

Statutory homelessness data

January - March 2018 (Q1)

About

Every quarter, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) releases statistics on the levels, types and outcomes of homelessness applications received by councils across England. This briefing looks at the latest figures.

Headlines

Compared to the same quarter in 2017, the latest statistics show that between 1 January and 31 March 2018:

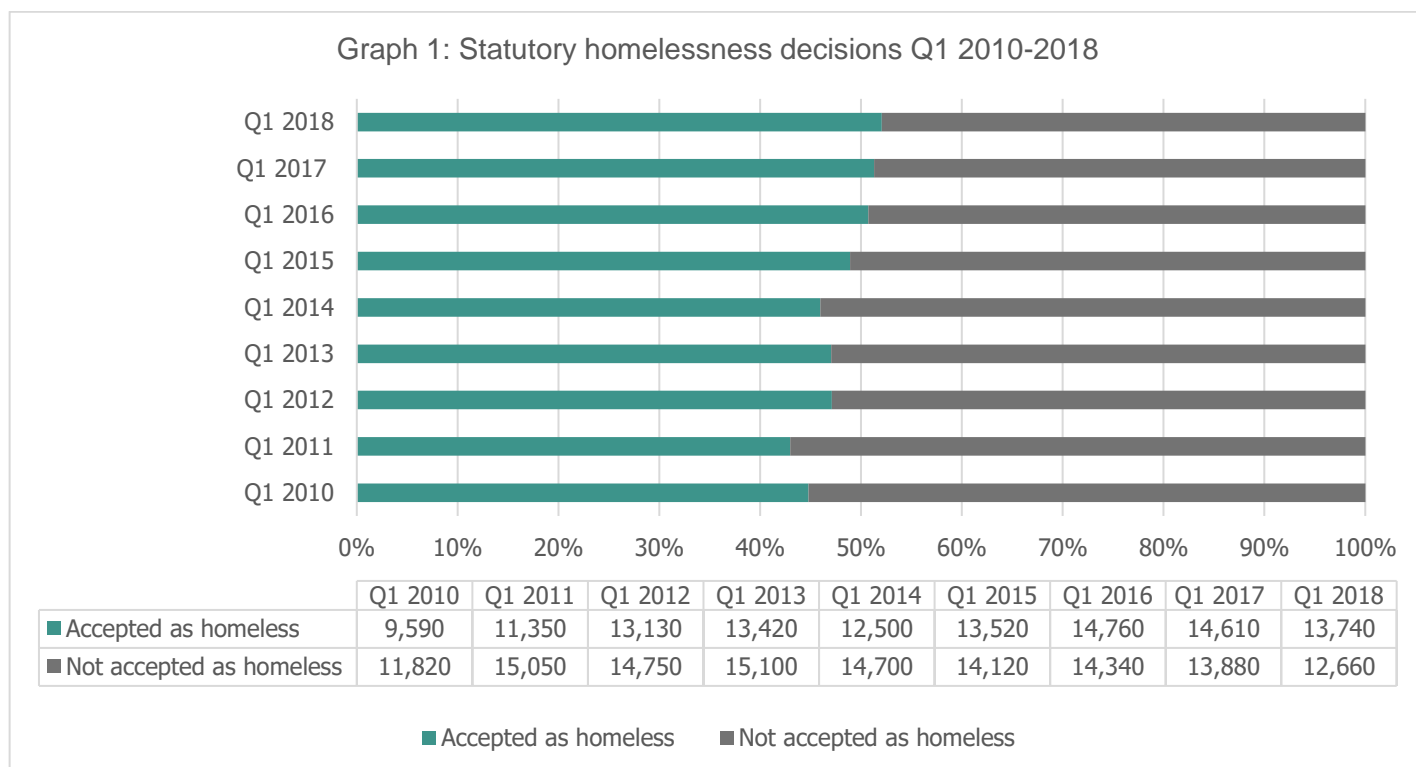
- The total number of households making an application was 7% lower at 26,400.
- 52% of applicants were accepted by local authorities as owed the main homelessness duty.
- 4,460 people were found not to be in priority need, representing 17% of the total statutory case load.
- The number of households in temporary accommodation was 79,880, representing a 3% increase from last year.

Applications and Acceptances

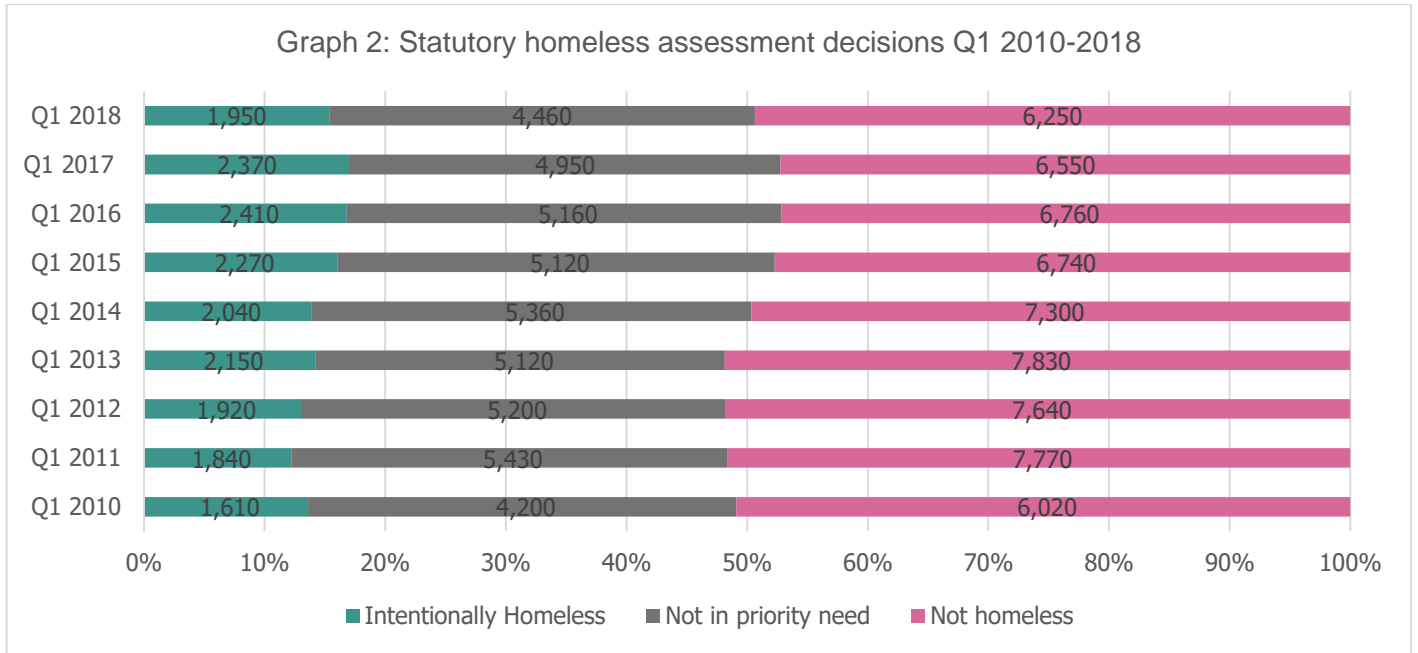
Applications	26,400 households made a homelessness application at their local authority in January – March 2018. This figure is 7% lower compared to the same period last year when the total number was 28,490.
Acceptances	13,740 households were accepted as statutorily homeless.
Rate of acceptance	The rate of acceptance was 52%
Acceptances for young people	A total of 2,920 young people (aged 16-24) were accepted as statutory homeless. This figure is slightly lower than Q1 2017 when the figure was 3,210.

National trends

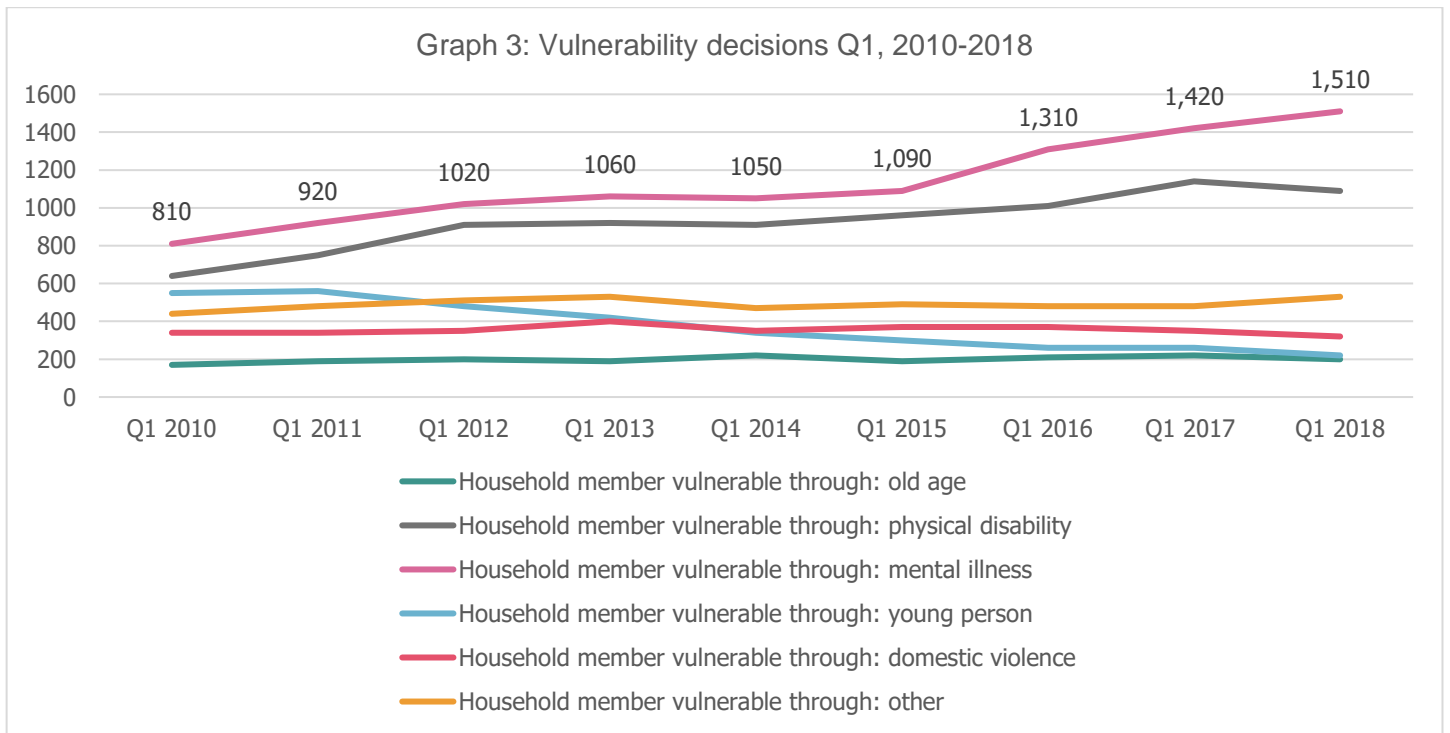
Graph 1 shows the national statutory caseload and official decisions over the past eight years during quarter 1 (January - March). In Q1 2018, 26,400 households made a homelessness application at their local authority. Of this total, 13,740 were accepted as statutory homeless, and 12,660 were not accepted as statutory homeless due to one of the reasons outlined in Graph 2.



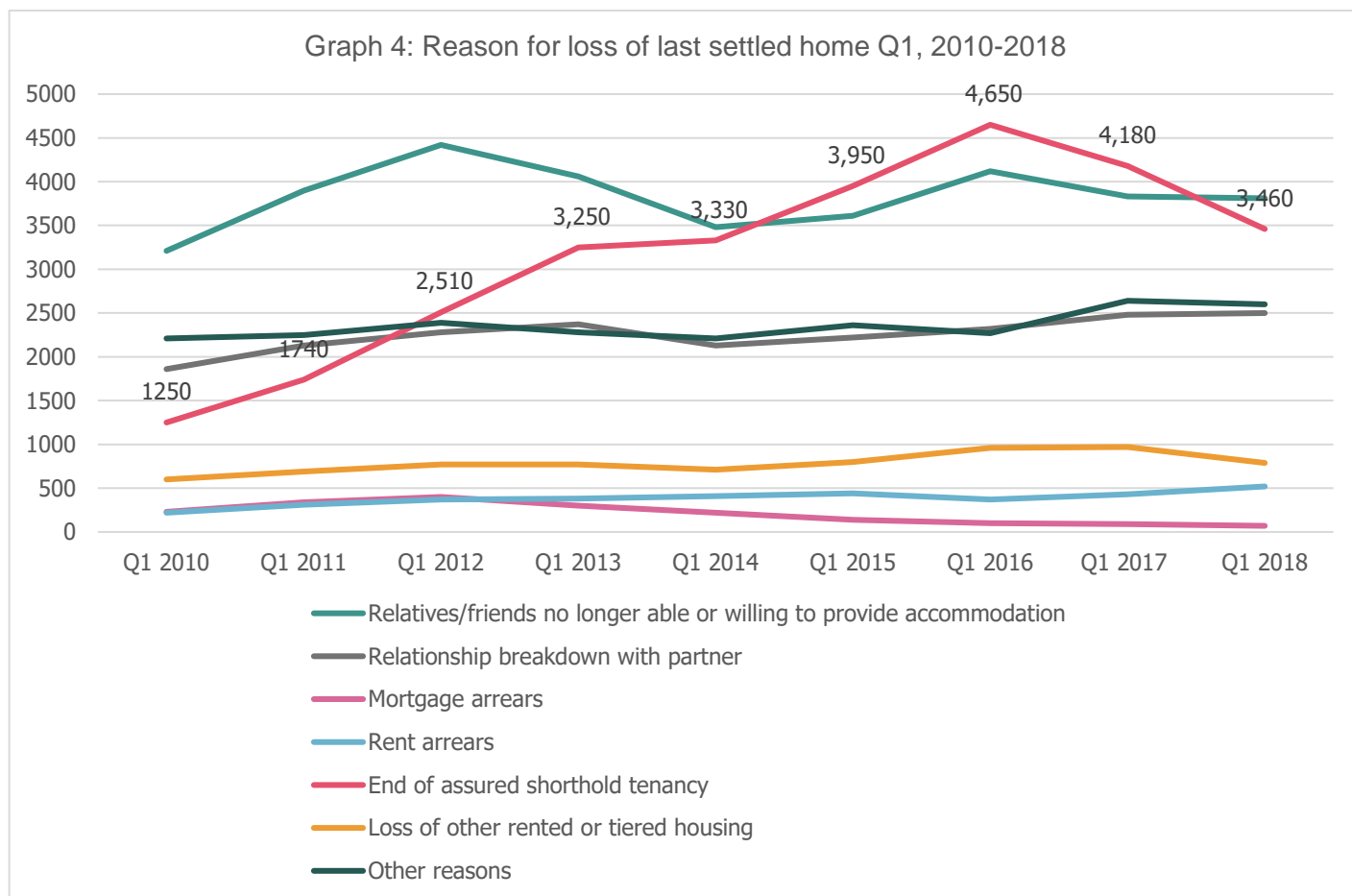
Graph 2 shows the decisions for all households not accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the last eight years in Q1. Not homeless decisions, remains the primary reason why applicant households are not accepted (6,250 households). People considered ‘non-priority’ by their Local Authority will most likely fall into the category of single homeless people. In Q1 2018 a total of 4,460 people who make a homelessness application were found not to be in priority need.



A person who is categorised as vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness, learning disability or physical disability or other special reason, will have priority need for accommodation from their local authority. Graph 3 shows households found to be in priority need due to vulnerability. In Q1 2018, 1,510 people were found to be vulnerable due to mental illness.



Graph 4 shows that in Q1 2018, relatives/friends being unable or unwilling to provide accommodation was the primary reason why applicants lost their last settled home (3,810 households), representing 28% of all acceptances. End of assured shorthold tenancy has been an increasingly important cause of loss of last home in the last eight years, and in Q1 2018 was the second immediate cause (3,460 households).

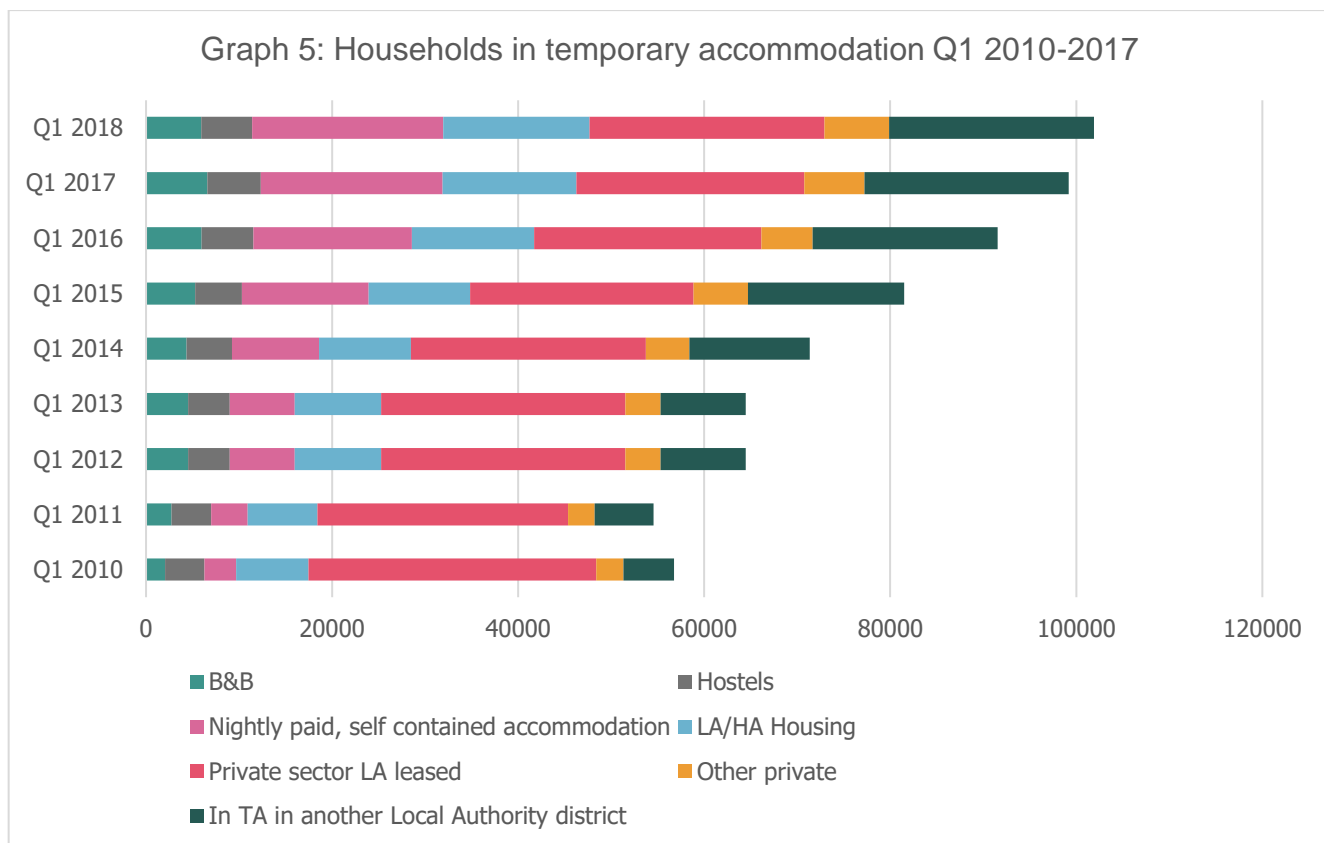


Households in temporary accommodation

Most new acceptances will be placed in temporary accommodation by their local authority. Graph 5 shows the number of households placed in different types of temporary accommodation in Q1 2010 - 2018. During this time a total of 79,880 households were in temporary accommodation, representing a 3% increase of last year's figure of 77,220.

Key figures include:

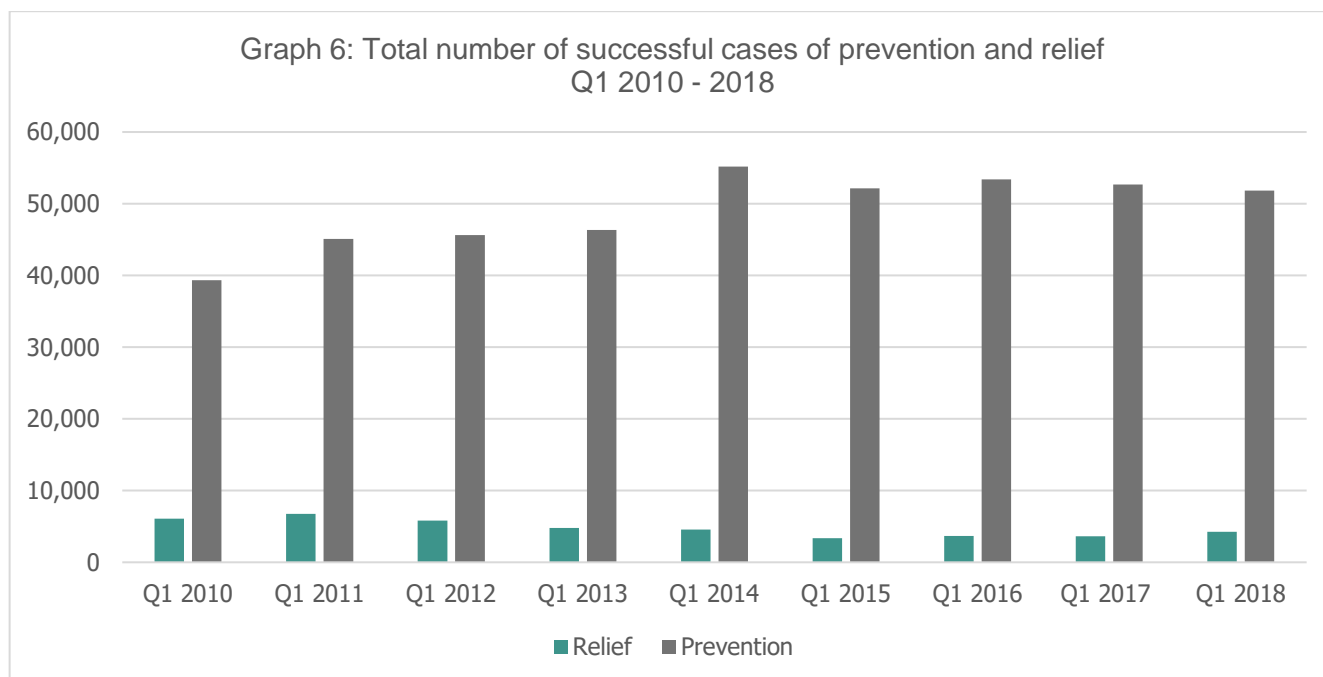
- A total of 22,020 households(28%) were placed in local authorities other than where the original application was accepted. This is only slightly higher than the 2017 Q1 figure of 21,950.
- 5,940 households were placed in Bed & Breakfasts, representing a 10% decrease from the previous year when the figure was 6,580.
- A total of 5,460 were placed in hostels, a 5% decrease from last year's figure of 5,740.
- 20,550 households were placed in nightly paid, self-contained accommodation, slightly higher than year figure of 19,570.



Prevention and relief

The MHCLG publishes quarterly prevention and relief statistics alongside the statutory homelessness statistics. Prevention covers positive action taken by local authorities to provide assistance to people at risk of homelessness, relief involves actions to secure accommodation for households that have already become homeless. Figures are available from 2009/10 onwards.

In Q1, 2018, there were 56,090 cases of prevention and relief, which is slightly lower than the Q1 2017 figure of 56,090. Of the total, 51,840 (92%) were prevention and 4,260 (8%) were relief.



Let's end homelessness together

Homeless Link, Minories House, 2-5 Minories, London EC3N 1BJ | 020 7840 4430
www.homeless.org.uk | Twitter: @Homelesslink | Facebook: www.facebook.com/homelesslink



What we do

Homeless Link is the national membership charity for organisations working directly with people who become homeless or who live with multiple and complex support needs. We work to improve services and campaign for policy change that will help end homelessness.

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London EC3N 1BJ

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Facebook: www.facebook.com/homelesslink

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