

Homelessness Vision: everyone has a home that meets their needs and homelessness is ended

Purpose

1. To provide an example report for the primary and secondary indicators set out in Paper 6 of the March HPSG meeting. Group members are invited to provide their views on the format and content. Updates could be biennial as the homeless statistics are currently published twice a year (January and June).

Introduction

2. New homelessness statistics will be published on 26 June 2019 and the data presented in this paper are up to 2017/18. Primary indicators are presented in Table 1, illustrating the change between the most recent 2 years of data and the following pages provide information about longer term trends. Example secondary indicators are presented on page 5 and 6.

Table 1 – Primary indicators

	Previous (2016-17)	Latest (2017-18)	Change¹	Source
Number of applications for homelessness where slept rough during previous 3 months	2660	2682	▲ 1% increase	HL1
Number of applications under the Homeless legislation	34,570	34,972	▲ 1% increase	HL1
Number of households in temporary accommodation	10,873	10,933	▲ 1% increase	HL1

(Example graphics: ▼ = improved || = stayed the same ▲ = worsened)

¹ If this format is adopted, we plan to work with statisticians to develop thresholds for identifying an indicator as improved, maintained or worsened (which would also be presented in each report).

Number of rough sleepers

Table 2: Number of homelessness applications where rough sleeping occurred prior to application in Scotland: 2002-03 to 2017-18

	2002-03	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	
								Number	Percentage
All applications for homelessness	52,217	40,028	36,825	35,964	34,939	34,570	34,972	402	1%
where slept rough: at least once during the last 3 months	6,752	3,096	2,773	2,594	2,434	2,660	2,682	22	1%
% of all applications	13%	8%	8%	7%	7%	8%	8%		
where slept rough the night before	5,310	1,762	1,560	1,512	1,402	1,563	1,537	-26	-2%
% of all applications	10%	4%	4%	4%	4%	5%	4%		

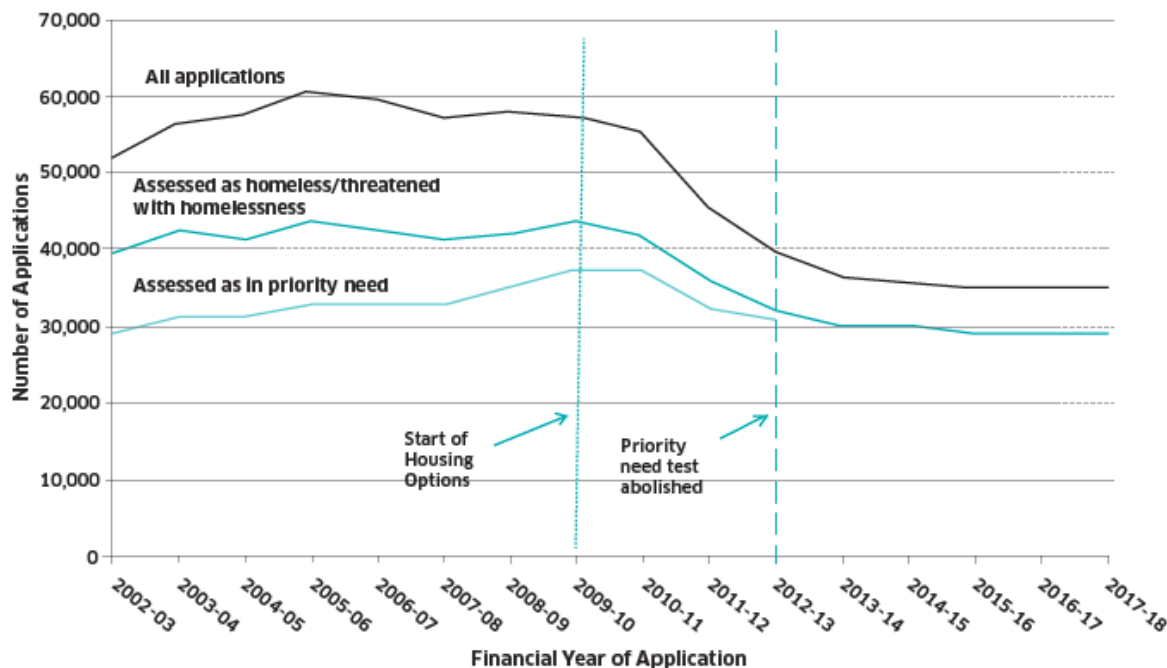
Note: As of 31st December 2012, Local Authorities no longer apply the priority need test to homeless households, due to the Abolition of Priority Need Test (Scotland) Order 2012.

3. The proportion of applications where a household member reported sleeping rough at least once during the last 3 months prior to application has reduced since 2002/03, from 13% of all applications in 2002/03, to 7% in 2014/15, after which the figure has since increased slightly to 8% in 2016/17 and 2017/18.
4. In 2017/18, 4% of applicants (1,537 in total or 128 per month on average) slept rough the night before applying for assistance. Glasgow City and Eilean Siar had the highest proportions (9% and 8% respectively). West Dunbartonshire and Midlothian had the smallest proportions of homeless applicants sleeping rough the night before.

Applications

- Changes in applications and assessments can be driven by changes in legislation, policy and practice. The number of homelessness applications has decreased in more recent years from 2008/09 to 2016/17, which is likely to have been due to the impact of the introduction of Housing Options services in Scottish local authorities, with a focus on prevention.

Chart 1 – Number of applications and assessments under the homeless legislation (HL1)

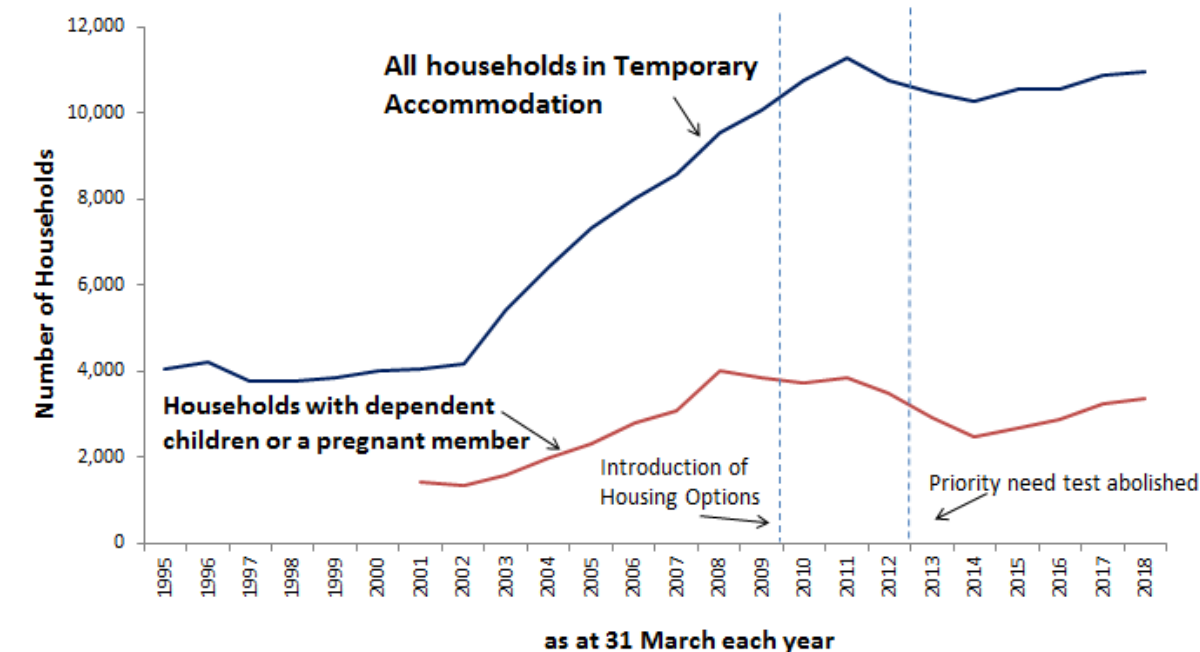


- Recent trends - between 1 April 2017 and 31 March 2018, Local Authorities received a total of 34,972 homelessness applications. This is an increase of 402 (1%) applications compared to the previous year and breaks the trend in falling numbers of homelessness application since 2008/09. The number of applications has increased in 17 out of 32 Local Authorities in the latest year.

Temporary accommodation

7. There has been an overall rise of numbers in temporary accommodation since 2002. In 2002 (on 31st March), there were 4,153 households in temporary accommodation. This number gradually increased between 2002 and 2011 – 11,254 households were in temporary accommodation on 31st March 2010. This increase was linked to local authorities preparing for the abolition of priority need in December 2012, as required by the Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003. Since 2010, this figure has remained relatively stable, incorporating a slight dip to 2014 followed by a subsequent rise to 2018. There were 10,933 households in temporary accommodation at 31st March 2018.

Chart 2 – Households in temporary accommodation as at 31 March each year (HL1)



8. On 31 March 2018, the latest snapshot figures show that:
- There were 10,933 households in temporary accommodation, an increase of 60 households (0.6%) compared to the previous year. This figure remains lower than that recorded in 2011, when there were 11,254 households in temporary accommodation.

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- Of these households in temporary accommodation, 3,349 had children or a pregnant member – an increase of 118 households (4%) compared to the same date one year ago, and the fourth consecutive annual increase).
- The number of children in temporary accommodation increased by 557 children (9%) to 6,615 compared to the same date one year ago, and the fourth consecutive annual increase.

Secondary indicators

9. These are the indicators that show progress against each of the outcomes identified in the Action Plan. This paper only presents the data for the first outcome, embedding a person-centred approach, to invite views and comments.

Embedding a person-centred approach

Table 3 – Reasons for failing to maintain accommodation prior to application, Scotland 2007-08 to 2017-18 (HL1)

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	Change 2016-17 to 2017-18	
												Number	Percentage
All completing this question	30,740	31,284	33,558	32,306	24,405	20,139	18,017	18,196	19,018	20,834	22,646	1,812	9%
Not to do with applicant household (e.g. landlord selling property, fire, circumstances of other persons sharing previous property, harassment by others, etc)	15,034	14,824	16,023	16,764	12,462	10,047	8,545	7,770	8,494	9,387	9,665	278	3%
Mental health reasons	3,056	2,759	2,838	2,728	2,308	1,996	2,260	3,035	3,472	4,200	5,157	957	23%
Lack of support from friends/ family	5,901	6,448	7,494	6,258	4,304	3,107	2,777	3,346	3,507	4,107	4,909	802	20%
Financial difficulties/ debt/ unemployment	6,398	6,910	6,941	6,361	4,957	4,552	3,575	3,116	3,064	3,416	4,157	741	22%
Drug/ alcohol dependency	4,062	3,841	3,837	3,581	2,933	2,622	2,569	2,830	2,781	2,969	3,165	196	7%
Criminal/ anti-social behaviour	2,574	2,940	3,134	3,042	2,636	2,469	2,458	2,294	2,417	2,609	2,934	325	12%
Physical health reasons	1,643	1,410	1,282	1,150	893	811	839	1,422	1,501	1,702	1,999	297	17%
Difficulties managing on own	1,877	1,706	1,819	1,867	1,352	1,140	1,328	1,494	1,597	1,622	1,921	299	18%
Unmet need for support from housing/ social work/ health services	1,261	1,171	1,069	920	577	442	472	651	739	761	897	136	18%

Note: Applicants may select multiple responses, which is reflected in the higher count of the 'all those completing this question' category.

Chart 3 – number of Housing Options Approaches, by reasons for approach (PREVENT1)

