

Public Notice



Designation of an Area for Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

This notice is published in accordance with Sections 56 to 60 of the Housing Act 2004 and Regulation 9 of the Licensing and Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2006.

Notice is hereby given that the Oxford City Council has on the 25th March 2026 designated an additional licensing scheme in respect of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). The area affected covers the entire City of Oxford.

This scheme will be known as the Oxford City Council Additional Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation Scheme 2026.

The scheme, to which the designation applies, has General Approval under section 58 of the Housing Act 2004 by the Secretary of State under the Housing Act 2004: Licensing of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Selective Licensing of Other Residential Accommodation (England) General Approval 2024, which came into force on the 23rd December 2024. Therefore the designation need not be confirmed and **will come into force at midnight (00.00hrs) on the 25th June 2026** unless revoked beforehand the Scheme will cease to have effect at midnight (00.00hrs) on the 25th June 2031.

With effect from the 25th June 2026 the Scheme applies any HMO under the Housing Act 2004 that does not require a mandatory HMO licence:

- those containing three or four occupiers; and
- all self-contained flats that are Houses in Multiple Occupation, irrespective of the number of storeys in the building, and;
- so far as concerns section 257 Houses in Multiple Occupation, limit the designation to those that are mainly or wholly tenanted, including those with resident landlords.

A person having control of or managing an HMO must apply to the Oxford City Council for a licence. Failure to apply for a licence is an offence under Section 72(1) of the Housing Act 2004 and is punishable on conviction by payment of an unlimited fine set by the Courts or by the Council imposing a financial penalty as per statutory limitation. A rent repayment order may also be granted on application to the First-tier Tribunal (Housing Act 2004 S73 and S74).

Any person, landlord, managing agent or other person managing a HMO or any tenant within the City may inspect the designation and may seek advice as to whether their property is affected by the designation by contacting the Council during normal office hours, which are: 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday.

Contact details for the Council are:

- In writing: Oxford City Council, Residential Regulation Team, Town Hall, St Aldates, Oxford, OX1 1BX;
- Email: rrt@oxford.gov.uk
- Telephone: 01865 252211.