Housing Key Facts

Housing Register Applications & Lettings

Summary, Commentary & Data Tables
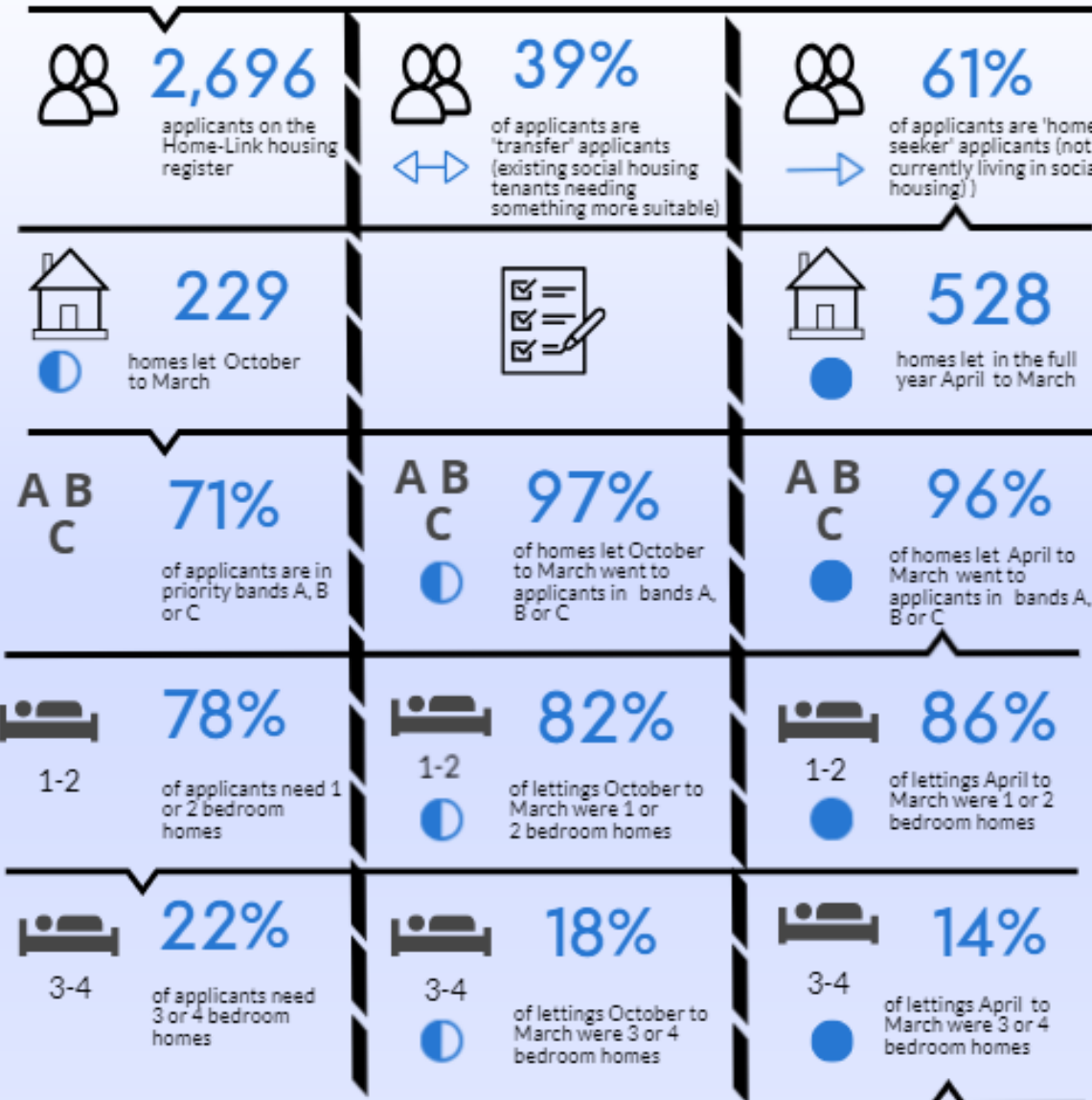
March 2024

Housing Register Applications & Lettings Summary

March 2024

2,696 applicants on the Home-Link housing register

39% of applicants are 'transfer' applicants (existing social housing tenants needing something more suitable)

61% of applicants are 'home-seeker' applicants (not currently living in social housing))

229 homes let October to March

528 homes let in the full year April to March

A B C **71%** of applicants are in priority bands A, B or C

A B C **97%** of homes let October to March went to applicants in bands A, B or C

A B C **96%** of homes let April to March went to applicants in bands A, B or C

1-2 **78%** of applicants need 1 or 2 bedroom homes

1-2 **82%** of lettings October to March were 1 or 2 bedroom homes

1-2 **86%** of lettings April to March were 1 or 2 bedroom homes

3-4 **22%** of applicants need 3 or 4 bedroom homes

3-4 **18%** of lettings October to March were 3 or 4 bedroom homes

3-4 **14%** of lettings April to March were 3 or 4 bedroom homes

Applications and Lettings: Summary

- There are 2,696 applicant households on the housing register
- 39% of applicants are 'transfer' applicants (existing social housing tenants needing something more suitable)
- 61% of applicants are 'homeseeker' applicants (not currently living in social housing)
- 229 homes were let October last year to March this year
- 528 homes were let last April to March
- 71% of applicants are in priority bands A, B or C
- 97% of homes let October to March, and 96% of homes let last April to March went to applicants in bands A,B or C
- 78% of applicants need 1 or 2 bedroom homes
- 82% of lettings October to March, and 86% of lettings last April to March were 1 or 2 bedroom homes.
- 22% of applicants need 3 or 4 bedroom homes
- 18% of lettings October to March, and 14% of lettings last April to March were 3 or 4 bedroom homes.

Applications and Lettings: Commentary

- There is high demand for social housing, with demand far out-stripping supply. Even with a steady supply of new homes being built through the council's own house-building programme and other Registered Providers, there were around five times more applicant households on the housing register at the end of March than homes let during April to March. The reality is that some applicants may never be housed.

- Although housing register numbers dropped after 2019 when all applicants had to reapply, demand has been increasing year on year.

- The main demand over recent years has been for one-bedroom homes, and the majority of lets are also of one and two bedroom homes.

- Around a quarter of applicants on the register need three and four bedroom homes but a smaller proportion of those sizes of home have become available over recent years.

- Ongoing issues with the economy are likely to lead to a further increase in demand for social housing.

- Note that, owing to a change in methodology, historic lettings figures have been revised at March 2024 and backdated to 2019, and should now be more accurate. The new figures show fewer homes being let each year than previously recorded, making the difference between supply and demand even more stark than had previously been thought.

- See also the Council Housing, New Homes, and Homelessness & Rough Sleeping sections of Housing Key Facts.

Data tables index

Housing Register Applicants Data

Explanation

Data shows applicant households with a status of 'live' on the council's Home-Link housing register, although not including those waiting to be validated.

Priority banding and size of home needed is based on the council's Lettings Policy and depends on the household's circumstances.

Homes let to applicants are a mixture of council homes and homes owned by Private Registered Providers (Housing Associations).

Caution

Backdated changes are occasionally made to some data. Please use the most up to date version available.

Figures may not necessarily tie up exactly with those reported through government returns as reporting criteria may be slightly different and/or backdated changes may have to be made here if figures change after a government return has been submitted.

Data source

Home-Link Housing Register

Home-seeker and transfer applicants

Table 1: Applicants: home-seekers and transfers, March

Date	Home-seeker applicants	Transfer applicants	Unknown applicant type	Total applicants
Mar-24	1,658	1,038	0	**2,696**

Figure 1: Applicants: home-seekers and transfers, March

Applicants - homeseekers and transfers, March

- Home-seeker applicants
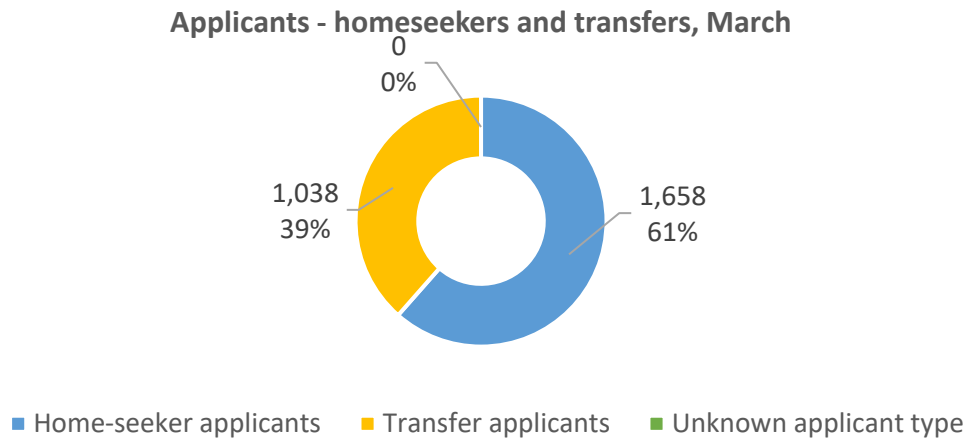- Transfer applicants
- Unknown applicant type

Table 2: Applicants: home-seekers and transfers, last five years

Date	Home-seeker applicants	Transfer applicants	Unknown applicant type	Total applicants
Mar-20	946	627	not available	**1,573**
Mar-21	1,143	780	not available	**1,923**
Mar-22	1,260	928	2	**2,190**
Mar-23	1,464	962	3	**2,429**
Mar-24	1,658	1,038	0	**2,696**

Applicants by priority banding

Table 3: Applicants by priority banding, March

Date	Applicants Band A	Applicants Band B	Applicants Band C	Applicants Band D/D*	Unknown Banding	Total Applicants
Mar-24	213	704	1,000	779	0	**2,696**

Figure 2: Applicants by priority banding, March

Mar-24
- 0 0% (Applicants Band A, but labeled)
- 213 8%
- 704 26%
- 1,000 37%
- 779 29%

- ■ Applicants Band A
- ■ Applicants Band B
- ■ Applicants Band C
- ■ Applicants Band D/D*
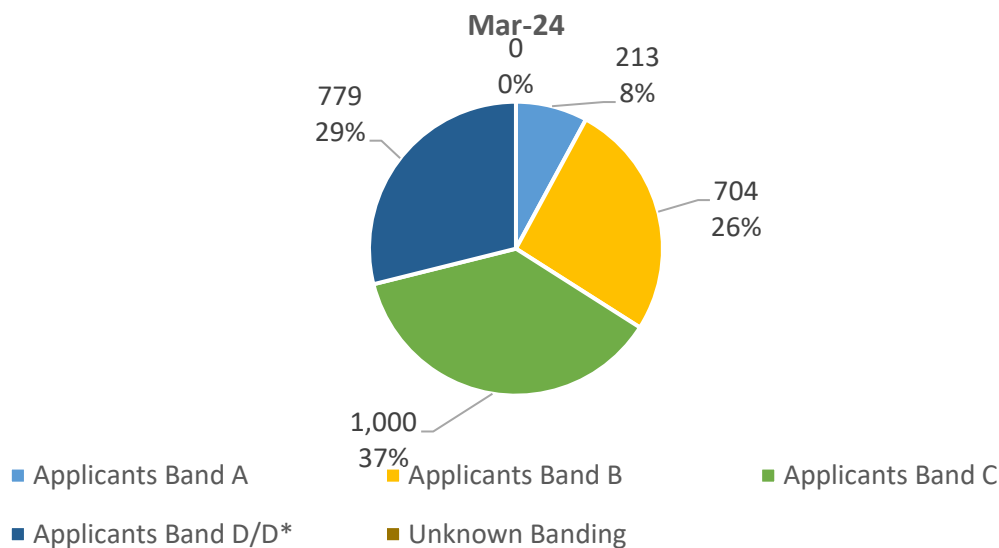- ■ Unknown Banding

Table 4: Applicants by priority banding, last five years

Date	Applicants Band A	Applicants Band B	Applicants Band C	Applicants Band D/D*	Unknown Banding	Total Applicants
Mar-20	126	386	631	430	not available	**1,573**
Mar-21	137	493	780	513	not available	**1,923**
Mar-22	188	569	781	652	0	**2,190**
Mar-23	202	612	904	711	0	**2,429**
Mar-24	1,528	577	449	142	0	**2,696**

Applicants by size of home required

Table 5: Applicants by size of home required, March

Date	Applicants 1 bed	Applicants 2 bed	Applicants 3 bed	Applicants 4 bed+	Unknown size need	Total applicants
Mar-24	1,528	577	449	142	0	**2,696**

Figure 3: Applicants by size of home required, March

Mar-24

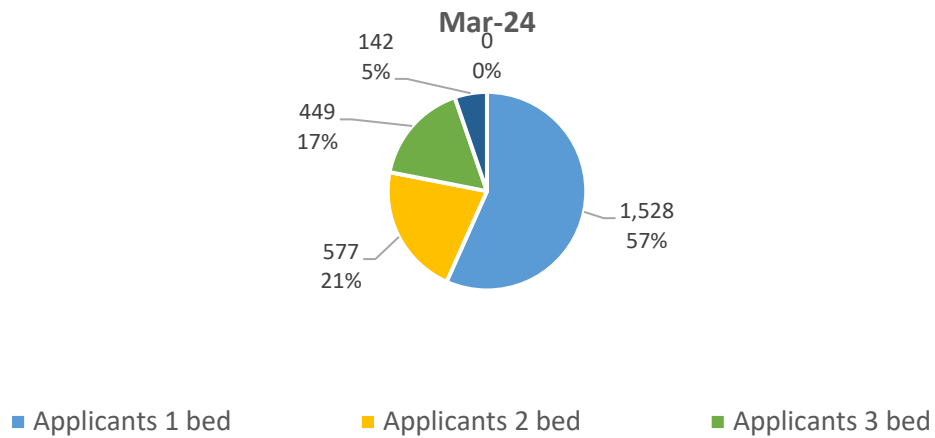- Applicants 1 bed
- Applicants 2 bed
- Applicants 3 bed

Table 6: Applicants by size of home required, by year, last five years

Date	Applicants 1 bed	Applicants 2 bed	Applicants 3 bed	Applicants 4 bed+	Unknown size need	Total applicants
Mar-20	897	409	220	47	not available	**1,573**
Mar-21	1,096	481	269	77	not available	**1,923**
Mar-22	1,192	566	335	96	1	**2,190**
Mar-23	1,328	581	405	115	0	**2,429**
Mar-24	1,528	577	449	142	0	**2,696**

Lettings Data

Explanation

Data shows council and housing association homes let to applicant households on the council's Home-Link housing register. As stated previously, priority banding and size of home needed is based on the council's Lettings Policy and depends on the household's circumstances. Some applicants may have been housed outside of Cambridge.

Caution

Backdated changes are occasionally made to some data. Please use the most up to date version available.

Figures may not necessarily tie up exactly with those reported through government returns as reporting criteria may be slightly different and/or backdated changes may have to be made here if figures change after a government return has been submitted.

Data source

Home-Link Housing Register.

Sizes of homes let

Table 7: Lettings by size, October to March

Year	1 bed lets	2 bed lets	3 bed lets	4 bed+ lets	Total lettings
October 2023 to March 2024	107	81	39	2	**229**

Figure 4: Lettings by size, October to March

October 2023 to March 2024

- 1 bed lets
- 2 bed lets
- 3 bed lets
- 4 bed+ lets
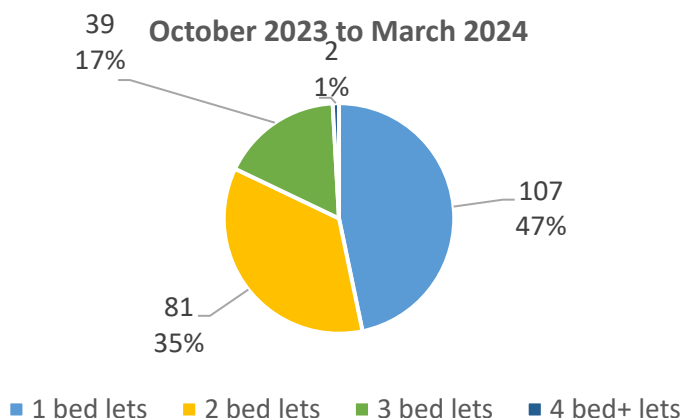
Table 8: Lettings by size, last five years

Year	1 bed lets	2 bed lets	3 bed lets	4 bed+ lets	Total lettings
April 2019-March 2020	178	196	50	2	**426**
April 2020-March 2021	153	149	43	7	**352**
April 2021-March 2022	197	129	41	3	**370**
April 2022-March 2023	309	237	67	2	**615**
April 2023-March 2024	254	199	72	3	**528**

Lettings by applicant priority banding

Table 9: Lettings by applicant priority banding, October to March

Date	Band A lets	Band B lets	Band C lets	Band D/D* lets	Banding Unknown	Total lettings
October 2023 to March 2024	148	63	10	6	2	**229**

Figure 5: Lettings by applicant priority banding, October to March
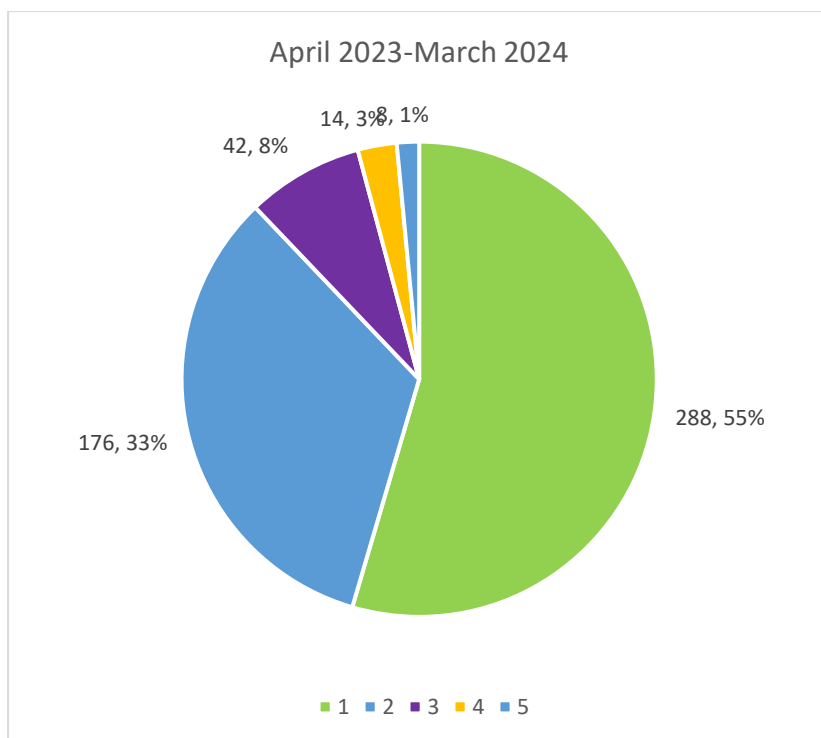
April 2023-March 2024

Table 10: Lettings by applicant priority banding, last five years

Year	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D/D*	Unknown	Total lettings
April 2019-March 2020	198	144	46	23	15	**426**
April 2020-March 2021	163	125	34	20	10	**352**
April 2021-March 2022	178	117	39	26	10	**370**
April 2022-March 2023	308	193	83	22	9	**615**
April 2023-March 2024	288	176	42	14	8	**528**

Table 11: Lettings by size by priority banding, April to March

April 2023 to March 2024	Band A	Band B	Band C	Band D/D*	Unknown	Total
1 bed	120	91	28	11	4	**254**
2 beds	101	80	14	2	2	**199**
3 beds	64	5	0	1	2	**72**
4 beds plus	3	0	0	0	0	**3**
Total lets	**288**	**176**	**42**	**14**	**8**	528