Housekeeping

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Code #1848316

In the service
of Scotland

Agenda

Publications overview and updates

Breakout session: Improving outputs

Data development and quality assurance

Data review update

Collection of sex and gender reassignment data

Other updates

AOB

Future meetings

In the service of Scotland

Publications overview and updates

In the service
of Scotland

Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Publications

- **Homelessness in Scotland (HiS)**
  - Annual
  - Biannual

  Presents information related to homelessness applications (HL1) and associated temporary accommodation (HL2 & HL3)

- **Housing Options**

  Presents information related to homelessness prevention (PREVENT1)

Homelessness statistics - gov.scot (www.gov.scot)

Homelessness in Scotland annual publication

- Data from 1 April to 31 March

- Published in Summer (looking to keep at August)

- Largest publication
  - Around 40 pages of text
  - 'Main' tables consisting of 54 worksheets with data tables
  - 'Equalities' tables consisting of 29 worksheets containing breakdowns by age, gender, household type and ethnicity

- Provide annual trends over time and local authority breakdowns, where numbers are sufficiently large
  - Equalities breakdowns provided at national level only

Homelessness in Scotland biannual update

- Provide an indication of trends for key aspects of homelessness

- Data from 1 April to 30 September

- Provide quarterly breakdowns going back ~ 3 years
  - Extended this time to provide context pre-covid

- Published January/February

- Smaller than annual, but still substantial!
  - Around 30 pages of text
  - 28 tabs with data tables

- Local authority breakdowns

Housing Options (PREVENT1)

- Data from 1 April to 31 March

- Published Autumn (looking to keep at October)

- Relatively small
  - 10-15 pages of text
  - 15 worksheets of data tables

- Provide annual trends over time and local authority breakdowns, where numbers are sufficiently large

- Data is not comparable between local authorities due to the differing way in which (non-statutory) prevention duties are implemented

Developments - text

- Restructured
  - Sub-topic areas
  - Up front section on 'extent of homelessness'

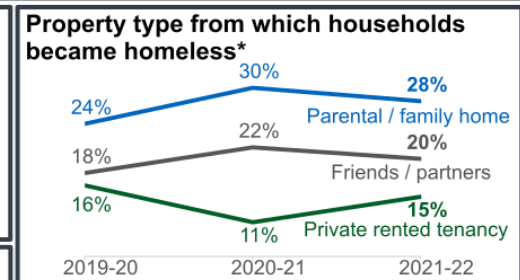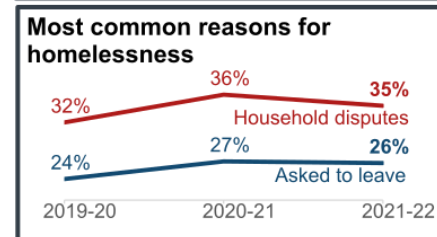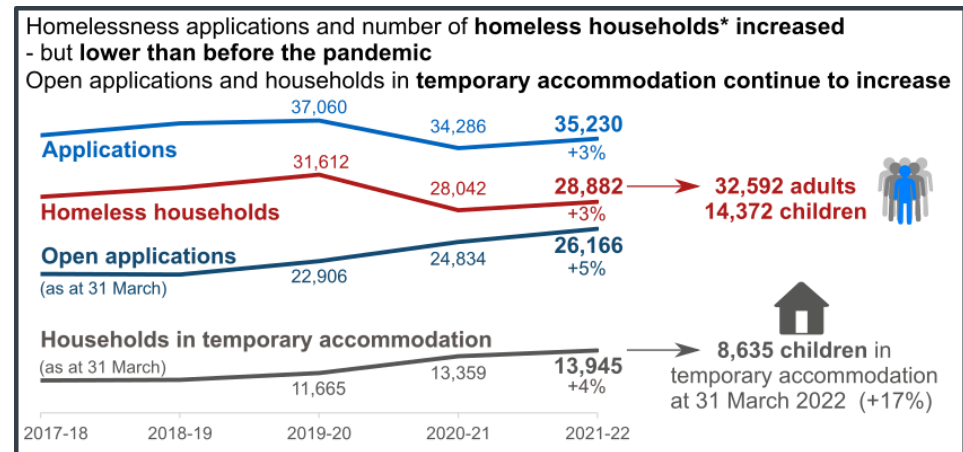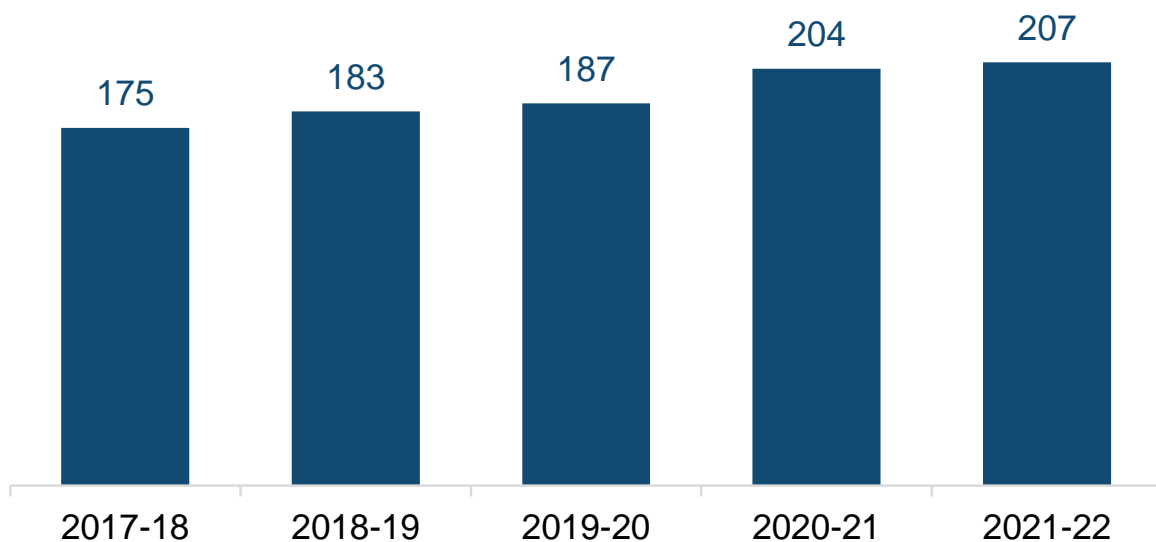| Measure	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	Change 2020/21 to 2021/22	
				Number	Percent
Applications	37,060	34,286	35,230	944	3%
Assessed as homeless	31,612	28,042	28,882	840	3%
Households in temporary accommodation at 31 March	11,665	13,359	13,945	586	4%
Open homelessness applications at 31 March	22,906	24,834	26,166	1,332	5%

Developments - text

- Restructured
  - Sub-topic areas
  - Up front section on 'extent of homelessness'

- Added context
  - Moved away from reporting the data itself
  - Provide the overarching 'story' of homelessness
  - Connections between data throughout
  - Explanations around trends to provide context
  - Local authority narrative as necessary
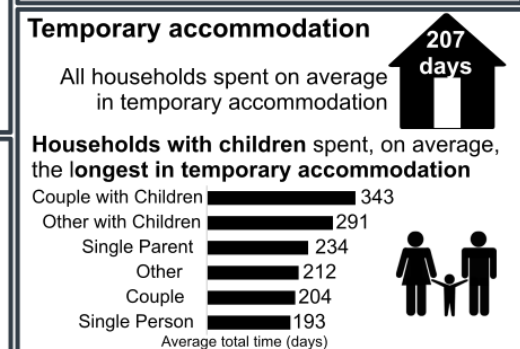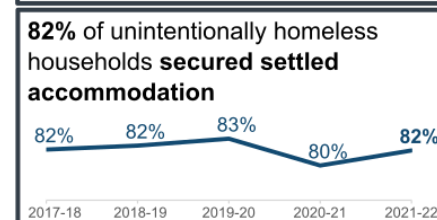
Developments - text continued

- Improved accessibility
  - Streamlined to make more user-friendly
  - Reduce technical terms
  - Make more visual, less wordy

- Simplified charts
  - 'cleaner' and more focussed
  - 'Active' titles used for charts
  - 'Infographics'

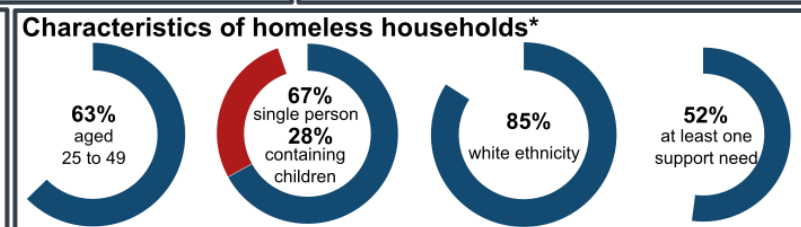# Average total time in temporary accommodation is increasing year on year

Chart 11: The average number of days spent in temporary accommodation for cases that closed, 2017/18 to 2021/22

2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
175	183	187	204	207

Homelessness applications and number of **homeless households*** increased - but **lower than before the pandemic**
Open applications and households in **temporary accommodation continue to increase**

Applications
37,060 34,286 **35,230** +3%

Homeless households
31,612 28,042 **28,882** +3% → 32,592 adults 14,372 children

Open applications (as at 31 March)
22,906 24,834 **26,166** +5%

Households in temporary accommodation (as at 31 March)
11,665 13,359 **13,945** +4% → 8,635 children in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2022 (+17%)

2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22

Most common reasons for homelessness
32% 36% **35%** Household disputes
24% 27% **26%** Asked to leave
2019-20 2020-21 2021-22

Property type from which households became homeless*
24% 30% **28%** Parental / family home
18% 22% **20%** Friends / partners
16% 11% **15%** Private rented tenancy
2019-20 2020-21 2021-22

Rough sleeping
2,129 applicants (6%) reported rough sleeping during the previous three months - down from 7% in 2020/21
1,304 (4%) reported rough sleeping the night before - same as in 2020/21

82% of unintentionally homeless households **secured settled accommodation**
82% 82% 83% 80% **82%**
2017-18 2018-19 2019-20 2020-21 2021-22

Temporary accommodation
207 days
All households spent on average in temporary accommodation

Households with children spent, on average, the **longest in temporary accommodation**
Couple with Children 343
Other with Children 291
Single Parent 234
Other 212
Couple 204
Single Person 193
Average total time (days)

28,043 homelessness **cases closed**
↑ **5%** compared to 2020/21

Characteristics of homeless households*
63% aged 25 to 49
67% single person **28%** containing children
85% white ethnicity
52% at least one support need

*households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness (intentional or unintentional)

12

Developments - new data tables

- Live/open cases
- Rates
  - Assessed as homeless
  - In temporary accommodation
- Number of people associated with homeless households
  - Adults
  - Children
- Reassessed as homeless within two to five years
- Local connection
- Temporary accommodation offers refused
- Time
  - Application to assessment (average)
  - Total time in TA, households with and without children (banded duration)
  - Assessment to closure (average)

Developments - other

- Definitions
  - Report data for temporary accommodation based on total use (i.e. once homelessness application closed), rather than up to point in time
  - % settled accommodation as an outcome now excludes not known (although both measures available)

- Accessibility standards now in place
  - Colour schemes
  - Excel functionality and layout

Flash feedback

Publications

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- Do you like the changes we have made?

- Are you content with the timing of publications (Jan/Feb, Aug, Oct)?

- What are your thoughts on the amount of narrative we provide?

- How easy is it to find what you need?

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Which publications do you use?

- Annual HiS
  - Main tables
  - Equalities tables
- Biannual HiS
- Housing Options

Which elements of the publications do you use?

- Text
- Tables
- Charts

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What level of data are you interested in?

- National figures
- Local authority figures

How do you use published outputs?

- As it exists
- Manipulate to produce own outputs

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Breakout session

Outputs

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Discussion points

- What narrative could be more useful?

- Any additional data tables/analysis that would be useful?

- Should effort be concentrated more on text or tables?

- Is there anything we could remove/reduce?

- Are there any different types of outputs that would be helpful?

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Breakout session

Feedback

In the service
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Data development and quality assurance

Data development and quality assurance

- HL1 update – Ukrainian Displaced People

- Unsuitable Accommodation and Breaches of UAO

- Additional HL3 questions 12 and 13

- HL2 vs HL3

- Temporary accommodation average duration

- Postcode and national insurance number

HL1 update – Ukrainian displaced people

- HL1 was updated in September 2022 to better capture Ukrainian displaced people (UDP) seeking homelessness support

- Response options were added for the following:
  1. eligibility – They are Ukrainian nationals, lawfully present in the UK through the Ukraine Family Scheme or Homes for Ukraine (private or super sponsor) visa scheme (and had been living in Ukraine on or before 1 January 2022)
  2. ethnicity – Ukrainian [also updated to align with 2022 Census]
  3. postcode of last settled address – UKR

HL1 update – Ukrainian displaced people

- As at March 2023:
  - 24 local authorities have either confirmed their systems are updated or have submitted data returning one or several of the new response options

  - No data was published as part of the April to September 2022 statistics update [on 31 January 2023] due to incomplete national coverage

  - Aim to have near complete coverage by receipt of quarter 4 data [January to March 2023] backdated for previous cases as relevant

- **Are there any blockages to this that we are not aware of?**
  - Know there are some local authorities (LAs) are waiting for software providers to resolve and others have larger systems update in the pipeline which will include new response options

HL1 update – Ukrainian displaced people

- Data quality:
  - we monitor the returns and quality assure data quarterly [manually at the moment]

  - instances with case submitted using one of the new response options but not another – when queried so far has been updated

- **Are there any difficulties or barriers to recording this data?**

Unsuitable Accommodation & Breaches of UAO

Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO)

A breach should be recorded when a household has been in unsuitable temporary accommodation for more than 7 days

- In Spring 2020, it became apparent there was uncertainty and inconsistency in the reporting of breaches
  - Change in legislation (from households with pregnant women/children only to all)
  - COVID-19 exceptions

- Scrutiny of the data unveiled:
  - Errors in reporting
  - Inconsistency in reporting

Data development and quality assurance

UAO – errors & inconsistencies

- Some reported as a breach, when not marked as unsuitable

- Certain types of accommodation not being marked as unsuitable, when it was expected it should

  …and vice versa

- Breaches for durations less than 8 days

- No breaches for durations more than 8 days

- Not the same for all – some placement level, some application level

- Difficult to determine for some

UAO – action to resolve

- Discussion with policy and working groups

- Consulted legal colleagues and Scottish Housing Regulator

- Decision was reached that reporting should be consistent with wording of legislation i.e. application level

- Update data collection guidance, including worked examples

  - In time for data returns from 1 April 2022

UAO – current data

- Some LAs have implemented changes and are reporting in line with enhanced guidance

- However, not all LAs have been able to do this currently

- Manual checks of data each quarter

- Follow up with local authorities

- Implementing automated checks

- Not all errors identified have been rectified

- Ongoing process, over the transition period

Additional HL3 questions 12 & 13

- In 2019, two additional questions were introduced to the HL3

- These related to whether the temporary accommodation placement included a pregnant women or children

- A majority of LAs have implemented these additional questions, **but not all**

- We are looking to include these figures in our upcoming annual 2022/23 publication – we want to have **a full set of data from 1 April 2022** from all local authorities

Additional HL3 questions 12 & 13 Progress

- **26 out of 32 LAs** have provided this data – well done!

- All LAs who completed question 12 completed question 13 correctly

- 4 LAs require backdating

  - as there are cases belonging to Q1 & Q2 which are still incomplete

- 2 LAs have still been unable to provide this data

  - both of which have confirmed they will be in a position to do so in Q4

- There will be backdating efforts for the upcoming quarter 4 collection where we will be in touch with relevant councils to assist

Data development and quality assurance

HL2 vs HL3

HL2: temporary accommodation snapshot at the end of the quarter

HL3: temporary accommodation placements

Should be able to recreate HL2 figures from HL3

- Differences exist between HL2 & HL3

- Nationally, HL3 is 2%-4% higher than HL2

- Although, it's not always the case that the HL3 returns are higher…

  ➢ ~2/3 LAs HL3 <u>higher</u> than HL2, ranging from 2% to 34%

  ➢ ~1/3 LAs HL3 <u>lower</u> than HL2, ranging from 2% to 8%

  To note, 9 LAs HL2 & HL3 figures are extremely close

HL2 vs HL3 – reasons for differences

- Data not collated the same way, or from the same source i.e. the HL2 return is not generated from the placement level data
  - **What can be done to bring these figures more in line?**

- Not all accommodation types are included in each return
  - **Why aren't all accommodation types included in both sets of returns?**

- Missing exit dates for HL3 placements, therefore these placements appear to be 'live' at the end of quarter, artificially inflating the live HL3 figures
  - **What is preventing exit dates being provided?**

HL2 vs HL3 – next steps

- Targeted discussion with LAs to understand more about the nature of their differences to determine if:
    a) they can theoretically match
    b) they will never be able to theoretically match

If a) then working with LAs to get these to match

If b) data review work to pick up

Temporary accommodation average duration

- Many LAs have asked how Scottish Government calculates:

  - **'duration'** (placement level)

  - **'total duration'** (household level)

  - **'average total duration'** (local authority and national level)

Temporary accommodation average duration

- This table is from our annual publication

- It shows the **average duration (days)** that **households** have spent in TA for each LA by financial year of case closure

- Next slides will go through step by step how these are calculated

Table 36: Average total time (days) spent in temporary accommodation for cases that closed, by local authority: 2017-18 to 2021-22

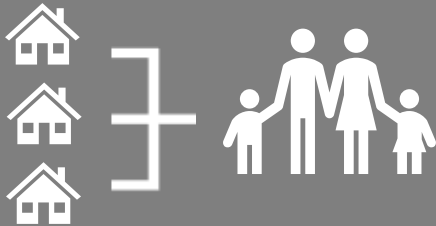| Local Authority	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Scotland	**175**	**183**	**187**	**204**	**207**
Aberdeen City	144	138	131	140	101
Aberdeenshire	172	154	147	133	105
Angus	158	181	160	213	149
Argyll & Bute	164	200	203	245	202
Clackmannanshire	146	143	140	130	152
Dumfries & Galloway	130	106	94	131	109
Dundee City	145	131	134	163	203
East Ayrshire	79	76	84	120	117
East Dunbartonshire	307	325	332	466	340
East Lothian	347	346	345	339	391
East Renfrewshire	127	145	151	176	151
Edinburgh	248	291	294	364	449
Eilean Siar	286	284	306	326	297
Falkirk	124	121	135	205	226
Fife	167	163	169	174	213
Glasgow City	184	199	229	225	196
Highland	194	265	290	345	344
Inverclyde	89	116	84	119	138
Midlothian	286	420	510	611	524

Calculating duration

Placement level duration:

<u>duration</u> = date of exit – date of entry

e.g. **12.01.2023** – **10.01.2023** = 2 days

Household level duration:

<u>total duration</u> = sum of all placement durations belonging to a single household

* Only for placements where offers have been accepted and taken up
* If date of exit is missing, but the homelessness application has been closed, the close date will be used instead
* A household's placement history can span back over years

Calculating average total duration

The **average duration** will be calculated from the **total durations** of **all households** which have **closed within the financial year**

Placement durations

🏠 (P1) = 10 days
🏠 (P2) = 4 days
🏠 (P3) = 6 days

🏠 (P1) = 5 days
🏠 (P2) = 2 days
🏠 (P3) = 3 days

🏠 (P1) = 10 days
🏠 (P2) = 3 days
🏠 (P3) = 2 days

Household durations

20 days

10 days

15 days

Average total duration

Sum total duration of **all households** with a homelessness application which have **closed in a financial year**

/ (divided by)

The number of **households** where a homelessness application has taken up placements and closed in that **financial year**

∑ **total duration of all households / n households = average total duration**

Data development and quality assurance

Placements with '0 day' duration

- There are **placements** which have '0 day' duration (entry date = exit date)

- 5 LAs have a reasonable number of these records (>50 over last 3 years)

- 17 LAs with a smaller number of these records (<50 over last 3 years)

- This impacts all of our published HL3 temporary accommodation outputs

Are these **recording errors** or are these **genuine placements?**

Why would a placement be 0 days?

- We will be reaching out to LAs to query these '0 day' duration placements

- This will help us understand if a data processing solution is available

Postcode & national insurance number

- Quality of these discussed at last HSUG (regarding completeness)

- Not progressed as other areas have been prioritised

- Will be picked up as wider data review work

  - Consideration of use in relation to data linkage

  - Further geographical analysis, e.g. linking to the Scottish index of multiple deprivation (SIMD)

Questions?

Further points for discussion?

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Flash feedback for data providers

Quarterly reports and data outputs

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In the service
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Agenda

Publications overview and updates

Breakout session: Improving outputs

Data development and quality assurance

Data review update

Collection of sex and gender reassignment data

Other updates

AOB

Future meetings

In the service of Scotland

Lunch

Homelessness data review

update March 2023

In the service
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Homelessness data review

- Progress to date
  - Why a data review
  - Detailed consultations
  - Analysis, discussion and short term changes

- Plans going forward
  - Drafting content
  - Systems

- Additional considerations

- High level timescale

Progress to date / why a data review?

- Initial consultation with data providers [spring / summer 2020]
  - a review was felt to be required to:
    - ensure data collections are reflective of changes in homelessness legislation, terminology and policy initiatives;
    - ensure that the current categories are still relevant, include a large enough range of options and provide the level of detail required;
    - rationalise the collections to better reflect the data needs of the sector and data users – both by adding new items, and removing those that are no longer required; and
    - improve guidance and validation, particularly where there are inconsistencies / high levels of divergence identified.

Progress to date / detailed consultations

- Initial consultation with data providers [spring / summer 2020]

- Content consultation [end of 2020]

- Public consultation [end of 2020]

- Internal consultation [end of 2020]

Progress to date / analysis, discussion and short term changes

- Initial consultation with data providers [spring / summer 2020]
- Content consultation [end of 2020]
- Public consultation [end of 2020]
- Internal consultation [end of 2020]
- Analysis of findings [publication TBC]
- Initial discussions of working and topic groups [spring 2021]
- Shorter term updates
  - HL3 and UAO guidance,
  - HL1 guidance and changes for UDP
  - collection of sex and gender [upcoming discussion]

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Homelessness data review

Plans going forward / drafting content

- In process of re-establishing the working group
    - primarily local authority representatives to ensure any proposed changes are practical to implement
    - split into topic-specific groups for detailed discussion
- SG to lead on:
    - research [legislation, official guidance, rUK coherence]
    - targeted external stakeholder engagement
    - drafting new content / response options
- Topic-specific group to agree – then wider working group
- Final public consultation of proposed new content

Plans going forward / collection and processing systems

- Alternative data collection and processing systems

  - In-built validation at point of entry (e.g. ProcXed)

  - Easier to update and add new questions

  - Reproducible analytical pipelines (automation)

  - Reporting for data providers (error, quarterly and annual)

Additional considerations

- User need vs data quality and availability

- Data linkage needs

- New prevention legislation

- Consideration of data provider timescales

- How to 'future proof'

- Implementation / transition strategy

- Governance and guidance associated with all aspects

High level timescales

Activity	Timing
Review work to date	Early 2023
Re-establish working and topic groups	
Understand requirements for data collection and processing systems	End 2023/ Early 2024
Establish proposed new content (through engagement with groups and stakeholders)	
Consult on proposed new content	Early-mid 2024
Scope collections and processing systems	
Finalise content	End 2024/ Early 2025
Agree collection and processing systems	
Build & implementation	End 2026/ Early 2027

Would you like to be part of the working group?

- Seeking membership consisting of data providers / regulators to ensure that considered changes are practical to implement
  - Get the opportunity to influence discussion and recommendations
  - Looking for a range of input, operational / data, different local authority location / size as that comes with different sets of challenges

- If you are an external stakeholder and want to provide views / discuss please get in touch

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Flash feedback

Protected characteristics

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Collection of sex and gender reassignment data

HL1 Homelessness data collection

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Collection of sex and gender reassignment data

- Paper circulated ahead of meeting

- Background

- Current data collection

- Considerations:

  1. Are there agreed questions which will meet user need

  2. Scottish Government collection and processing systems

  3. Local authority management information and reporting systems

  4. Reporting and publishing

- Recommended option

- Discussion / views

Background

- Considering improving collection of sex, gender and trans status within current HL1 as a result of:

  - LA data providers requests

  - The Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR) equalities collection requirements

  - The vision to strengthen Scotland's equality evidence base

- Sex and gender reassignment are protected characteristics, gender is not

- Gender reassignment and trans status in this presentation is used interchangeably

Current data collection (HL1)

Question 9.1 and 9.2

Gender of main applicant and partner

Male	Female

Question 5 and 6

Number of adults / children in household at the time of application, by age and gender

Adults		Children	
Age 16-17	Male	Age 0-4	Male
	Female		Female
Age 18-24	Male	Age 5-11	Male
	Female		Female
Age 25-64	Male	Age 12-15	Male
Age 25-59	Female		Female
Age 65+	Male	Age 16-18	Male
Age 60+	Female		Female
All ages	Male	All ages	Male
	Female		Female

Considerations
1. Are there agreed questions which will meet user need?

SFHA guidance

"What is your sex?"

Female | Male | Intersex

Prefer not to say

"Do you consider yourself to be a trans person?"

Yes | No

Prefer not to say

SG guidance

"What is your sex?"

Female | Male

Prefer not to say | Not known

"Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have trans history?"

Yes | No

Prefer not to say

If yes, voluntary free text on trans status description

Considerations
2. Scottish Government collection and processing systems

- Bespoke and managed in-house

  - Allows flexibility around changes and updates

  - Scope of changes limited by lack of technical expertise within team to adapt outdated and complex code

- Adding response options to existing variables is feasible

- Adding completely new variables or questions is far more complicated

- Not possible to add free text boxes

Considerations
3. Local authority management information and reporting systems

- Different systems in different LAs

- Varying capacity to implement changes (either by LAs directly or via software providers) with differing lead in time

- Based on recent request know adding response options is feasible in short to medium term (for most)

- There may be more complex, or unanticipated changes required to systems to accommodation changes to current response options

Considerations
4. Reporting and publishing

- Any changes need reflected in LA reports and published equalities tables

- Need to introduce new categories for household types

- Additional categories will technically be a break in the time series and may shift proportions of male / female applicants

  - need to communicate clearly that this cannot be attributed to new policy or interventions

Recommended option: part 1

Question 9.1 and 9.2

Gender of main applicant and partner

Male	Female

→

Question 9.1 and 9.2

Sex of main applicant and partner

Male	Female
Intersex	Prefer not to say

- Rename question to sex instead of gender

- Add response options intersex and prefer not to say

Recommended option: part 2

Question 11 [==REPURPOSED==]

Do you (or your partner) consider yourself to be trans, or have trans history?

No
Yes, main applicant only
Yes, partner only
Yes, both main applicant and partner
Prefer not to say

- Repurpose Q11. which is not currently in use but was 'Has the applicant come from the family home (pre-2007 only)'

- To only be asked for people aged 16+

Any anticipated issues for LA information management systems?

Would response codes need to be different from what they were for the previous question?

Recommended option: part 3

Question 5 and 6

Number of adults / children in household at the time of application, by age and gender

Adults		Children	
Age 16-17	Male	Age 0-4	Male
	Female		Female
Age 18-24	Male	Age 5-11	Male
	Female		Female
Age 25-64	Male	Age 12-15	Male
Age 25-59	Female		Female
Age 65+	Male	Age 16-18	Male
Age 60+	Female		Female
All ages	Male	All ages	Male
	Female		Female

Question 5 and 6

Number of adults / children in household at the time of application, by age and sex

Adults		Children	
Age 16-17	Male+Female	Age 0-4	Male+Female
	Other		Other
Age 18-24	Male+Female	Age 5-11	Male+Female
	Other		Other
Age 25-64	Male+Female	Age 12-15	Male+Female
	Other		Other
Age 65+	Male+Female	Age 16-18	Male+Female
	Other		Other
All ages	Male+Female	All ages	Male+Female
	Other		Other

Recommended option: part 3

- Rename categories to record male and female members of household together and any other sex separately

- Rename question to 'by age and sex'

- Update age categories (25-64 and 65+) for adults

Any anticipated issues for LA information management systems?

Question 5 and 6

Number of adults / children in household at the time of application, by age and <mark>sex</mark>

Adults			Children		
Age 16-17	Male+Female		Age 0-4	Male+Female	
	Other			Other	
Age 18-24	Male+Female		Age 5-11	Male+Female	
	Other			Other	
Age 25-64	Male+Female		Age 12-15	Male+Female	
	Other			Other	
Age 65+	Male+Female		Age 16-18	Male+Female	
	Other			Other	
All ages	Male+Female		All ages	Male+Female	
	Other			Other	

Discussion

Collection of sex and gender reassignment data

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In the service
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Other updates

In the service
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- Prevention legislation

- Local connection legislation

- Temporary Accommodation task and finish group (& response)

- Measurement task and finish group

- Hub meetings

- Hidden homelessness

- 4 nations

  - Quarterly meetings

  - In-person case level workshop – overlap with Wales

  - England data linkage

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- Census

- Research projects

  - Effectiveness of prevention for those experiencing multiple exclusion homelessness

  - Does rapidly moving people in to permanent accommodation reduce repeat homelessness?

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Future meetings

- How was today?

  - Did the hybrid meeting option work well?
  - Was the content about right?
  - Is there anything you would like to have included in future meetings?

- Format of future meetings?

- Frequency of future meetings?

- Anything else needed i.e. in-between meetings?

  - Regularly or as issues arise?

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THANK YOU FOR COMING!

Homelessness Statistics User Group

27 March 2023

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Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba