

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 29 September 2022

## Homelessness Services – Statutory Returns

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine All
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### 1. Recommendations

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- 1.1 Committee is asked to note the summary of the Council's statutory homelessness returns.

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# Report

## Homelessness Services – Statutory Returns

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report provides a summary of the homelessness services statutory returns for the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022. The published data can be found [online](#).

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 The Council produces and reports several statistics related to the performance and delivery of homelessness services in the city.
- 3.2 These figures are collated by the Scottish Government through the returns process and are published to allow scrutiny and comparisons between local authorities.

### 4. Main report

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- 4.1 All local authorities are required to submit a range of data, quarterly, to the Scottish Government as part of their statutory returns process.
- 4.2 The latest publication of these returns was on 18 August 2022 and covered the period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022.
- 4.3 This report highlights key areas of performance and contains comparisons with the previous years' data. However, it is important to note that the impact of the global pandemic may still be reflected in some of these performance areas.
- 4.4 In 2021/22 there were 2,413 households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness, an increase of 19% on the previous year. This remains below pre – covid levels.
- 4.5 The return also shows a further reduction in repeat homelessness. Repeat homelessness is where a household is assessed as homeless, less than a year after their previous homelessness is resolved.
- 4.6 Repeat homelessness was 5% in 2020/21 and is 1% in 2021/22. The national figure remains at 5% in 2021/22.
- 4.7 In 2021/22 the most common reason for homelessness nationally is domestic ejection (being asked to leave accommodation), at 26% of all applications. The next most common reason is non-violent dispute within a household. This is the same in Edinburgh.

- 4.8 Nationally 15% of all households assessed as homeless came from a property in the Private Rented Sector (PRS), this has increased from 11% last year but is still lower than previous two years where the percentages were 18% in 2018/19 and 16% in 2019/20.
- 4.9 In Edinburgh, the Council has a PRS team who work with people at risk of homelessness from the private rented sector to prevent homelessness wherever possible. The PRS team have prevented homelessness for 240 households in the past year and supported a further 100 households to move out of temporary accommodation and into a PRS or Mid-Market Rent property.
- 4.10 These returns show a continuing trend of a reduction in rough sleeping the night before a homeless application, and in the three months prior to a homeless application.
- 4.11 In Edinburgh a household slept rough the night before in 4% of applications, in line with the national average. This changes to 9% when looking at rough sleeping in the period three months prior to the application compared to a national average of 6%. This is 17% lower than in 2020/21.
- 4.12 A failure to accommodate occurred on 670 occasions during 2021/22. This was a 26% increase on 2020/21 figures. The majority of the failures to accommodate happen outside normal Council opening hours, when the availability of accommodation can be limited, particularly if the service user has had several placements which have ended unsuccessfully, or other risk factors are involved.
- 4.13 The Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan (RRTP) sets out plans to review out of hours provision by developing more Rapid Access Accommodation which will provide emergency accommodation on a 24 hour basis. An additional supported accommodation service for people with complex needs is due to commence in the near future.
- 4.14 The Council reported breaches of the Unsuited Accommodation Order (UAO) 850 times in 2021/22. In October 2021 the order was extended to include all households rather than only families with children or pregnant women.
- 4.15 Work to transform the mix of temporary accommodation stock to increase the amount of suitable accommodation continues as set out in the [RRTP Annual Update on Progress](#).

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 Officers will provide more regular updates on performance through the Homelessness Services Dashboard, to the Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee. The next update is due in March 2023.
- 5.2 Officers will provide an annual summary of the 2022/23 statutory returns in summer 2023.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 None.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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7.1 None.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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8.1 [Homelessness in Scotland: 2021/22 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

## **9. Appendices**

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9.1 None.