agreed to in the agreement or recorded under subsection 6(b) or (c) is to be disregarded for the purposes of this Part, and
 - (c) Subsections (4) to (8) apply as they applied after the assessment was made.
- (12) A notification under this section or a copy of any written record produced under subsection (5) or (6), if not received by the applicant, is to be treated as having been given to him if it is made available at the authority's office for a reasonable period for collection by him or on his behalf.

7. Relief duty

- (1) If the local housing authority is satisfied that an applicant is homeless and that a duty is owed to him under section 4, the authority must take reasonable steps to help the applicant to secure that suitable accommodation becomes available for his occupation for at least six months or such longer period not exceeding 12 months as may be prescribed.
- (2) In deciding what steps they are to take, the authority must have regard to their assessment of the applicant's case under section 6.
- (3) The duty at subsection (1) comes to an end when the local housing authority has notified the applicant that its duty under section 4 has come to an end, in accordance with section 4(3).

8. Reviews and appeals

- (1) The applicant has the right to request a review of:
 - (a) any decision of a local housing authority as to whether a duty is owed to him under this Part,
 - (b) any decision of a local housing authority that a duty owed to him under this Part has come to an end,
 - (c) any decision of a local housing authority as to the suitability of accommodation offered to him under sections 4(2) and (3),
 - (d) any decision of a local housing authority as to the steps they are to take under subsection (1) of section 7.
- (2) A request for a review must be made within 21 days of his being notified of the decision or such longer period as the authority may in writing allow.
- (3) On a request being duly made to them, the authority shall review their decision.
- (4) The Secretary of State may by regulations made by Statutory Instrument make provision as to the procedure to be followed in connection with a review under subsection (1).
- (5) The authority shall notify the applicant of the decision on the review within eight weeks beginning with the day on which the request for the review is made or within such longer period as the applicant and the authority may agree in writing.
- (6) If the decision is to confirm the original decision on any issue against the interests of the applicant they shall also notify him of the reasons for the decision.
- (7) In any case they shall inform the applicant of his right to appeal to the county court under subsection (9), and of the period within which such an appeal must be made.

- (8) If an applicant who has requested a review under subsection (1) is dissatisfied with the decision on the review or is not notified of the decision on the review within the time prescribed under section (6), he may appeal to the county court on any point of law arising from the decision or, as the case may be, the original decision.
- (9) An appeal must be brought within 21 days of his being notified of the decision or, as the case may be, of the date on which he should have been notified of a decision on review.
- (10) The court may give permission for an appeal to be brought after the end of the period allowed by subsection (10), but only if it is satisfied that there was a good reason for any delay.
- (11) On appeal the court may make such order confirming, quashing or varying the decision as it thinks fit.
- (12) The authority shall secure that accommodation is available for the applicant's occupation during the period for appealing under this section against the authority's decision, and if an appeal is brought, until the appeal (and any further appeal) is finally determined.
- (13) A statutory instrument containing regulations made under subsection (5) –
 - (a) Must be laid before Parliament after being made, and
 - (b) Ceases to have effect at the end of the period of 40 days, beginning with the day on which the instrument is made unless, during that period, the instrument is approved by a resolution of each House of Parliament.
- (14) In calculating the period of 40 days for the purposes of subsection (14), no account is to be taken of any time during which –
 - (a) Parliament is dissolved or prorogued, or
 - (b) Either House of Parliament is adjourned for more than 4 days.
- (15) If regulations cease to have effect as a result of subsection (14)(b), that –
 - (a) Does not affect the validity of anything previously done under the regulations, and
 - (b) Does not prevent the making of new regulations.
- (16) The power to make regulations under subsection (5) does not include the power to make different provision for different categories of person to whom they apply by reference to a person's date of arrival in the United Kingdom, their immigration status, their nationality, or otherwise.

9. Consequential provision

- (1) For the purposes of section 21(3) of the Immigration Act 2014, a person receiving assistance under Part 1 of this Act is to be treated as having been granted permission for the purposes of Chapter 1 of Part 3 of the Immigration Act 2014 to occupy premises under a residential tenancy agreement.
- (2) A local authority is not prohibited from providing assistance under Part 1 of this Act to any person by virtue of that person's immigration status, including in particular by virtue of:
 - (a) Whether or not a person has leave to enter or remain;
 - (b) a person's date of arrival in the United Kingdom;
 - (c) a person's nationality,
 - (d) a person's status as an illegal entrant under section 33 of the Immigration Act 1971 or status as an unlawfully present person; or
 - (e) Whether or not a person may have or has committed a criminal offence.
- (3) A local housing authority may not inform the Secretary of State about a person's date of arrival in the United Kingdom, their immigration status, their nationality, or

- otherwise, where such information is known to the local housing authority as a result of an application for assistance made under this Part.
- (4) Assistance under this Part may not be included in the definition of ‘Public Funds’ in Paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules or in any subsequent Immigration Rules or changes to such Rules falling within the scope of section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971.
 - (5) An applicant who secures accommodation under section 4(2) or (3) and in respect of whom the Secretary of State may have a power to provide accommodation and support under sections 4, 95 or 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or under paragraph 9 of Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016, must consider whether to make an application for such accommodation and support.
 - (6) For the purposes of assessing whether to provide accommodation and support under sections 4, 95 or 98 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or under paragraph 9 of Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016, the Secretary of State may not take into account any accommodation provided under any provision of this Part.
 - (7) Any boundaries, restrictions, or prohibitions made by or under an enactment cease to be available in law so far as they are inconsistent with, or otherwise capable or affecting the interpretation, application, or operation of Part 1 of this Act.
 - (8) The Legal Aid, Sentencing and Punishment of Offenders Act 2012 is amended as follows. In paragraph 34 of Part 1 of Schedule 1 (homelessness)—
 - (a) in sub-paragraph (1), after paragraph (b) insert—
“(ba) Part 1 of the Homelessness and the Prevention of Homelessness (Covid-19 Response) Act 2020 (homelessness).”;
 - (b) in sub-paragraph (3), after paragraph (b) insert—
“(ba) as in section 1 of the Homelessness and the Prevention of Homelessness (Covid-19 Response) Act 2020 in cases where sub-paragraph 1 applies in relation to the provision of accommodation and assistance under Part 1 of the Homelessness and the Prevention of Homelessness (Covid-19 Response) Act 2020 (homelessness).
 - (9) During the relevant period paragraph 14(1) of Schedule 3 of the Nationality, Immigration and Asylum Act 2002 has effect as if the word “not” were inserted after the word “must”.

10. Benefits and tax credits

- (1) A person in receipt of assistance under this Part may not have any limited leave to enter or remain that is granted in the administration of immigration control made subject to a condition under section 3(1)(c)(ii) of the Immigration Act 1971 requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependants of his, without recourse to public funds.
- (2) While a person given limited leave to enter or remain is receiving assistance under this Part, any condition of leave under section 3(1)(c)(ii) of the Immigration Act 1971, requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependants of his, without recourse to public funds, is of no effect.
- (3) A person in receipt of assistance under this Part may not have any limited leave to enter or remain that is granted in the administration of immigration control made subject to a condition of the Immigration Rules, or any subsequent Immigration Rules or changes to such Rules falling within the scope of section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependants of his, without recourse to public funds.

- (4) While a person given limited leave to enter or remain is receiving assistance under this Part, any condition of leave of the Immigration Rules, or any subsequent Immigration Rules or changes to such Rules falling within the scope of section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971, requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependents of his, without recourse to public funds, is of no effect.
- (5) A person in receipt of assistance under this Part may not have any immigration bail that is granted under section 61 and Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016, made subject to a condition of bail requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependants of his, without recourse to public funds.
- (6) While a person granted immigration bail under section 61 and Schedule 10 of the Immigration Act 2016 is receiving assistance under this Part, any condition of bail requiring him to maintain and accommodate himself, and any dependents of his, without recourse to public funds, is of no effect.
- (7) No person is excluded from benefits by or under section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or from tax credits by or under section 42 of the Tax Credits Act 2002 while he is receiving assistance under this Part.
- (8) No person receiving assistance under this Part is excluded from eligibility for a benefit within the scope of section 115 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 or a tax credit within the scope of section 42 of the Tax Credits Act 2002 by or under primary legislation, on the basis that he is not treated as or considered to be habitually resident in or exercising a right to reside in, the United Kingdom, the Channel Islands, the Isle of Man, or the Republic of Ireland (as the case may be).
- (9) Where primary legislation makes provision for persons in Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland equivalent to that made for persons in England under Part 1 of this Act, “receiving assistance under this Part” in subsections (1) to (8) above is to be read as if it included such provision.
- (10) In this section “primary legislation” means –
 - (a) An Act of Parliament;
 - (b) An Act of the Scottish Parliament;
 - (c) An Act or Measure of the Senedd Cymru;
 - (d) Northern Ireland legislation.
- (11) Subsections (1)-(8) extend to England.
- (12) Subsection (9) extends to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (13) Subsection (10) extends to England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland (as the case may be).
- (14) Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide for the provisions of subsections 10 (1)-(8) to extend, with or without modifications, to –
 - (a) Any of the Channel Islands;
 - (b) The Isle of Man.

11. Interpretation

- (1) For the purposes of this Part:
 - (a) “the relevant period” means the period of twelve months from Royal Assent, subject to subsection (b).
 - (b) The Secretary of State may by regulations extend the relevant period.

12. Extent

- (1) Save for subsection 10 (9), (10), (11), (12), (13) and (14), this Part applies to England only.

PART 2

PREVENTION OF HOMELESSNESS

13. Application

- (1) Sections 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 apply at a hearing in a period beginning the day after the day on which this Act is passed and ending on X;
- (2) “the 1985 Act” means the Housing Act 1985;
- (3) “the 1988 Act” means the Housing Act 1988.

14. Housing Act 1985: high rent arrears court discretion

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if the court is considering under s.84(2) of the 1985 Act whether it is reasonable to make an order for possession on Ground 1 in Schedule 2 of the 1985 Act.
- (2) The court must consider, in particular, the extent to which the rent arrears are as a result of coronavirus.
- (3) In subsection (2), rent arrears includes any part of the rent arrears.

15. Housing Act 1988: high rent arrears court discretion

- (1) The 1988 Act is to have effect as if:
 - (a) Ground 8 in Part 1 of Schedule 2 appeared instead in Part 2 of that Schedule; and
 - (b) in section 8(5) for “, 7B or 8” there were substituted “or 7B”.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies if the court is considering under s.7(4) of the 1988 Act whether it is reasonable to make an order for possession on Grounds 8, 10 or 11 in Schedule 2 of the 1988 Act.
- (3) The court must consider, in particular, the extent to which the rent arrears are as a result of coronavirus.
- (4) In subsection (3), rent arrears includes any part of the rent arrears.
- (5) This section does not affect the validity of any notice under section 8 of the 1988 Act.

16. Expiry or termination of assured shorthold tenancies: court discretion

- (1) The 1988 Act is to have effect as if:
 - (a) in subsections (1) and (4) of section 21:
 - (i) for the word “shall” there were substituted “may”;
 - (ii) after paragraph (a), in both subsections, the word “and” were omitted;
 - (iii) after paragraph (b), in both subsections, there were inserted
“ ; and
(c) that it is reasonable to make an order for possession”;And
 - (b) section 9(6)(b) were omitted.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies if the court is considering under section 21(1) or (4) of the 1988 Act whether it is reasonable to make an order for possession.
- (3) The court must consider in particular-
 - (a) the extent to which the landlord or, in the case of joint landlords, any of them is seeking possession because (wholly or partly) of rent arrears, and
 - (b) the extent to which the rent arrears are as a result of coronavirus.
- (4) In subsection (3), rent arrears includes any part of the rent arrears.

17. Rent Act 1977: high rent arrears court discretion

- (1) Subsection (2) applies if the court is considering under section 98 of the Rent Act 1977 whether it is reasonable to make an order for possession in the circumstances specified at Case 1 of Schedule 15 of the Rent Act 1977.
- (2) The court must consider, in particular, the extent to which the rent arrears are as a result of coronavirus.
- (3) In subsection (2), rent arrears includes any part of the rent arrears.

18. Powers of the court in other possession claims

- (1) Section 89 of the Housing Act 1980 (restriction on discretion of court in making orders for possession of land) is to be read as if:
 - (a) for subsection (1), there were substituted:

“(1) Where a court makes an order for the possession of any land in a case not falling within the exceptions mentioned in subsection (2) below, the giving up of possession shall not be postponed to a date later than three-months after the making of the order”; and
 - (b) after subsection (1), there were inserted:

“(1A) Where a court has made an order falling within subsection (1), on the application of either party, the court may, if it considers it just to do so, from time to time extend the period of postponement specified in the order for up to three months at a time.

(1B) In the exercise of its discretion under subsection (1) and (1A), the court must consider in particular-

 - (a) the extent to which the landlord or, in the case of joint landlords, any of them is seeking possession because (wholly or partly) of rent arrears, and
 - (b) the extent to which the rent arrears are as a result of coronavirus.”

19. Guidance to authorities by the Secretary of State in relation to introductory and demoted tenancies

- (1) In exercise of their functions under Part V of the Housing Act 1996, local authorities shall have regard to such guidance as may from time to time be given by the Secretary of State.
- (2) The guidance referred to in subsection (1) shall relate to the circumstances in which it may or may not be appropriate for the local authority to bring proceedings for possession, with regard to the incidence and effects of coronavirus.

20. Interpretation

- (1) For the purposes of this Part:
 - (a) “coronavirus” has the meaning given in section 1 of the Coronavirus Act 2020;
 - (b) arrears are as a result of coronavirus:
 - (i) if the effects of coronavirus caused or contributed, directly or indirectly to the existence, including continued existence, of these arrears, and
 - (ii) whether or not the tenant is or has been infected with coronavirus.

21. Extent

- (1) This Part applies to England only.

Part 3 Suspension of Benefit Cap

22. Suspension of Benefit Cap

- (1) Section 96 of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 is amended in accordance with subsection (2).
- (2) After subsection (1) insert-
“(1A) The benefit cap shall not be applied during the period provided for in Coronavirus Act 2020, section 89(1)”.
- (3) Article 101 of the Welfare Reform (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2015, SI 2015/2006 is amended in accordance with subsection (4).
- (4) After subsection (1) insert-
“(1A) The benefit cap shall not be applied during the period provided for in Coronavirus Act 2020, section 89(1)”.
- (5) This Part applies to England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Part 4 Miscellaneous and general provisions

23. Public Funds: Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man

- (1) The definition of ‘Public Funds’ in paragraph 6 of the Immigration Rules or in any subsequent Immigration Rules or changes to such Rules falling within the scope of section 3(2) of the Immigration Act 1971 may not in respect of Wales, Scotland, or Northern Ireland, be extended to include assistance equivalent to that available to persons in England under Part 1 of this Act.
- (2) Section 23 of this Act extends to Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- (3) Her Majesty may by Order in Council provide for the provisions of section 23(1) to extend, with or without modifications, to –
 - a. Any of the Channel Islands;
 - b. The Isle of Man.

24. Commencement, extent and short title

- (1) This Act comes into force on the day on which it is passed.
- (2) This Act expires on X.
- (3) Section 24 of this Act extends to England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man.
- (4) This Act may be cited as the Homelessness and the Prevention of Homelessness (Covid-19 Response) Bill.