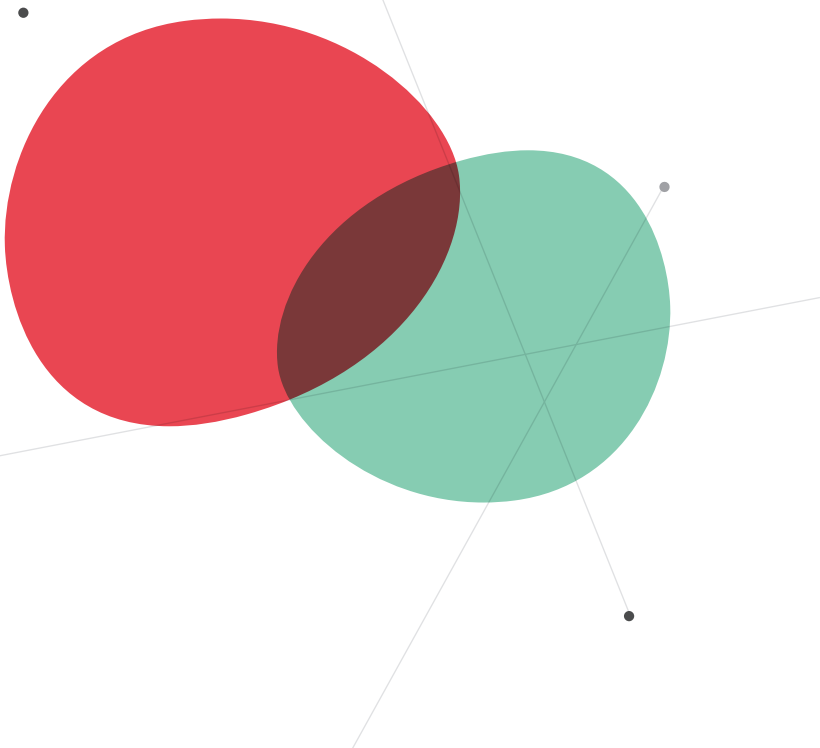


MRAssociates helps UK supported accommodation providers successfully resolve issues around the housing benefit scheme through advice, training, and representation.



How We Help

We know the area of supported accommodation and housing benefits can be complex and time-consuming.

Our friendly and cost-efficient support and advice ensures you can continue to provide your services without becoming entrenched in housing benefit scheme issues.

Our expertise around complicated cases, our direct access to leading barristers, and our in-depth knowledge of the housing benefit scheme enables us to successfully resolve housing benefit disputes before local authorities and tribunals.



Impartial Advice and Support



For your occupants to receive the appropriate housing benefit payments, your accommodation must be awarded the correct status.

We can help you obtain 'exempt accommodation' or other 'specified accommodation' status for your supported housing services.

To date, we've helped hundreds of not-for-profit organisations optimise their rental income. This has enabled them to provide a high level of service to the vulnerable adults they house.

Whether you need advice about a local authority request for information or support regarding a complex housing benefit issue, we can give you clear guidance at every step.

Representation

When you need to 'make your case' to a local authority it's essential to have the right team on your side.

We can request a statement of reasons for a housing benefit decision; gather evidence and draft a response to the council; and, of course, you can instruct us to help you or your occupants initiate appeals. We can also accompany you to meetings and negotiate settlements on your behalf with the local authority.

If the matter is already with the Tribunals Service, we can prepare written submissions, draft witness statements, manage tribunal directions and provide representation on behalf of your occupants or by instructing a barrister (in England and Wales) or advocate (in Scotland). This is because we have Licensed Access with the Bar Standards Board and are recognised by the Faculty of Advocates as a Direct Access Body.



Customised Training

Our customised and general training courses give you and your organisation practical, applicable knowledge, whether you're a trustee, director, senior manager or frontline member of staff.

Training events are delivered by our in-house experts as one-day, half-day, or evening courses and focus on all aspects of the housing benefit scheme as it applies to supported accommodation.

Available courses include: an overview of exempt accommodation and specified accommodation (basic and advanced levels); avoiding non-commerciality and contrivance problems; understanding excessive and ineligible service charges; dealing with rent restrictions in exempt accommodation; managing housing benefit appeals and representing at the First-Tier Tribunal.



“We have had many successful outcomes as a result of Mark Rodgers and Julia Austin’s hard work regarding very complex housing benefit issues. They always strive to achieve the very best outcome for us and I would recommend them at any opportunity.”

Rebecca Arrowsmith

Housing Manager at Golden
Lane Housing (Established
by Mencap)

“I consider Mark Rodgers to be one of the leading housing benefit experts in the UK. I would recommend him to any organisation working in the supported housing sector.”

Martin Ward

Author of the Shelter & CIH
‘Guide to Housing Benefit’

“Mark Rodgers is the natural “go-to” expert on housing benefit matters. His experience in supported housing matters is unmatched.”

Jan Luba QC

Barrister at Garden Court
Chambers, London