

# Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 3 October 2023

## Homelessness Statutory Returns

Executive/Routine  
Wards

Routine  
All

### 1. Recommendations

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1.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

**Paul Lawrence**

Executive Director of Place

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# Report

## Homelessness Statutory Returns

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.2 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 [here](#).
- 2.3 This includes comparisons to Glasgow with regards to temporary accommodation, as requested by Committee.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 All local authorities are required to submit a range of data, quarterly, to the Scottish Government as part of their statutory returns process.
- 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 The full Scottish Government statutory returns publication, which can be accessed [here](#), includes a narrative overview report and full tables and charts for each indicator. Tables linked to the narrative below have been provided.
- 4.2 Table 1 below highlights that Edinburgh has the highest increase in terms of numbers (662) of homeless applications with a rise of 23%. The number of homeless applications in Edinburgh are slightly lower than pre pandemic (3,506 in 2022/23 compared to 3,567 in 2019/20).
- 4.3 Nationally, there were 39,006 applications for homelessness assistance, an increase of 3,247 (9%) compared with 2021/22, and higher than pre-pandemic (37,053 in 2019/20).

Table 1: Worksheet 1 Homeless applications by local authority; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change 21-22 to 22-23 Number	Change 21-22 to 22-23 %
Scotland	36,778	37,053	34,345	35,759	39,006	3,247	9%
Edinburgh	3,393	3,567	2,413	2,844	3,506	662	23%

- 4.4 As noted in table 2 below there has been a 14% rise in the number of applications where a member of the household experienced rough sleeping the night before their application in Edinburgh with 125 applications.
- 4.5 Nationally the percentage increase from last year was 15% and the total numbers remain lower than pre pandemic levels.
- 4.6 There has been a 13% rise in the number of applications where a member of the household experienced rough sleeping in the three months prior to their application in Edinburgh (265). As above, this is higher than last year but remains lower than pre-pandemic.
- 4.7 This is below the national trend where there was a 14% rise from last year with numbers remaining lower than pre pandemic.

Table 2: Worksheets 2 and 3 Applications where at least one member of the household experienced rough sleeping the night before and three months prior to their application; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change 21-22 to 22-23 Number	Change 21-22 to 22-23 %
<b>Scotland (night before application)</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>1,660</b>	<b>1,485</b>	<b>1,305</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>15%</b>
Edinburgh (night before application)	240	190	120	110	125	15	14%
<b>Scotland (three months prior to application)</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>2,460</b>	<b>2,145</b>	<b>2,440</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>14%</b>
Edinburgh (three months prior to application)	375	330	270	235	265	30	13%

- 4.8 Table 3 below shows that Edinburgh had 6,373 open homeless cases at 31 March 2023, the highest of any local authority in Scotland. This is a 17% rise on 2022 (5,452).
- 4.9 Whilst Aberdeen City and Perth and Kinross had the highest percentage rise at 72%, Edinburgh had the largest rise numerically with an increase of 921.
- 4.10 Nationally the number of open cases has risen by 15% and is higher than it has ever been.

Local Authority	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023 Number	Change 2022 to 2023 %
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>21,484</b>	<b>22,754</b>	<b>24,489</b>	<b>25,731</b>	<b>29,652</b>	<b>3,921</b>	<b>15%</b>
Edinburgh	3,364	4,122	4,795	5,452	6,373	921	17%
Aberdeen City	609	453	405	354	609	255	72%
Perth & Kinross	233	178	127	115	198	83	72%

Table 3: Worksheet 7 Number of live homeless cases at 31 March; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

- 4.11 As noted in table 4 Edinburgh assessed 3,261 households as homeless or threatened with homelessness in 2022/23. This is the second highest in Scotland behind Glasgow with 5,339.
- 4.12 The number of households assessed as homeless in Edinburgh increased by 28% from 2,538 in 2021/22, but remains lower than pre-pandemic (3,416 in 2019/20).
- 4.13 This differs from Glasgow which saw a reduction of 7% from the previous year (5,763). The figure remains higher than pre pandemic (5,283). Nationally numbers have increased from pre – pandemic (31,618) to 32,242 in 2022/23.

Table 4: Worksheet 11 Applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change 21-22 to 22-23 Number	Change 21-22 to 22-23 %
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>30,280</b>	<b>31,618</b>	<b>28,100</b>	<b>29,339</b>	<b>32,242</b>	<b>2,903</b>	<b>10%</b>
Edinburgh	3,211	3,416	2,054	2,538	3,261	723	28%
Glasgow City	4,683	5,283	5,313	5,763	5,339	-424	-7%

- 4.14 Table 5 highlights that there were 45 households reassessed as homeless within one year in 2022/23. This is a rise from 25 in 2021/22. This remains significantly lower than pre-pandemic (195 households).
- 4.15 Glasgow had the highest number of repeat homelessness with 410 households reassessed as homeless.
- 4.16 Nationally there was a 4% decrease from 1,335 in 2021/22 to 1,285 in 2022/23. This is lower than pre pandemic levels (1,715 in 2019/20).

Table 5: Worksheet 17 Households re-assessed as homeless within one year; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change 21-22 to 22-23 Number	Change 21-22 to 22-23 %
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>1,625</b>	<b>1,715</b>	<b>1,420</b>	<b>1,335</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>-50</b>	<b>-4%</b>
Edinburgh	215	195	115	25	45	20	80%
Glasgow City	380	440	425	485	410	-75	-15%

- 4.17 Edinburgh has the highest number of households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2023 (3,560) as noted below in table 6. This was a rise of 7% on the previous year and significantly higher than pre pandemic (2,010 in 2019/20).
- 4.18 Committee should note that Scottish Government do not include every household in temporary accommodation in their statistics.
- 4.19 Nationally there were 15,039 households in temporary accommodation, a rise of 6% on the previous year and the highest number since recording in this way began.

Table 6: Worksheet 26 Households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Change 2022 to 2023 Number	Change 2022 to 2023 %
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>10,989</b>	<b>11,807</b>	<b>13,753</b>	<b>14,214</b>	<b>15,039</b>	<b>825</b>	<b>6%</b>
Edinburgh	1,515	2,010	2,824	3,316	3,560	244	7%

4.20 24% of households in temporary accommodation in Scotland are in temporary accommodation in Edinburgh as noted in table 7 below.

4.21 This compares to 10% Scottish households residing in Edinburgh. In comparison, 21% of households in Scotland are in temporary accommodation in Glasgow, but 12% of the total number of households in Scotland reside in Glasgow.

Table 7: Worksheet 32 Households in temporary accommodation compared to population; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	All households - Number	All households - As proportion of Scotland	Households in temporary accommodation - Number	Households in temporary accommodation - As proportion of Scotland
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2,549,797</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>15,039</b>	<b>100%</b>
Edinburgh	244,738	10%	3,560	24%
Glasgow City	300,340	12%	3,207	12%

4.22 Edinburgh had the second longest average total length of stay in temporary accommodation at 429 days. This is lower than last year (465) but significantly higher than pre pandemic (295 in 2019/20).

4.23 Midlothian had the longest stay at 437 days. Nationally the average was 223 days with length of stay increasing year on year since 2018/19.

Table 8: Worksheet 37 Average total time (days) in temporary accommodation for cases that closed; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>223</b>
Edinburgh	290	295	370	465	429
Midlothian	422	511	613	522	437

4.24 The number of refusals of accommodation in Edinburgh increased from 435 in 2021/22 to 765 in 2022/23, an increase of 76% as noted in table 8 below. Glasgow had the most refusals with 2,280, this was a reduction of 21% compared to 2021/22.

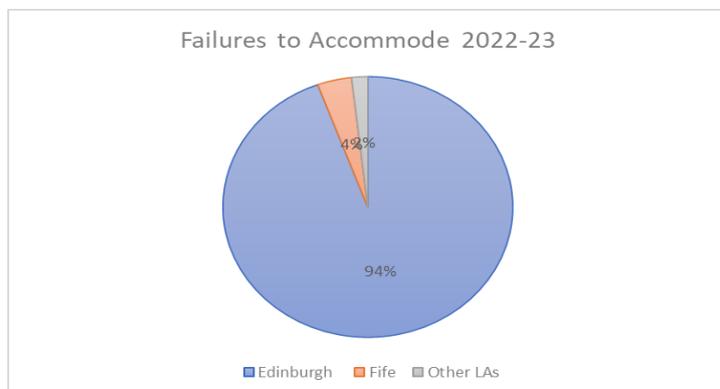
4.25 This differs from the national trend where, after a peak of 7,390 refusals in 2020/21, there has been a year on year decrease. In 2022/23 the total number of offers of temporary accommodation refused was 7,005.

Table 9: Worksheet 45 Offers of temporary accommodation refused by the applicant; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	Change 21-22 to 22- 23 Number	Change 21-22 to 22-23 %
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>4,245</b>	<b>5,630</b>	<b>7,390</b>	<b>7,080</b>	<b>7,005</b>	<b>-75</b>	<b>-1%</b>
Edinburgh	330	460	340	435	765	330	76%
Glasgow City	980	1,915	3,205	2,890	2,280	-610	-21%

- 4.26 Edinburgh continues to have the majority of failures to accommodate with 420 (94%) out of a total of 445 in Scotland in 2022/23 as shown in the pie chart below. However, this is a significant decrease from 700 failures to accommodate in Edinburgh in 2021/22.

Pie Chart 1: Worksheet 46 Instances where households requiring temporary accommodation have not been offered temporary accommodation; source Scottish Government Statutory Returns Publication



- 4.27 Edinburgh has the highest number of breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order with 1,490 in 2022/23 as noted in table 9 below. This is an increase of 87% on the previous year.
- 4.28 West Lothian had the second highest number of breaches with 505. Glasgow recorded 190 breaches. Nationally there were 3,525 breaches. It should be noted that the Scottish Government have indicated that this data is to be treated with caution as there remain recording issues with it and the ending of Covid-19 exceptions on 30 September 2021.

Table 10: Worksheet 47 Number of temporary accommodation placements that have been in breach of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2021-22 Total	2022-23 Total	Change 21-22 to 22- 23 Number	Change 21-22 to 22- 23 %
<b>Scotland</b>	<b>2,025</b>	<b>3,525</b>	<b>1,500</b>	<b>74%</b>
Edinburgh	795	1490	695	87%
Glasgow City	220	190	-30	-14%
West Lothian	330	505	175	53%

- 4.29 Edinburgh had the highest average time from assessment to closure for applications assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness at 654 days compared to a national average of 266 days.
- 4.30 This has been increasing year on year since 2018/19. Whilst the national trend is similar there was a slight reduction between 2018/19 and 2019/20.
- 4.31 Edinburgh had the highest average time from assessment to closure for those cases where the Council does not have a duty at 148 days. The national average was 46 days. This has likely been impacted the number of No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) households seeking assistance. This is highlighted in table 10 below.

Table 11: Worksheets 54 and 54 Average time (days) from assessment to case closure; source Scottish Government Statutory Return Publication

Local Authority	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
<b>Scotland (homeless or threatened with homelessness)</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>266</b>
Edinburgh (homeless or threatened with homelessness)	355	380	481	636	654
<b>Scotland (not homeless or threatened with homelessness)</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>46</b>
Edinburgh (not homeless or threatened with homelessness)	24	25	60	101	148

## 5. Next Steps

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- 5.1 The next annual publication of the Homelessness Statutory Returns will be by Scottish Government next summer. A summary report will be reported to Committee thereafter.

## 6. Financial impact

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- 6.1 There are no direct financial impacts from the information provided in this report.
- 6.2 The latest budget position for homelessness services is contained in a report elsewhere on this agenda.

## 7. Equality and Poverty Impact

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- 7.1 The Statutory Return publication contains equalities information.
- 7.2 The Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) noted that the returns show that white, single males aged between 35 and 49 are most likely to be impacted by homelessness, both in Edinburgh and nationally.

## 8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

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- 8.1 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council

*“must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets”*

(Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

*“in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”*

(Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

- 8.2 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions, and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.

### **Environmental Impacts**

- 8.3 There are no environmental impacts arising from this data publication.

## 9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

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- 9.1 The Council recognises that this is an area of risk as a result of breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order and failures to accommodate. Officers continue to work to address this.

## 10. Background reading/external references

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- 10.1 [Homelessness Statutory Returns](#)

## 11. Appendices

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None