

# REVEALED: The UK towns with the highest risk of homelessness

- **Bedford is the UK area with the highest risk of homelessness, with more households at risk of being made homeless than anywhere else in the UK and the number of rough sleepers well above average**
- **Maldon is the UK area with the second-highest risk of homelessness, followed by Lambeth and Hinckley and Bosworth**
- **Dorset, Cornwall and Sefton also have some of the highest risks of homelessness in the UK**

Bedford has the highest risk of homelessness in the whole of the UK, new research can reveal.

In Bedford, 1,724 households are officially at risk of becoming homeless - higher than any other local authority in the country. In Bedford, households are over six times more likely to be at risk of homelessness than the rest of the UK, and the estimated number of rough sleepers on a single night (18) is 38% higher above the UK average for rough sleeping (13).

The study, by homelessness charity Church on The Street, compared the latest UK government data on the number of households owed a homelessness relief or prevention duty (meaning that they are at risk of becoming homeless) in every local authority, with the average number of people sleeping rough on a single night in that area, to discover the UK town with the highest risk of homelessness.

## Top 10 UK areas with the highest risk of homelessness

UK local authority (LA)	UK Region	Homelessness rank	Number of households owed a relief or prevention duty (Oct-December)	Average number of people sleeping rough in a single night (Autumn 2023)	Index
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			2023)		
Bedford	East of England	1	1,724	18	1,742
Maldon	East of England	2	1,640	0	1,640
Lambeth	London	3	1,390	44	1,434
Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	4	973	5	978
Dorset	South West	5	935	15	950
Cornwall	South West	6	902	43	945
Sefton	North West	7	938	3	941
Babergh	East of England	8	903	5	908
Westminster	London	9	616	277	893
Dover	South East	10	868	9	877
<b>UK Average</b>			<b>267</b>	<b>13:</b>	<b>278</b>

Maldon, in Essex, is the UK's second riskiest place for homelessness. In Maldon, 1,640 households are at risk of homelessness - six times more than the UK average (267 households).

Lambeth, in London, ranks as the UK's third riskiest place for homelessness. In Lambeth, 1,390 households are at risk of homelessness: five times more than the national average (267 households). Lambeth also has an average of 44 people sleeping rough in a single night: 238 percent higher than the UK average of 13 in a single night.

Hinckley and Bosworth, Dorset, and Cornwall rank as the fourth, fifth and sixth riskiest places for homelessness in the whole of the UK.

Pastor Mick, founder of Church On The Street, says: "The levels of homelessness and severe poverty we have seen in the UK over the past few years, is the worst it has ever been. People are truly reaching a new level of destitution, and it must be one of the first priorities of our new government to restore dignity and alleviate suffering for these most vulnerable members of society".

Westminster in London is also among the riskiest places for homelessness in the UK. Westminster has the highest number of rough sleepers in a single night in the whole of the country (277 rough sleepers a night), which is more than 20 times (2000%) higher than the national average of 13 rough sleepers a night.

## Ranked: Top 50 UK areas with the highest homelessness risk

UK local authority (LA)	UK region	Number of households owed a relief or prevention duty (2023)	Number of people sleeping rough per night (2023)	Index
Bedford	East of England	1,724	18	1,742
Maldon	East of England	1,640	0	1,640
Lambeth	London	1,390	44	1,434
Hinckley and Bosworth	East Midlands	973	5	978
Dorset	South West	935	15	950
Cornwall	South West	902	43	945
Sefton	North West	938	3	941
Babergh	East of England	903	5	908
Westminster	London	616	277	893
Dover	South East	868	9	877
Kirklees	Yorkshire and The Humber	862	14	876
City of London	London	791	61	852
Brentwood	East of England	850	1	851
Kensington and Chelsea	London	803	8	811

<b>Isle of Wight</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>788</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>791</b>
<b>Newcastle upon Tyne</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>752</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>778</b>
<b>Torbay</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>725</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>752</b>
<b>Greenwich</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>705</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>740</b>
<b>Southampton</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>686</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>710</b>
<b>Bolton</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>705</b>
<b>Braintree</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>701</b>
<b>Lancaster</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>679</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>693</b>
<b>Blackpool</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>690</b>
<b>New Forest</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>681</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>683</b>
<b>Northumberland</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>667</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>675</b>
<b>Slough</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>670</b>
<b>West Oxfordshire</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>660</b>
<b>Doncaster</b>	<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	<b>634</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>657</b>
<b>Hammersmith and Fulham</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>636</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>650</b>
<b>Wakefield</b>	<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	<b>639</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>644</b>
<b>Broxbourne</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>619</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>625</b>
<b>Gravesham</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>623</b>
<b>Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>559</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>623</b>
<b>Dacorum</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>607</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>614</b>
<b>Leicester</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>614</b>
<b>Dartford</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>604</b>
<b>Ribble Valley</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>602</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>603</b>
<b>Stratford-on-Avon</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>601</b>
<b>North Warwickshire</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>571</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>571</b>

<b>Bristol, City of</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>504</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>Stockport</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>546</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>571</b>
<b>Eastleigh</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>546</b>
<b>Nuneaton and Bedworth</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>524</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>534</b>
<b>Kingston upon Hull, City of</b>	<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	<b>489</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>528</b>
<b>Hertsmere</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>522</b>
<b>Peterborough</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>519</b>
<b>Manchester</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>508</b>
<b>Stevenage</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>491</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>502</b>
<b>Cherwell</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>477</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>484</b>
<b>Uttlesford</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>473</b>
<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>453</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>468</b>
<b>Walsall</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>444</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>452</b>
<b>Mid Suffolk</b>	<b>East of England</b>	<b>440</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>441</b>
<b>Cheltenham</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>434</b>
<b>Sutton</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>430</b>
<b>North Lincolnshire</b>	<b>Yorkshire and The Humber</b>	<b>428</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>429</b>
<b>South Staffordshire</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>West Lancashire</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>422</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>427</b>
<b>Portsmouth</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>405</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>416</b>
<b>Oxford</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>412</b>
<b>Waltham Forest</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>386</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>411</b>
<b>Rossendale</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>410</b>
<b>Hastings</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>376</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>407</b>
<b>Blaby</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>404</b>

<b>Brent</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>398</b>
<b>Preston</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>397</b>
<b>Swale</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>395</b>
<b>Staffordshire Moorlands</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>377</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>378</b>
<b>Lichfield</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>366</b>
<b>Sevenoaks</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>364</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>Haringey</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>365</b>
<b>South Tyneside</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>361</b>
<b>South Ribble</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>358</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>360</b>
<b>Croydon</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>354</b>
<b>Ashford</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>343</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>351</b>
<b>Rutland</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>348</b>
<b>Kingston upon Thames</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>343</b>
<b>Forest of Dean</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>338</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>342</b>
<b>North Devon</b>	<b>South West</b>	<b>332</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>339</b>
<b>Derby</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>337</b>
<b>Westmorland and Furness</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>336</b>
<b>Pendle</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>333</b>
<b>Woking</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>328</b>
<b>Gateshead</b>	<b>North East</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>325</b>
<b>Winchester</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>322</b>
<b>Salford</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>316</b>
<b>Tandridge</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>315</b>
<b>Hackney</b>	<b>London</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>278</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>311</b>
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>308</b>
<b>North West Leicestershire</b>	<b>East Midlands</b>	<b>303</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>304</b>
<b>Guildford</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Buckinghamshire</b>	<b>South East</b>	<b>286</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>303</b>
<b>Liverpool</b>	<b>North West</b>	<b>265</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>299</b>

Camden	London	177	121	298
Burnley	North West	291	7	298
Birmingham	West Midlands	258	36	294
Sheffield	Yorkshire and The Humber	254	31	285
Calderdale	Yorkshire and The Humber	282	2	284
Plymouth	South West	239	41	280

UK Average		267	13.3	278
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All data gathered from: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

If using this press release, please include a linked credit to Church On The Street, who commissioned the data <https://www.cots-ministries.co.uk/> .

Data on number of households at risk of homelessness in every local authority:  
[www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-january-to-march-2023/statutory-homelessness-in-england-january-to-march-2023](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-january-to-march-2023/statutory-homelessness-in-england-january-to-march-2023)

Data on number of rough sleepers in every local authority:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2023/rough-sleeping-snapshot-in-england-autumn-2023>