

peppermoney

# Help to Buy Criteria Guide

November 2021

Version 1.0



Call **03333 701 101** or visit  
**[www.pepper.money](http://www.pepper.money)** to discover more.

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## Applicant criteria

Applicant Details	
Minimum age	21
Maximum age	75 at end of term. For joint applications the age of the oldest applicant is used. The term cannot extend beyond the applicant's stated retirement age
Maximum applicants	2
Guarantors	Not accepted
First time buyers	Accepted
Marital status	Applications from married/civil partnership applicants must be in joint names

Maximum Allowable Adverse	
Defaults	None in last 24 months On <b>Pepper 24</b> products we will ignore 2 individual defaults (per application) up to and including £150.00 each where these defaults relate to utilities, communications or mail order providers.
CCJs	None in last 24 months
Mortgage/ Secured loans	Arrears status of 0 in last 6 months None missed over the last 24 months
Unsecured commitments	<b>Fixed Term</b> - "Fixed Term Agreements - No missed payments in the last 6 months <b>Revolving credit</b> - Missed payments considered
Pay day loans	Accepted where the account closed more than 12 months ago
Repossessions	Accepted where repossession occurred more than 6 years ago

Please refer to the product guide for further details on each product level.

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## Nationality & Residency

Applicant Details	
<b>Residential status</b>	3 years UK residential address history required for all applicants
<b>EU Nationals</b>	<b>Accepted subject to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 years UK residency</li><li>• 3 years continuous UK employment history</li></ul>
<b>Non EU Nationals</b>	<b>Accepted subject to:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 years UK residency</li><li>• 3 years continuous UK employment history</li><li>• Indefinite rights to remain</li></ul>
<b>Diplomatic immunity</b>	Not accepted

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## Income Criteria

Income	
Minimum earned income	£18,000 per application
Foreign currency	Not accepted

Employed, Self-Employed & Retired													
Employed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minimum of 6 months in current job with 12 months' continuous employment</li> <li>• Day rate contractors accepted subject to being in a contract and able to demonstrate a minimum 12 months history. Calculate the income as the lower of 12 month average day rate amount or current contract day rate x 5 (days per week) x 46 (working weeks)</li> <li>• Contract employees considered provided 12 months employment with the same employer together with confirmation the contract will be renewed</li> <li>• 3 months' payslips with 3 months' bank statements and last P60</li> <li>• Applicants in a probationary period not accepted</li> <li>• Zero hour contracts acceptable if a permanent position with 2 years+ at same employer and stable income levels</li> <li>• Income from seasonal/temporary work not considered</li> <li>• Directors with a shareholding of 25% or more will be underwritten as self-employed</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Income Type</th> <th>Proportion Considered</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Basic salary</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Car allowance</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bonus</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Overtime</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Commission</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Income Type	Proportion Considered	Basic salary	100%	Car allowance	100%	Bonus	50%	Overtime	50%	Commission	50%
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Self-Employed: Sole Trader/Partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 years' accounts required, unless only 1 year available due to trading period. Minimum trading period of 12 months</li> <li>• 3 months' business account bank statements</li> <li>• SA302s will only be accepted in addition to the full business accounts. SA302s are not acceptable proof of income on their own but will be requested where the accounts have been prepared by an accountant who does not appear on our list of accepted qualifications. We may also request them to confirm dividends which do not appear in the business accounts.</li> </ul> <p>Additional remuneration considered where applicants own 100% of the company:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directors car allowance</li> <li>• Directors pension contributions</li> <li>• Use of home as an office</li> <li>• Private health insurance</li> </ul> <p>Where additional remuneration is to be added back, finalised accounts will be required.</p>												
Self-Employed: Company Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 years' accounts required, unless only 1 year available due to trading period. Minimum trading period of 12 months</li> <li>• 3 months' business account bank statements</li> <li>• SA302s may be requested to support company accounts</li> </ul>												
Retired	Private pension accepted												

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Other income sources	
<b>Pension income</b>	<p><b>State retirement pension (SRP)</b> - latest annual statement of pension</p> <p><b>Private pension</b> - latest payslip from pension provider or letter from pension provider with 3 months' bank account statements showing credits</p>
<b>Secondary/additional income</b>	Employment/self-employment income from a maximum of 2 sources per applicant considered. Benefits and maintenance may be included as additional income Maintenance & benefit detail as described under "Documentation" on page 9
<b>Unacceptable Income</b>	We cannot currently accept Universal Credit, Disability Living Allowance, Carer's Allowance, or income that is solely from UK land & property, or investment income. For other unacceptable income types, please speak to us.

Loan Criteria																							
<b>Maximum LTV</b>	75%																						
<b>Maximum term</b>	35 years																						
<b>Minimum term</b>	5 years and 1 month																						
<b>Minimum loan</b>	£25,001																						
<b>Maximum property value</b>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Region</th> <th>Maximum Property Price</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>North East</td> <td>£186,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>North West</td> <td>£224,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yorkshire and Humberside</td> <td>£228,100</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East Midlands</td> <td>£261,900</td> </tr> <tr> <td>West Midlands</td> <td>£255,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>East of England</td> <td>£407,400</td> </tr> <tr> <td>London</td> <td>£600,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South East</td> <td>£437,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>South West</td> <td>£349,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wales</td> <td>£250,000</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Region	Maximum Property Price	North East	£186,100	North West	£224,400	Yorkshire and Humberside	£228,100	East Midlands	£261,900	West Midlands	£255,600	East of England	£407,400	London	£600,000	South East	£437,600	South West	£349,000	Wales	£250,000
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<b>Number of mortgages with Pepper</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum of 3 per applicant including any joint loans the applicants are party to</li> <li>• Can be a mixture of Buy to Let and Residential loans</li> </ul>																						
<b>Repayment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital &amp; interest</li> </ul>																						
<b>Portable</b>	Products are not portable																						
<b>Offer validity</b>	90 days																						
<b>Application validity</b>	45 days																						
<b>Let to buy</b>	Not accepted																						
<b>Right to buy</b>	Not accepted																						

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Deposit Criteria	
Evidence of deposit	Required on all purchase applications, the applicants must fund 5% from their own funds
Applicants savings	Accepted
Inheritance	Accepted
Cash gifted deposit	<p>Gifted deposits are acceptable from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent/Step-Parent/Parent-in-Law</li> <li>• Sibling</li> <li>• Child/Step-Child/Son-in-Law/Daughter-in-Law</li> <li>• Aunt/Uncle</li> <li>• Grandparent/Grandchild</li> </ul>
Unacceptable sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Builders deposit</li> <li>• Unsecured borrowing</li> <li>• Vendor deposit</li> </ul>

## Property Criteria

General Criteria	
New build definition	<p>A property is to be considered new if it is a first sale by the builder.</p> <p>However, properties which have not sold on physical completion will be considered on an individual basis.</p>
Minimum property value	£70,000
Locations considered	England, Wales & Isle of Wight
Retentions	Not offered
Acceptable property	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Houses: Private and ex Local Authority or social housing</li> </ul>

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Alternative Construction	
<b>Timber framed construction</b>	<p>Modern timber framed properties clad with masonry are considered as acceptable.</p> <p>Timber framed properties which are not deemed to be of a modern type clad with masonry will be reviewed on an individual basis and will be considered on their merits.</p>
<b>Flying freeholds</b>	Flying freeholds will only be considered up to 20% of the total floor area.
<b>Coal mining and other forms of extraction</b>	Any properties with a coal mining or metalliferous mining entry/feature within 20m of any building will not be considered.
<b>Electromagnetic fields</b>	Any properties within 100m of above ground high voltage electrical supply apparatus will not be considered.
<b>Contaminated land</b>	Where there is potential for contaminated land, a pass certificate must be available from an appropriate body.
<b>Japanese knotweed</b>	Where a property has Japanese knotweed (or any other invasive weed) located within or immediately adjacent to the site defined as category 4, 3 or 2 in RICS paper IP 27/2012 will not be considered.
<b>Solar panels</b>	Properties where solar panels have been installed and are subject to a lease agreement may be considered. An amendment to the lease may be required

Tenure	
<b>Freehold</b>	Houses only. No freehold flats.
<b>Leasehold</b>	The lease must have a minimum unexpired term of 85 years at the time of completion
<b>Commonhold</b>	Not accepted

Property Reports	
<b>Structural reports</b>	<p>Reports may be accepted from members of the following bodies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Institution of Structural Engineers (<a href="http://www.istructe.org.uk">www.istructe.org.uk</a>)</li> <li>• The Institution of Civil Engineers (<a href="http://www.ice.org.uk">www.ice.org.uk</a>)</li> </ul> <p>The report must be referred to the valuer for comment. If the report is not addressed to the applicant, written confirmation must be obtained from the originator that its contents may be relied upon by the applicant(s).</p> <p>We will not lend on any property with either ongoing movement or where monitoring is required, where this is identified by either the valuer, or where evident in the structural engineer's report.</p> <p>The valuer may request additional reports from specific governing bodies.</p>
<b>Specialist reports</b>	<p>We may require specialists' reports. These most commonly will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timber and damp, electrical, trees, cavity wall ties;</li> <li>• Mining report (as these are obtained by the solicitors, a special condition is imposed at offer);</li> <li>• Any such reports should be prepared by a reputable firm and should be forwarded to us for review and referral to the valuer.</li> </ul> <p>The valuer may request additional reports from specific governing bodies.</p>

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Unacceptable Property	
<b>General</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New build properties without suitable warranty</li> <li>• Properties suffering on-going structural movement or insurance claims</li> <li>• Grade I &amp; grade II* listed properties</li> <li>• Back to back/cluster homes</li> <li>• Properties located within 20m of a mine entry/feature</li> <li>• Properties within 100m of above ground high voltage electrical supply apparatus (excluding small substations)</li> <li>• Properties subject to compulsory purchase orders</li> <li>• Large flying freeholds (greater than 20% of floor area)</li> <li>• Japanese knotweed located within or immediately adjacent to the site, defined as category 4, 3 or 2 in RICS paper IP 27/2012</li> <li>• Properties without an internal WC, bathroom or kitchen</li> <li>• Properties subject to any onerous occupancy restrictions, including agricultural</li> <li>• Shared ownership/shared equity schemes (only acceptable if applicant will own 100% of the interest on completion)</li> <li>• Properties subject to enforcement notices</li> <li>• Crofting properties/land</li> <li>• Self-build properties</li> <li>• Properties with a commercial element</li> <li>• Non-standard construction</li> </ul>
<b>Flats/Maisonettes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New build flats/maisonettes</li> <li>• Flats with a gross external floor area less than 35m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>• Studio flats</li> <li>• Freehold flats</li> <li>• Balcony access</li> </ul>
<b>Non-standard construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pre-cast reinforced concrete (PRC)</li> <li>• Cast-in-Situ concrete</li> <li>• Metal framed construction</li> <li>• Single skin</li> <li>• Large panel systems (LPS)</li> <li>• Modern methods of construction (MMC)</li> </ul>
<b>Flooding</b>	Properties at significant risk of flooding or that cannot be suitably insured will not be considered.
<b>Restrictive covenants</b>	<p>We are unable to consider any property with a restricted occupancy clause within the planning permission. For example, it can only be occupied for a maximum of 11 months in any one year.</p> <p>Similarly, property that can only be used for retirement or sheltered accommodation is not accepted. This is the same for any property where a planning restriction (e.g. agricultural restriction) effectively limits a property's appeal on the open market.</p> <p>Please note: for new builds we do consider Section 106 planning obligations.</p> <p>We are unable to consider properties within a pre-emption period.</p>



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## Documentation

Application Requirements				
Full mortgage application	Original fully signed and dated declaration. Signed and dated direct debit mandate.			
Proof of deposit (purchase)	Applicants bank statements. Interest waiver letter from donor where gifted deposit.			
Proof of address & identification	1. Any 2 documents from Table 1 or 2. 1 document from each table			
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Table 1</th> <th>Table 2</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid passport</li> <li>Valid photo card driving licence (full or provisional)</li> <li>National identity card</li> <li>Firearms certificate or shotgun licence</li> <li>Identity card issued by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland</li> </ul> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid (old style) full UK driving licence</li> <li>Recent evidence of benefit entitlement</li> <li>Instrument of a court appointment</li> <li>Current council tax demand letter or statement</li> <li>Non internet generated bank statements and utility bills</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Table 1	Table 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Valid passport</li> <li>Valid photo card driving licence (full or provisional)</li> <li>National identity card</li> <li>Firearms certificate or shotgun licence</li> <li>Identity card issued by the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland</li> </ul>
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Proof of income – employed	<b>Paid monthly</b> – Latest 3 consecutive months with P60 and bank statements. <b>Paid weekly</b> – Latest 6 consecutive weeks with P60 and bank statements.			
Proof of income – self-employed	<b>Sole Trader</b> – Minimum 1 year's accounts or SA302s with 3 months' business bank statements <b>Company Director</b> – Minimum 1 year's accounts with 3 months' business bank statements			
Other sources of income	<b>Child Benefit</b> – Latest notice with bank statements (must be payable for at least the next 5 years) <b>Working or Child Tax Credits</b> – Full award notice with bank statements <b>Maintenance</b> – A copy of the maintenance agreement, received under a Court Order, a CSA assessment or a written private agreement drawn up between the separating parties and 6 months' bank statements as evidence of payment. <b>State Pension</b> – Latest annual statement of pension/due on retirement <b>Pension Credits</b> – Latest Pension Credit Award Notice <b>Private Pension</b> – Latest annual statement of pension/due on retirement or Latest payslip from pension provider or Latest letter from pension provider confirming pension due on retirement			
Rental/mortgage history	Where the applicant is currently renting, we will ask to see proof of their last 12 months' rental payments. This can be through their AST, in addition to bank statements or reference from a letting agent. For current homeowners, where their mortgage is not available on Equifax, we will require the latest 12 months' mortgage statement			
Confirmation of mortgage payments	To support the re-mortgage and to verify that the applicant is not experiencing financial difficulty and able to meet their mortgage repayment a copy of the latest bank statement evidencing payment of the last months mortgage payment should be provided.			