

The Church of England Pensions Board

Changes to Eligibility Criteria

1. Introduction

- 1.1. In 2010, the Board introduced changes to the eligibility criteria for the Board's Housing Schemes, by increasing the minimum service requirement for the Rental Scheme; and extending eligibility to those with House for Duty service, including their spouses/civil partners.
- 1.2. Eligibility for Supported Housing and the Nursing Home was also extended to applicants with Non-Stipendiary service and from other Religious Orders, including spouses/civil partners.
- 1.3. In July 2011, eligibility for Supported Housing and the Nursing Home was further extended to all individuals who receive a pension from the Board, including their spouses/civil partners.

2. Increased Minimum Service

- 2.1. The minimum qualifying service requirement to be eligible for the Rental Scheme is increasing by one year at a time, from 5 years in 2009 to 15 years in 2019. The table below illustrates how the minimum service requirement increases:

Year	Service Required	Year	Retirement Cut-Off
2009	5 years	0	2004
2010	6 years	1st	2004
2011	7 years	2nd	2004
2012	8 years	3rd	2004
2013	9 years	4th	2004
2014	10 years	5th	2004
2015	11 years	6th	2004
2016	12 years	7th	2004
2017	13 years	8th	2004
2018	14 years	9th	2004
2019	15 years	10th	2004
2020	15 years	-	2005
2021	15 years	-	2006
2022	15 years	-	2007
2023	15 years	-	2008
etc	etc	-	etc

- 2.2. Years of qualifying service are determined by an applicant's service on their date of retirement; even if they subsequently apply for housing later in their retirement.
- 2.3. The increase in the minimum service requirement for eligibility does not apply, and remains 5 years, for applicants to:
- Shared Ownership Scheme;
 - Supported Housing Schemes;
 - Manorstead Care Home(with Nursing); and
 - those applying on the grounds of ill health.

3. Extension of Eligibility

- 3.1. **House for Duty service:** applications for all Schemes can now be considered from those clergy with a minimum of five years Stipendiary service, together with House for Duty service, which meets the total eligibility requirement.
- 3.2. **Non-Stipendiary Ministry:** applications for the Supported Housing Schemes and Nursing Home can now be considered from those with Non-Stipendiary service, with the proviso that they will not qualify for a subsidised service.
- 3.3. **Other Religious Orders:** applications for the Supported Housing Schemes and Nursing Home can now be considered from brothers and sisters from other Religious Orders, so long as the Order would agree in advance to fully fund the costs.
- 3.4. **'Lay' Pensioners:** applications for the Supported Housing Schemes and Nursing Home can now be considered from all individuals who receive a pension from the Board, including retired former employees of the Church's National Institutions and Episcopal staff.
- 3.5. However, the 'Lay' Pensioners would not qualify for a subsidised service; and applications from Stipendiary/Non-Stipendiary clergy and those from Religious Orders would always take priority over Lay persons. Applicants in receipt of a Board pension by virtue of their work for the Church of England may be eligible based on service, but they would not have priority over those with Ministry service.