

Tenant's guide to







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What is SwapTracker?

SwapTracker is part of the **HomeSwapper** service.

The **HomeSwapper** website helps you find other social housing tenants to swap with.

When you've found someone, and both of you have agreed to swap, you can then use **SwapTracker** to apply for a "mutual exchange" (home swap) and keep track of progress.





How do I apply for an exchange?

To swap homes, you and the other tenant must get permission from your landlords to exchange.

<u>You</u> will need to apply to your landlord giving details of the person you wish to swap with.

They will need to apply to their landlord giving your details.

If a landlord uses **SwapTracker** this can all be done online!

If a landlord does <u>not</u> use **SwapTracker** you will need to request a paper application form and cannot use **SwapTracker**.



Using SwapTracker to apply for an exchange

How you apply to a landlord with **SwapTracker** depends on whether you currently have a **HomeSwapper** account or not, and if you are applying to your current landlord or a new one.

Refer to the sections below depending on your circumstances:

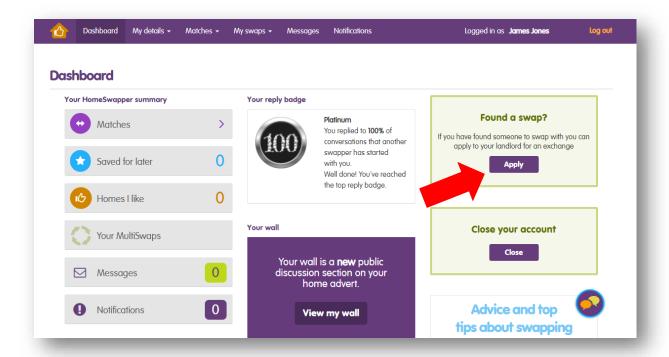
- I have a HomeSwapper account and I am applying to my landlord
- I don't have a HomeSwapper account and I am applying to my landlord
- I have a HomeSwapper account, but I am applying to a different landlord
- I don't have a HomeSwapper account and I am applying to a different landlord



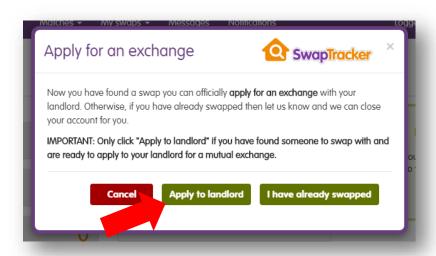
I have a **HomeSwapper** account and I am applying to my landlord

If you already have a HomeSwapper account and are applying to your own landlord, follow these steps:

- 1. Log into your HomeSwapper account
- 2. On your dashboard you will see an "Apply" button.



3. Clicking the "Apply" button shows a pop-up message.





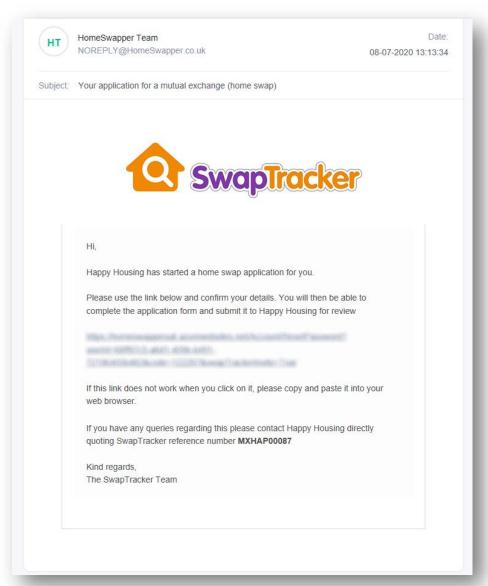
- 4. If you have found someone to swap with and are ready to apply to your landlord for an exchange, click the "Apply to landlord" button. Do not click this button if you are not ready to officially apply to your landlord for an exchange.
- 5. You will now be taken to the **SwapTracker** application form. For more information on this go to <u>The SwapTracker application form</u> section of this User Guide.



I don't have a HomeSwapper account and I am applying to my landlord

If you do not have a HomeSwapper account and are applying to your own landlord, follow these steps:

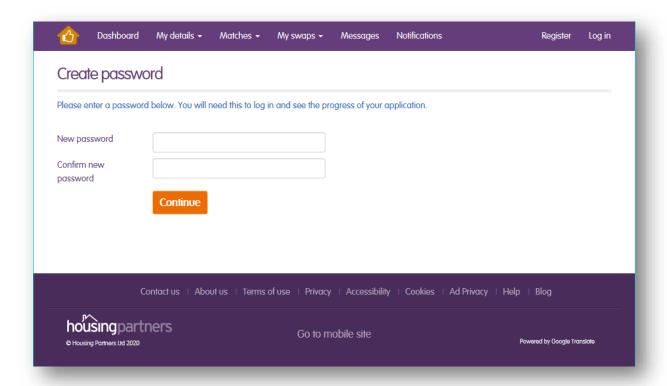
- Contact your landlord's Mutual Exchange team and tell them you wish to apply for an exchange using SwapTracker. Note: you must have an email address to do this. Your landlord will also need your last name and your current address.
- 2. They will "invite" you to apply online and you will receive an email with a secure link in it. Note: the link is only valid for 24 hours so make sure you use it straight away!



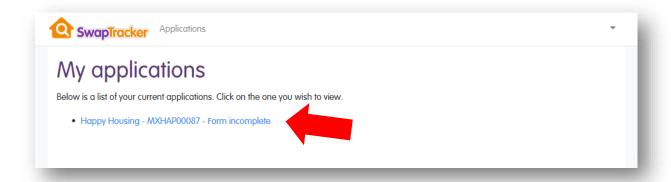
The email also includes your SwapTracker application reference number (beginning with "MX"). Make a note of this because it will be useful when talking to the landlord about your application.



3. Clicking the secure link in the email takes you to the **HomeSwapper** website to create a password. You need a password so you can log in in the future.

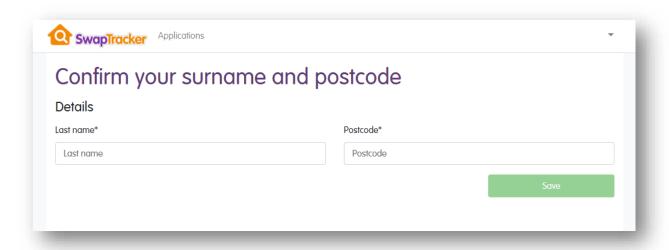


4. After you've created a password you will then see a list of your mutual exchange applications. Click on the link to continue.



5. Finally, for security reasons, you now need to confirm your last name and postcode. This ensures the application really is yours.





6. If the name and postcode you enter are correct, your account is verified, and you will be taken to the **SwapTracker** application form. For more information on this go to <u>The SwapTracker application form</u> section of this User Guide.

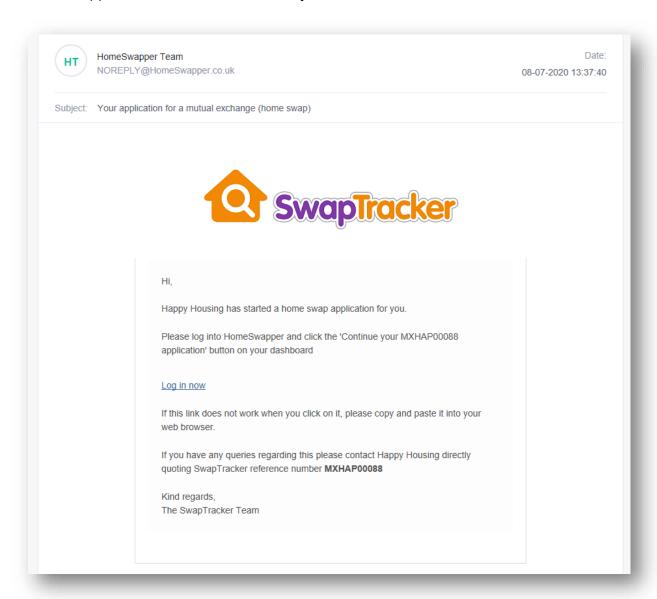
If your last name and postcode are <u>not</u> recognised, you may need to contact your landlord's Mutual Exchange team again so they can re-send an invite with the correct information.



I have a HomeSwapper account, but I am applying to a different landlord

If you already have a HomeSwapper account and are applying to a landlord other than your current one, follow these steps:

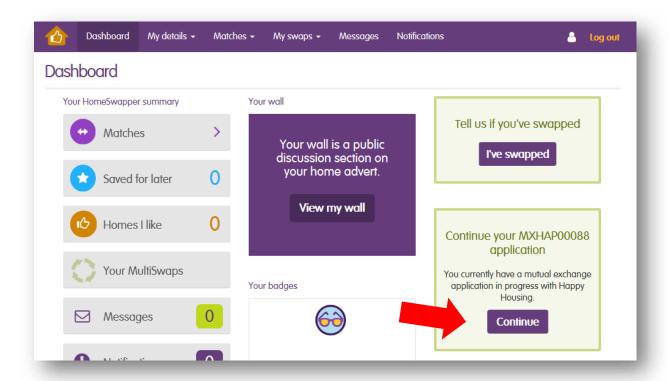
- Contact the landlord's Mutual Exchange team and tell them you wish to apply for an exchange using SwapTracker. Note: you must have an email address to do this. They will also need your last name and your current address.
- 2. They will "invite" you to apply online and you will receive an email confirming that an application has been started for you.



The email also includes your SwapTracker application reference number (beginning with "MX"). Make a note of this because it will be useful when talking to the landlord about your application.



3. Log into the **HomeSwapper** website. On your dashboard you will now see a button to continue your application with the landlord.



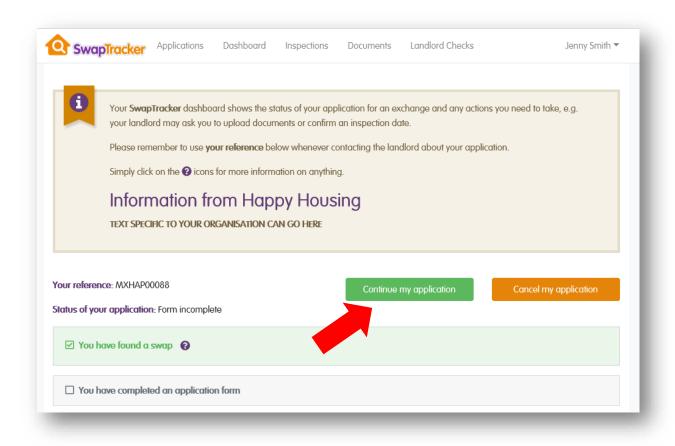
4. Clicking the "Continue" button will take you to a list of your mutual exchange applications. Click on the link to continue.



- 5. You will then be taken to your SwapTracker dashboard for your application.
- 6. Click the "Continue my application" button to start filling in the application form.

For more information on this go to <u>The SwapTracker application form</u> section of this User Guide.



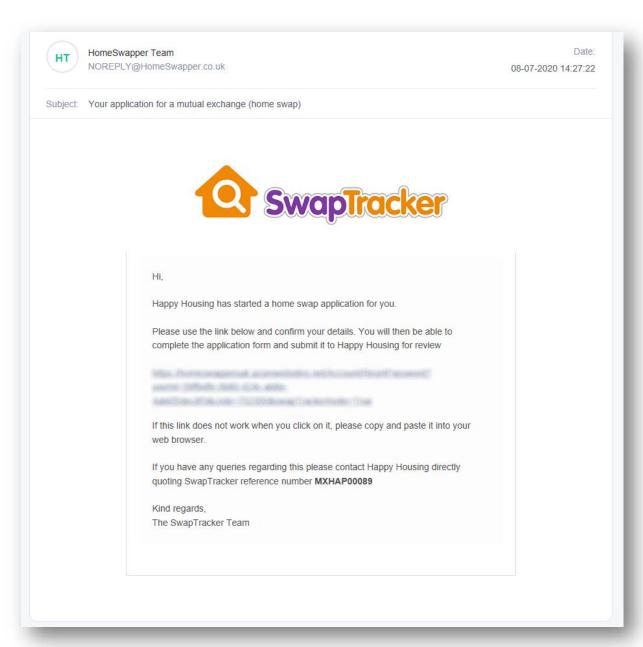




I don't have a HomeSwapper account and I am applying to a different landlord

If you do not have a HomeSwapper account and are applying to a landlord other than your current one, follow these steps:

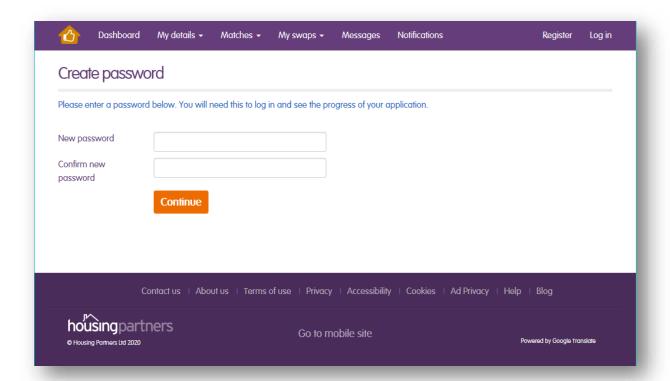
- Contact the landlord's Mutual Exchange team and tell them you wish to apply for an exchange using SwapTracker. Note: you must have an email address to do this. They will also need your last name and your current address.
- 2. They will "invite" you to apply online and you will receive an email with a secure link in it. Note: the link is only valid for 24 hours so make sure you use it straight away!



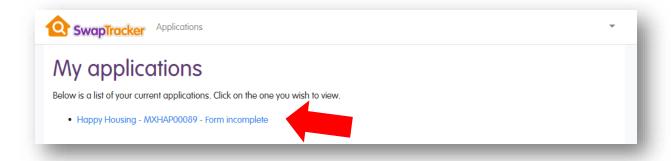


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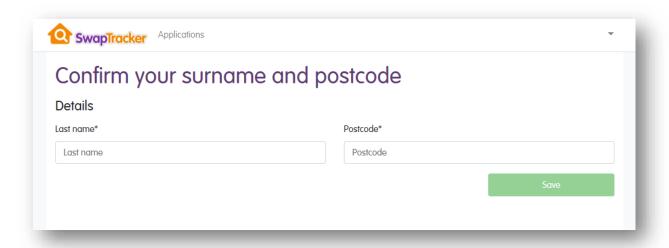


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If your last name and postcode are <u>not</u> recognised, you may need to contact the landlord's Mutual Exchange team again so they can re-send an invite with the correct information.



The SwapTracker application form

Using **SwapTracker** you can complete an application form for an exchange and submit it online to the landlord.

The form is split up into the following sections:

- Introduction
- Your details
- Current home
- Household information
- Your landlord details
- Your Household details
- Details of the person you want to swap with
- Their landlord details
- Declaration and signature(s)

Don't worry, you don't need to complete the whole form in one go!

You can leave it at any time and return to it later by logging into SwapTracker.

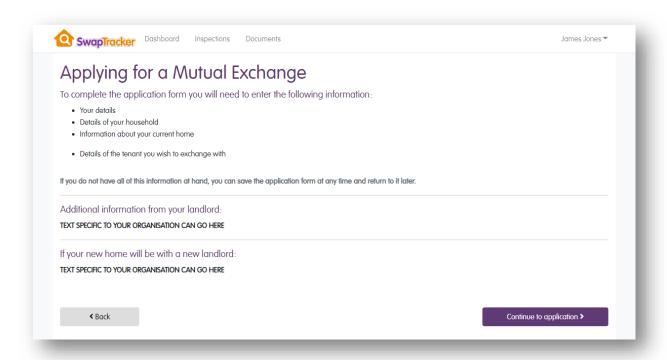
Note: the screenshots in this User Guide may differ slightly from the form you see. This is because every landlord may have different questions they ask.





Introduction

The introduction page simply tells you this information you will need to provide when you fill in the application form.



If the landlord you are applying to has any specific additional information they want you to know that would also be included on this page, e.g. they may have certain restrictions on the size of property you can swap to.

Simply click the "Continue your application" button to go the first section of the form.

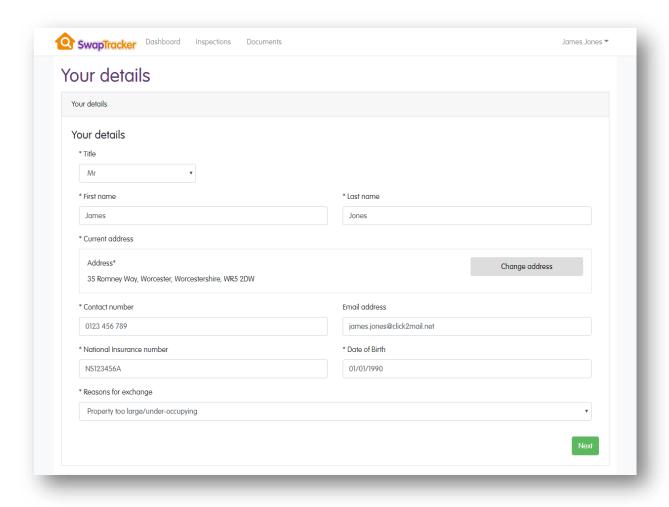


Your details

The "Your details" section requires you to enter information about the main tenant.

If your household has a joint tenant, you will enter this later in the <u>Your Household details</u> section.

If you have a **HomeSwapper** account, some of the information may already be filled in automatically, e.g. your name, address, etc.

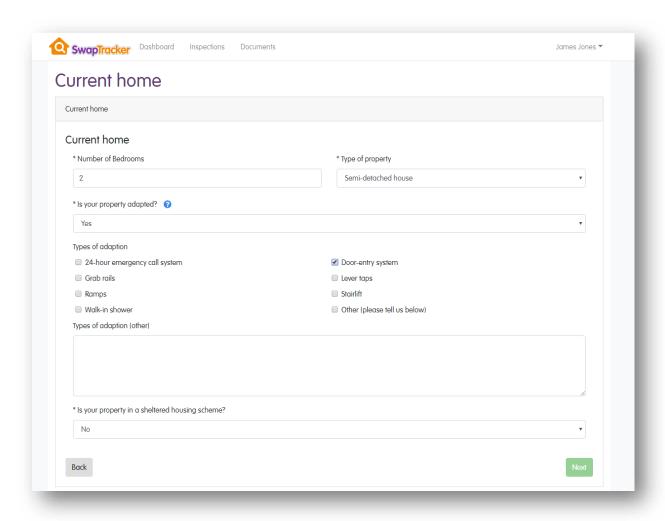




Current home

The "Current home" section requires you to enter information about the home you are currently living in (not the home you want to move to).

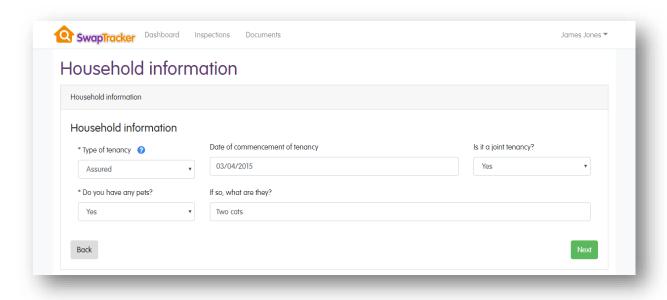
If you have a **HomeSwapper** account, some of the information may already be filled in automatically, e.g. number of bedrooms, type of property, etc.





Household information

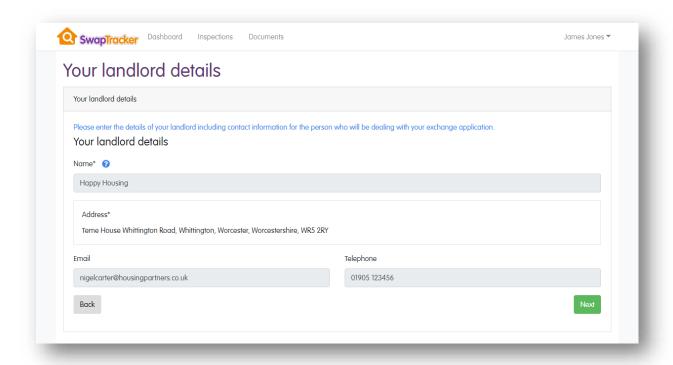
The "Household information" section is where you enter the details of your current tenancy and whether you have any pets.





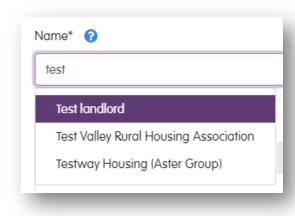
Your landlord details

The "Your landlord details" section is where you enter the name of your current landlord and any contact information you have for them.



In most cases this is already filled in automatically.

If it's not, start typing your landlord's name in the box and a list of matching landlords should be displayed.



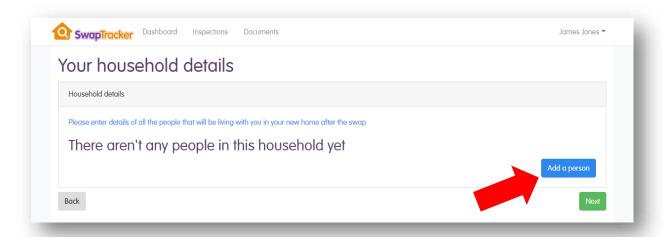
Click on your landlord's name to select it.



Your Household details

The "Your Household details" section is where you enter the details of everyone who will be moving with you.

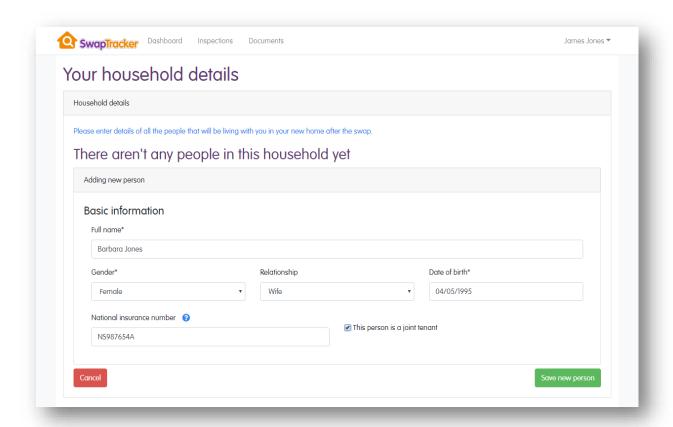
To add a person to your household, click the "Add a person" button.



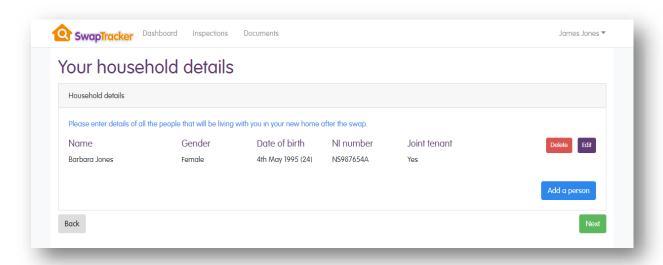
You will then be prompted to enter the details of the person, including name, gender and their relationship to you, e.g. partner, child, etc.

If this person is the <u>joint tenant</u> for your application, make sure you also tick the "This person is a joint tenant" box.





When you're happy with the information you've entered, click "Save new person" to save their details. Otherwise, click "Cancel" to discard it.



To remove someone from your household, click the "Delete" button next to them on the list. To amend their details, click the "Edit" button next to them on the list.

If you need to add more people, simply click "Add a person" again.

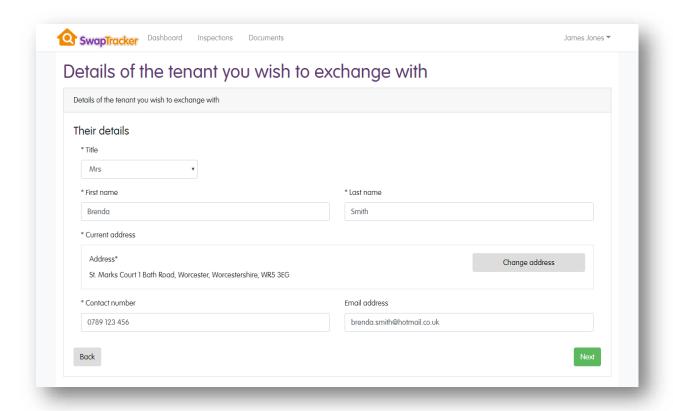
When you've finished entering everyone in your household, click "Next" to continue.



Details of the person you want to swap with

In this section you must enter the name, address and contact information for the person you want to exchange with.

If they have a joint tenant too, you will need to enter their details also.

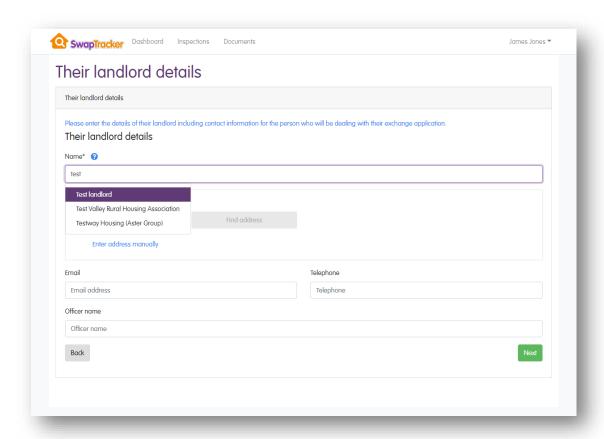


It is important that the information you enter here is accurate and you provide as much information as possible. This will be used by the landlord to contact the other swapper.

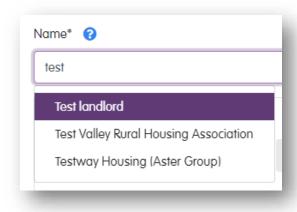


Their landlord details

The "Their landlord details" section is where you enter the name of the other person's landlord and any contact information you have for them.



Start typing their landlord's name in the box and a list of matching landlords should be displayed.



Click on their landlord's name to select it.



Declaration and signature(s)

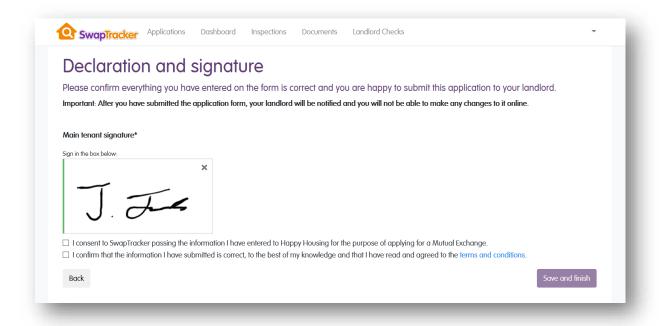
This is the final page of the form.

To submit your application to the landlord you must sign the signature box and tick to confirm the information you have provided is correct and you agree to the terms and conditions and privacy policy (if applicable).

For GDPR reasons, you also need to tick the box to say you agree with the form being passed to the landlord. If you do not do this, your application cannot be submitted.

To sign the box, you can use your finger (or stylus) on your mobile phone or tablet, or you use a mouse on a laptop or desktop PC.

Note: if there is a <u>joint</u> tenant on your application, they will also need to sign the form and tick the confirmation boxes.



When you are happy with the information you have provided on the application form, click the "Save and finish" button to submit the form to the landlord.

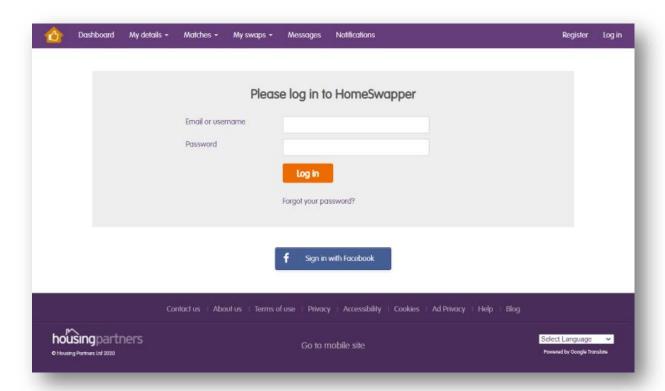


Important: when you click "Save and finish" the landlord will be notified of your application and the form will be locked. You will <u>not</u> be able to change the information on this form after you have submitted it.

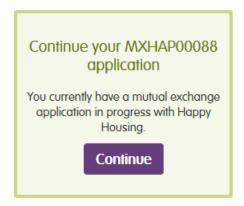


Logging into SwapTracker

To log into **SwapTracker** you simply need to use the **HomeSwapper** login page - https://www.homeswapper.co.uk/Account/LogIn.



When you've logged in, on your **HomeSwapper** dashboard you should see a "Continue" button like the one below:

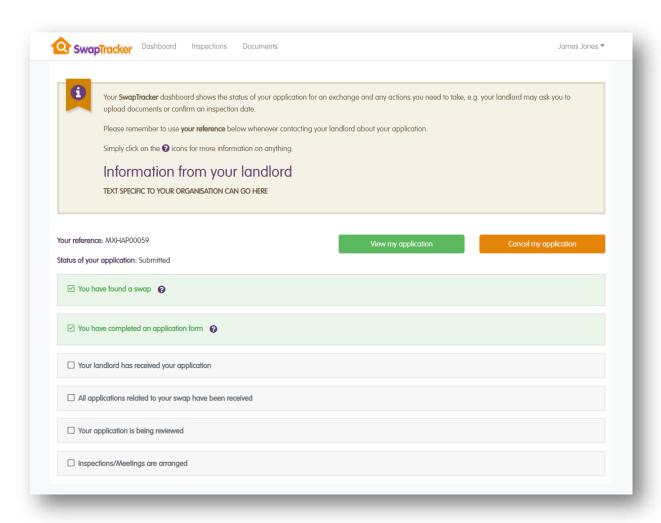


Click this to go to **SwapTracker** and continue filling in the application form or see the progress of your application.



Your SwapTracker dashboard

After you have started an application for an exchange using **SwapTracker**, you will have a **SwapTracker** dashboard like the one below:



Your dashboard shows you the reference number for your application (beginning "MX").

If you need to contact the landlord about your application, please remember to quote this reference number.

You can also see the current status of your application (e.g. "Submitted"). For more information on what this means, go to the <u>What's the current status of my application?</u> section of this User Guide.

Your reference: MXHAP00059

Status of your application: Submitted



To view your application form, click the "View my application" button.

View my application

If you have not submitted your application form yet, this will say "Continue my application" and you will be able to make changes to the form.

If you have already submitted it to the landlord, you will not be able to change it and it will be "read only".

If you need to cancel your application, click the "Cancel my application" button.



For more information on this, go to the <u>I want to cancel my</u> <u>application</u> section of this guide.

Your dashboard also shows you the stages of the application process, and which have been completed for your application. These are highlighted in green.

Click the less help icon for more information on what these stages mean.



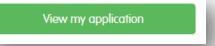


I need to change my application form

When you've completed filling in the application form and submitted it, the form is locked, and you can't make any more changes to it. This is to allow the landlord to review what you have sent them.

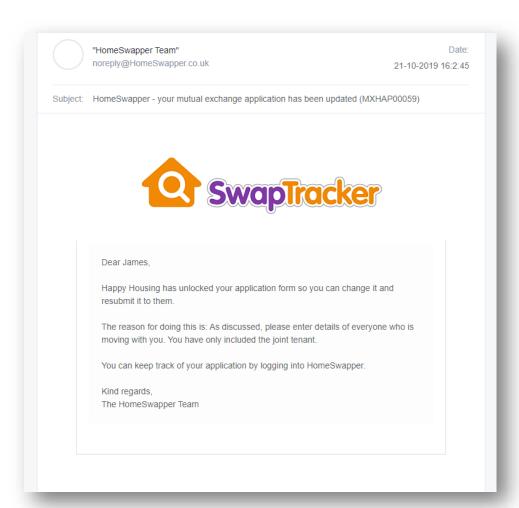
If you've made a mistake and need to change anything on the form, you will need to contact the landlord.

They will unlock the form and you will be able to amend it again by clicking the "View my application" button on your SwapTracker dashboard.



If the landlord finds a problem with your form, they will also unlock it and provide a reason. For example, you may have missed a question.

When they do this, you will receive an email like the one below with the reason why you need to amend your form:





What's the current status of my application?

On your <u>SwapTracker dashboard</u> you can the see the status of your application, e.g.

Status of your application: Submitted



The table below shows what each status means:

This is normally because you have not yet completed
the application form and submitted it to the landlord.
However, if there was an issue with the form and your andlord has asked you to change something, the status will also have been set back to "Form incomplete".
You've completed the application form and submitted it.
The landlord will now check your form.
The landlord has acknowledged that they have received your form.
mportant: this does not mean that the andlord now has 42* days to decide whether to approve your application. That only starts when the status of your application is "Under review".
The landlord has now received <u>all</u> the forms relating to your exchange and will review your application.
They now have 42* days to decide whether to approve or refuse your application.
For more information go to What is the 42-day counter all about?
Good news! Your landlord has approved your exchange.
They will contact you with more information on what nappens next and to arrange a move date.
Your landlord has approved your exchange but depending on certain conditions.



	They will contact you with more information on what these conditions are. For example, you may have outstanding rent arrears that you will need to pay off first.
	Only if you meet these conditions will the exchange be approved, and you can move.
"Rejected by landlord"	Unfortunately, the landlord has decided to decline your application for an exchange.
	They will contact you with more information on the reasons for this.

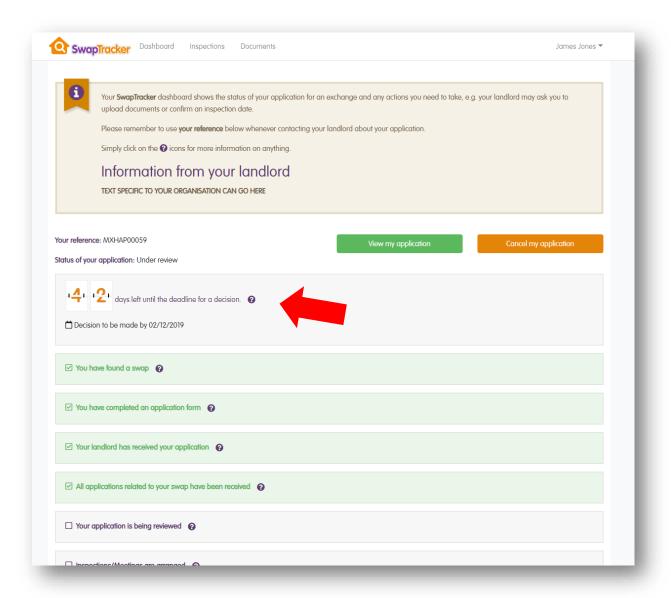
^{*}Please note: if you applying to a landlord in Scotland, they may only have 28 days to make a decision (not 42)



What is the 42-day counter all about?

When the landlord has received <u>all</u> the forms relating to your exchange (not just yours), they will change the status of your application to "Under review" and they now have 42* days to decide whether to approve your application or not.

On your <u>SwapTracker dashboard</u> you will be able to see how many days are remaining and the actual date by which you should receive a decision.





Important: this is the date you can expect a <u>decision</u> by.

This is <u>not</u> a move date. Do not make any removal arrangements until your exchange has been approved.

*Please note: if you applying to a landlord in Scotland, they may only have 28 days to make a decision (not 42)

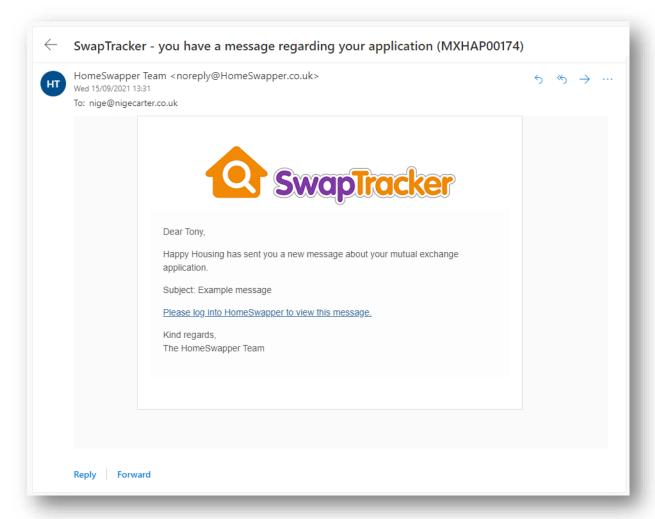


My Messages



Sometimes the landlord may send you a private message. For example, they may need some additional information from you.

When they do this, you will receive an email telling you that you're a new message has been sent:

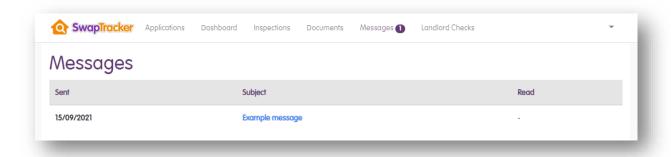


The email contains the subject of the message, but not the message itself.

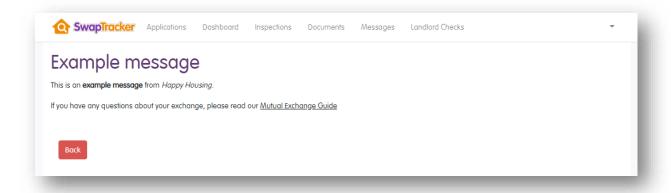
You must log in, go to your **SwapTracker** application and click on the "Messages" link in the top menu.



Your list shows you all the message received from the landlord. If you have not read a message, the subject is shown in **bold** and there will be no "Read" date.



Click on the subject of any message to read it:





Landlord checks

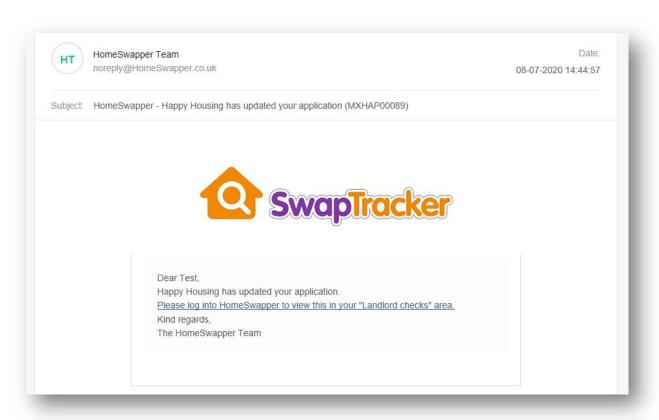
As part of deciding whether to approve your exchange or not, landlords will perform checks to ensure they are happy for you to proceed.

The type of checks will depend on the landlord you are applying to, but examples include:

- Checking you don't have any rent arrears currently
- Confirming there are no current or former issues with Anti-Social Behaviour
- Ensuring that moving to the home will not result in you under-occupying or being overcrowded

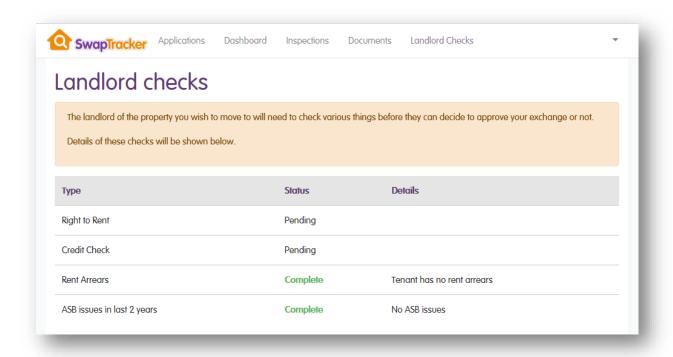
To keep you up to date on progress, landlords can share these checks with you.

When they do this, you will receive an email telling you that your application has been updated.



When you log in and go to your **SwapTracker** application, click on the "Landlord checks" link in the top menu to see any checks regarding your application.





The list of checks shows the type of check being done, the status and any additional details, e.g. if any issues have been found.

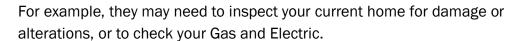
The status of each check can be:

- Pending the landlord has not completed the check yet
- Complete the landlord has completed the check
- Cancelled the check has been cancelled and is no longer required



Inspections and Meetings

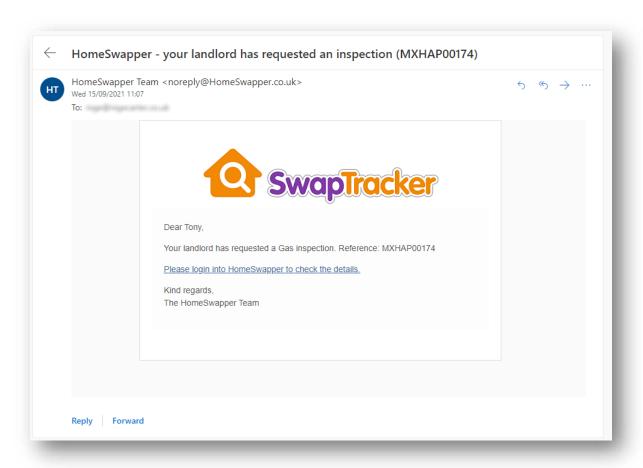
During the decision process where the landlord is reviewing your application, it may be necessary to arrange various appointments for inspections and meetings with you or at your home.





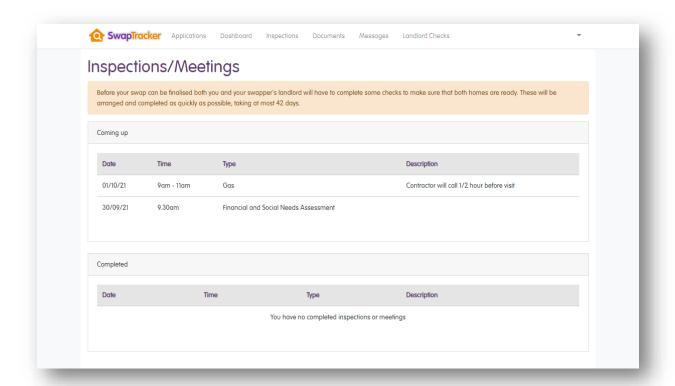
Any inspections or meetings regarding your application can be seen in the "Inspections" section of SwapTracker.

When the landlord schedules a new appointment, you will receive an email letting you know.



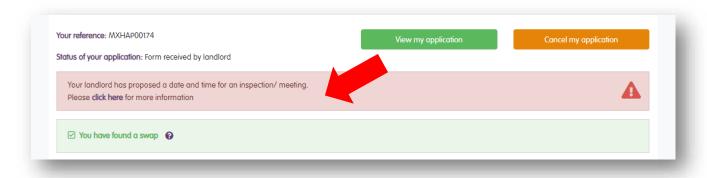
When you log in and go to your **SwapTracker** application, click on the "Inspections" link in the top menu to see any scheduled appointments.





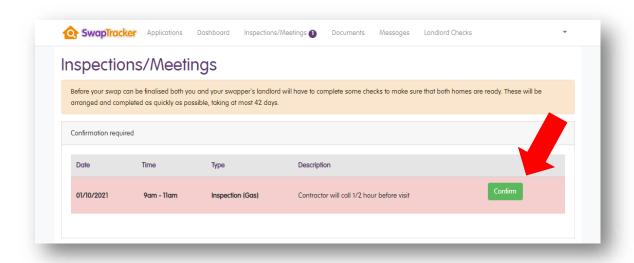
Sometimes, the landlord will also need you to confirm the date and time of an appointment.

When this happens, you will get a warning message on your **SwapTracker** dashboard:



Clicking this will take you to your list of appointments where you will need to confirm the date and time of that inspection or meeting.





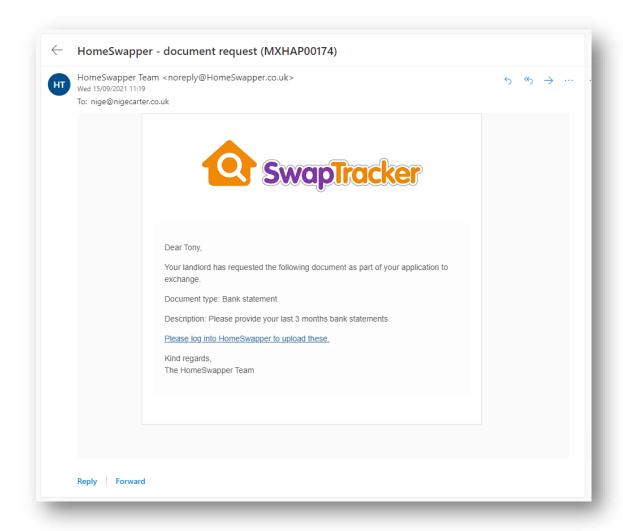
To avoid any delay to your application you should confirm appointments as soon as you can.



Uploading documents

During the decision process where the landlord is reviewing your application, they may ask you to provide various documents, e.g. proof of ID, proof of income.

If this happens, you will be sent an email telling you what they need.

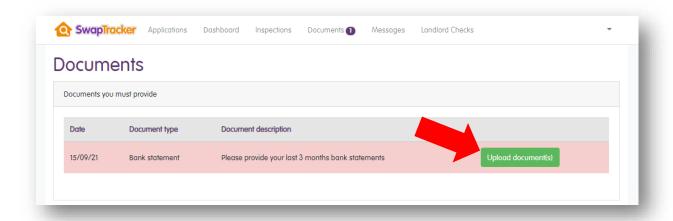


A warning message is also displayed on your **SwapTracker** dashboard.



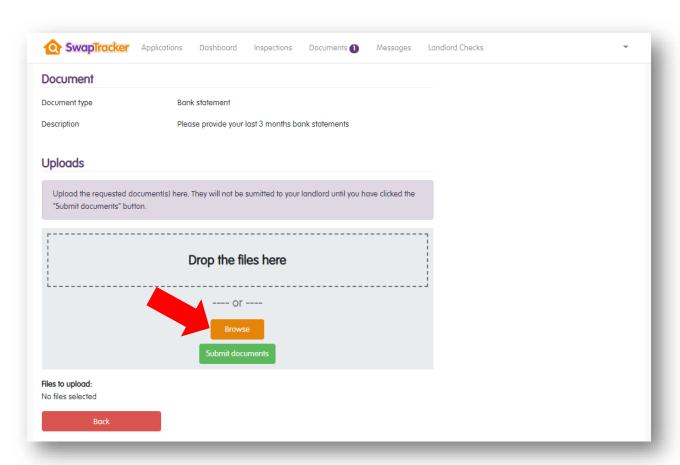
Clicking this will take you to your "Documents" section where you can see details of what they require.





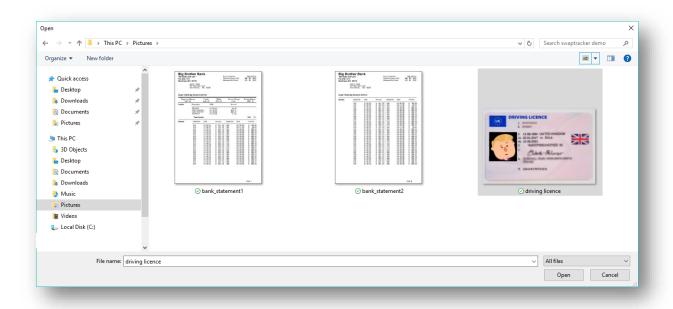
When you're ready to upload the documents requested, click the "Upload document(s)" button.

To select the files you want to upload, click "Browse".



If you are using a laptop or desktop PC, you will need to find the directory your files are in and select them there (as below).

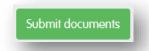




If you are using a mobile phone or tablet, you can take a photo of the documents and select them that way.

Note: you can select more than file, e.g. the landlord might ask you for multiple bank statement pages to prove your income.

When you are happy with the files you have uploaded, click the "Submit documents" button.





Important: Once you have submitted the documents to the landlord you cannot change them so make sure they are correct before submitting.

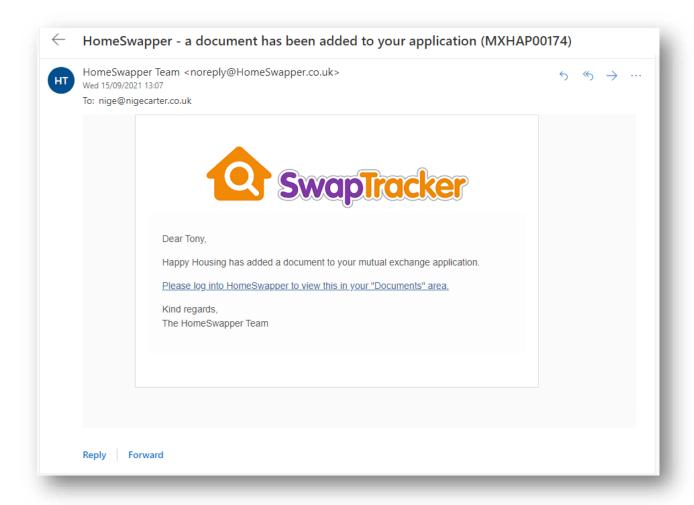
After you have submitted them, the landlord will review what you have provided and will contact you if there are any problems.



Landlord documents

A landlord may upload documents relating to your application for you to view.

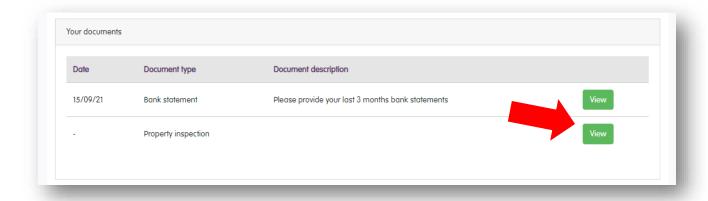
When this happens, you will be sent an email telling you.



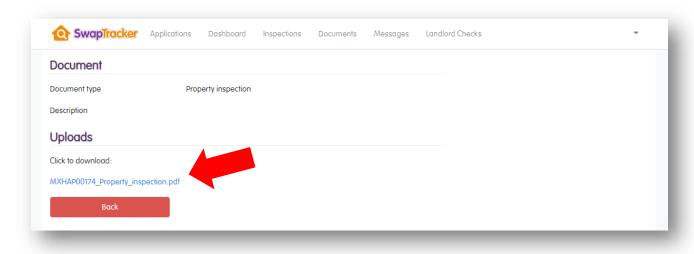
Any documents the landlord has added are shown in your "Documents" section of **SwapTracker**.



Clicking the "View" button next to a document will take you to a page providing more details and allow you to download the document to view it.



Clicking the file name (see arrow below) will download that file so you can see it, e.g.





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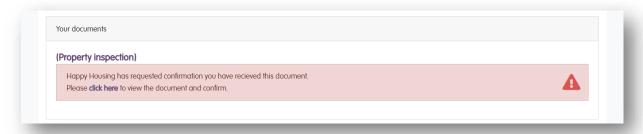
Nullam varius sagittis porttitor. Praesent maximus dui non purus consectetur, vitae varius risus



I've been told I need to confirm I've received a document?

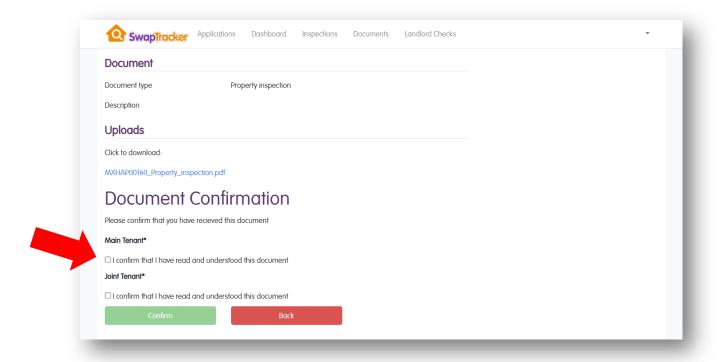
Sometimes the landlord may need you to confirm you've received, read, and understood a document.

Documents you need to confirm are highlighted like this:



After you have viewed the document you now need to tick the box to say you have read and understood it. If there are any issues with the document you have received, contact the landlord directly.

If there is a joint applicant, two boxes will need to be ticked:



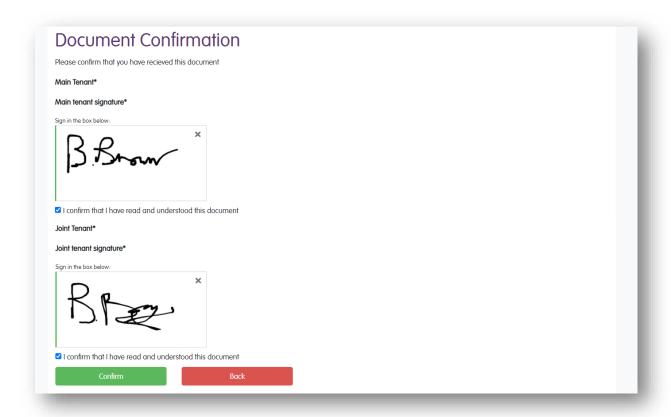
Finally, click the "Confirm" button to let the landlord know. You only have to do this once.



I've been told I need to sign a document?

Sometimes the landlord may need you to also sign to say you have received, read, and understood a document.

If this happens, you and the joint tenant (if there is one) need to tick the boxes and provide a signature. To sign a box, you can use your finger (or stylus) on your mobile phone or tablet or use a mouse on a laptop or desktop PC.



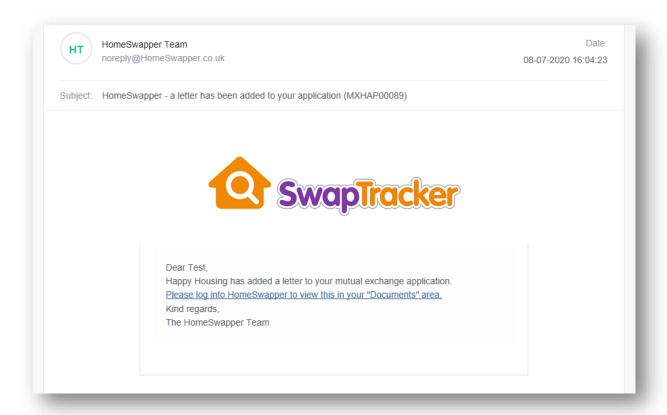
Finally, click the "Confirm" button to let the landlord know. You only have to do this once.



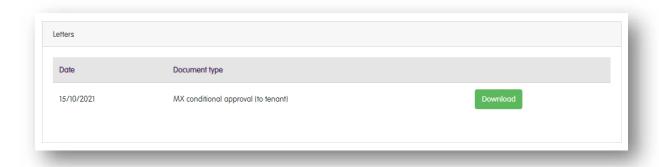
Letters

A landlord may upload letters relating to your application for you to view.

When this happens, you will be sent an email telling you.



Any letters the landlord has added are shown at the bottom of your "Documents" section of **SwapTracker**.





Clicking the "Download" button will allow you to view it, e.g.

HAPPY

Test Carter

56 Bradley Court Crossiley Road Worcester Worcestershire W/R5 3GH

Date: 08/07/2020

Our ref: MXHAP00089

Dear Test Carter,

RE: Mutual Exchange Application

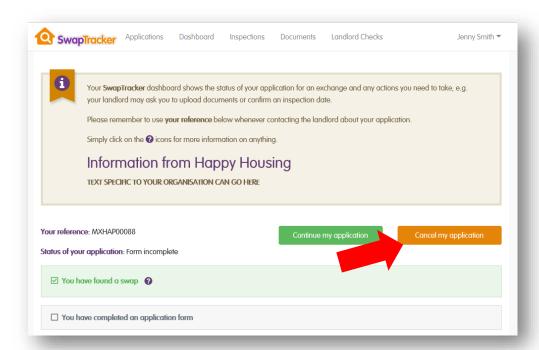
I would like to confirm that we are now able to agree the requested mutual exchange.

We have suggested a Tenancy start date of 12/08/2020.



I want to cancel my application

If you need to cancel your application for an exchange, log into **SwapTracker** and click the "Cancel my application" button on your dashboard.







Important: only cancel your application if you are 100% certain you no longer want to swap homes. The landlord will be notified and if you change your will need to apply all over again.

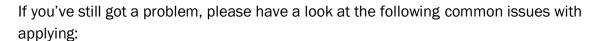


Troubleshooting guide

If you're having problems using **SwapTracker**, here's a list of common issues and how to fix them...

I've been sent a link to apply but it's not working

First read the <u>Using SwapTracker to apply for an exchange</u> section to check you are doing it correctly.



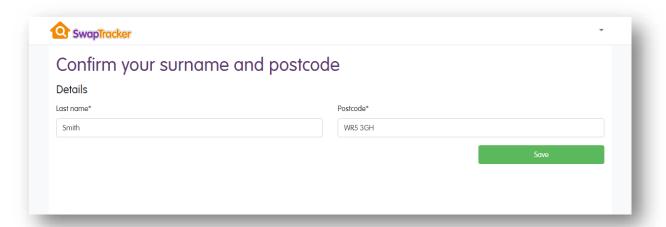
The link has expired before I can use it

Please contact the landlord and they will send another email with a link in it.

Due to security reasons, these links are only valid for <u>24 hours</u>.

It doesn't recognise my last name and postcode

If you are entering your last name and postcode correctly, but they are not recognised, it may be that the landlord set them up incorrectly when they created the "invite".



If this is the case, you will need to contact the landlord and ask them to edit the "invite" and re-send it.

I was sent an invite, but nothing is showing on my HomeSwapper dashboard

Sometimes there can be a slight delay between you receiving the email saying an application has been started for you by the landlord, and the "Continue" button appearing on your HomeSwapper dashboard.

Try leaving it for an hour and coming back later.





I've applied / verified my account, but now I can't login

If you've already started a **SwapTracker** application or verified your account details, there may be an issue with your password.

Try using the "Forgotten Password" on the HomeSwapper website.

See I've forgotten my password for more details.

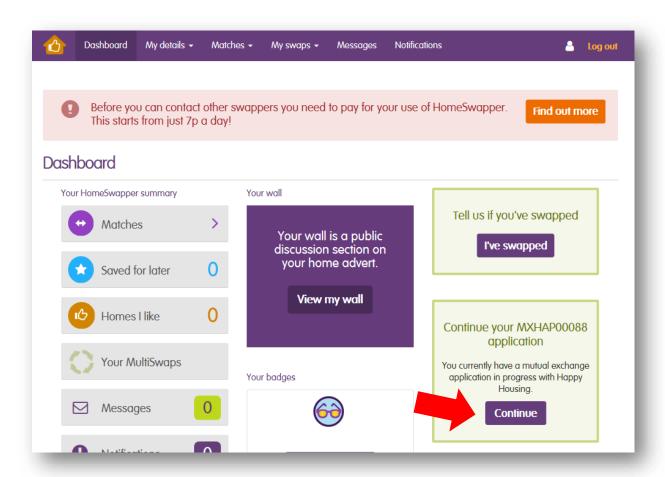
I've been told I can apply to a new landlord, but I'm being told I need to pay!

Don't worry, you do need to pay to apply for a mutual exchange using **SwapTracker**.

If your own landlord does not pay for their tenant's **HomeSwapper** subscriptions, you may still get a message on your **HomeSwapper** dashboard asking you to pay.

This is only talking about paying to use **HomeSwapper** to find someone to swap with.

If you've been invited to apply by another landlord, just <u>ignore this message</u> and click the "Continue" button instead.

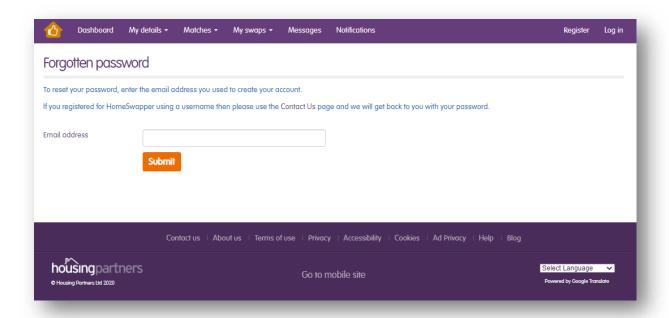




I've forgotten my password

If you've forgotten the password you set, simply use the forgotten password feature on the **HomeSwapper** website - https://www.homeswapper.co.uk/Account/ForgotPassword

Remember, you always log into **HomeSwapper** to get to your **SwapTracker** application.



I'm not getting any emails from SwapTracker

Every time there is an update to your application you should get an email.

If this is not happening, please check:

- 1. Is the correct email address on your application. Check the form your submitted.
- 2. Are they going into your junk/spam folder?

If they are, you will need to add the email address to your "safe senders" lists or mark them as not "spam".

All emails from **SwapTracker** are sent from the email address noreply@HomeSwapper.co.uk

I've been asked to upload a document. What do I do?

Information on how to upload documents a landlord has requested, can be found in the **Uploading documents** section of this User Guide.



What does my application "status" actually mean?

A description of each stage of the application process can be found in the <u>What's the</u> current status of my application? section of this User Guide.

General help

If you're stuck and need help, please contact our support team by using the **HomeSwapper** Contact Us page.

To help us answer your queries as quickly as possible, remember to include as much information as you can.

For example, always include your SwapTracker application reference number (the one beginning "MX", e.g. MXHAP00123.





Important: The Customer Support team can only help you with how to use SwapTracker and HomeSwapper.

You will need to <u>contact the landlord directly</u> if you require any information relating to your mutual exchange application.