

BUILDING BETTER HOUSING: YOUTH EXPERIENCES AND THE PUBLIC SECTOR DUTY

Why is this research happening?

Ireland is in the middle of a housing crisis, and young people are often the ones feeling it most. If you are aged between 18 and 30 and renting from a private landlord with some form of housing support (like HAP, RAS, or a social welfare payment), your voice is really important right now. Threshold and the National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) have teamed up to understand what life is really like for young renters like you. Nexus has been appointed as the research partner to carry out the research work. We want to hear about your experiences, the good, the bad, and everything in between, so that we can show public bodies (like local councils and government departments) what is working, what isn't, and how they can better support young people.

Who is leading this research?

This project is a partnership between:

- Threshold (the national housing charity)
- NYCI (the National Youth Council of Ireland)
- Nexus Research Cooperative (an independent research team)

The work is also guided by a Research Advisory Group. This group includes young people with lived experience of renting, as well as academics and policy experts. They help make sure the research is done right and that young people's voices are at the centre of everything.

Why should you take part?

Quite simply, because your experience matters. Politicians and public servants make decisions about housing every day, but they don't always get to hear directly from young people about how those decisions affect your life. By sharing your story, you can help:

- Show the real impact of the housing crisis on young people's wellbeing.
- Identify the barriers young people face when trying to access support.
- Create change by providing clear evidence that Threshold, NYCI, and others can use to campaign for better housing policy and better public services.

What will happen with the information?

The Survey: This survey is the first step. Your answers will help us build a picture of renting experiences across the country.

Focus Groups: After the survey, we will be inviting some young people to take part in small group discussions (online or in-person) to talk about their experiences in more detail. *You can indicate at the end of this survey if you might be interested in joining one.*

The Final Report and Toolkit: We will use everything we learn to write a report with clear recommendations. We will also create an "advocacy toolkit" to help public bodies understand how they can better support young renters.

Is it private and confidential?

Yes, 100%. Taking part is voluntary, and everything you tell us is confidential.

- **Anonymity:** You do not have to put your name on the survey. Your answers cannot be traced back to you.
- **No Identifiers:** When we write the final report, we will never use your name or any information that could identify you. If we use a direct quote from a focus group, we will change your name and any details that might give you away.
- **Data Protection:** All information is stored securely by Nexus Research, and only the research team will have access to it. We follow strict GDPR rules.
- **No Impact on Services:** Taking part (or choosing not to) will have absolutely no effect on any housing supports or services you currently receive.

Do you have to take part?

Not at all. It is completely up to you. If you start the survey and change your mind, you can stop at any time. However, because the survey is anonymous, once you hit "submit," we won't be able to remove your answers, as we won't know which ones are yours.

OVERVIEW OF SURVEY PHASE AND ELIGIBILITY

Who specifically should complete the survey?

As noted above, this survey is for young people aged 18–30 who are receiving or eligible for housing support. When we say "housing support", we mean that you are:

- Living independently in private rented accommodation, depending on rent supports (like HAP or RAS).
- Eligible for Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) but currently living in the family home (and may be on the social housing list).
- Living in emergency or transitional accommodation and are attempting to get into the Private Rental Sector independently (not with your family of origin) with the support of HAP, RAS, or similar.

If you are in one of the following three groups, then please continue with the survey.

Your situation	Description
A) I am currently renting with housing support	You are currently renting from a private landlord and you receive housing support (such as HAP or RAS).
B) I have rented before with housing support	You are not currently renting from a private landlord, but you have rented from a private landlord in the past with housing support. You may now be living at home, in emergency accommodation, or elsewhere.
C) I am eligible for housing support but have never rented	You are eligible for housing support (e.g., HAP) and are searching for a private rental property, but have never yet rented in the private sector. You may be living at home, in emergency accommodation, or sofa surfing.

The survey link is here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/YouthHousing/>

Depending on your situation, you will be asked different questions within the survey. Please see below for more details and follow the instructions at the start of each section.

Who should NOT complete this survey?

This survey is designed specifically for young people who are receiving or are eligible for housing support. Please do not complete this survey if:

- You are outside the age range of 18–30.
- You are currently living in social housing (e.g., a Local Authority property) or in housing provided by an Approved Housing Body (AHB).
- You are renting in the private rental sector but are not accessing any form of housing support (e.g., HAP, RAS).
- You are considering renting in the private rental sector but are not qualified for housing supports.

If any of the above apply to you, thank you for your interest, but this survey has a different focus to your needs and experiences. If you are unsure whether you qualify, please continue, you can stop at any time if you feel the questions do not apply to you.

For those taking the survey, these are the relevant sections

Please follow the guide below to see which sections of the survey are relevant to you.

Section	What it covers	A) I am currently renting a private rental property with housing support	B) I have rented a private rental property before with housing support	C) I am eligible for housing support in the private rental sector but, as yet, have never rented
Section A	About You (demographic information)	✓	✓	✓
Section B	Your Current Housing Situation (rent, HAP, top-ups)	✓	X	X
Section C	Searching for Accommodation (barriers, discrimination, deposits)	✓ (search for current home)	✓ (most recent search)	✓ (current search)
Section D	Your Experience of Renting (wellbeing, security, landlord relationships)	✓	✓	X
Section E	Support from Local Authorities (HAP, housing officers, engagement)	✓	✓	✓
Section F	Rights, Awareness, and Agency	✓	✓	✓
Section G	Future Aspirations	✓	✓	✓

Want to know more?

If you have any questions about the research, you can contact the research team directly at Nexus:

Paul Butler: paul@nexus.ie

If you are renting and need support, please visit [Get help - Threshold](#)

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Your voice can help build better housing for young people in Ireland.