

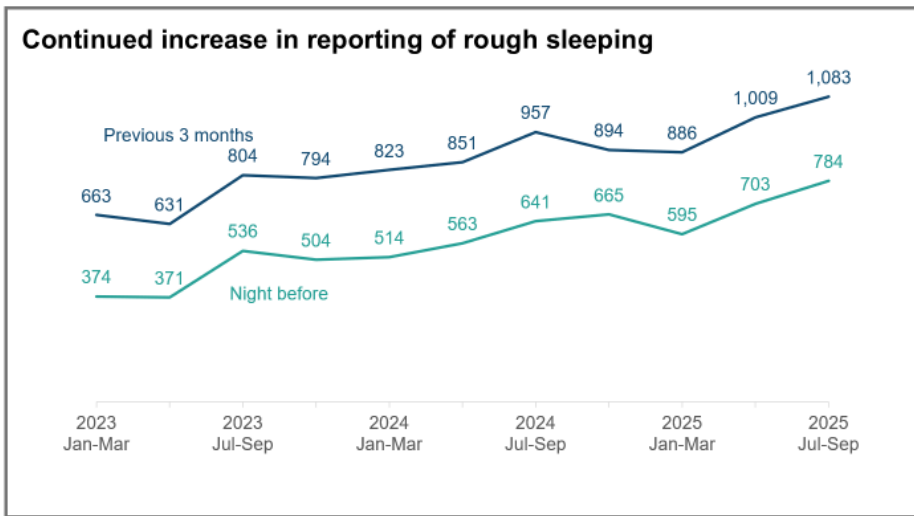
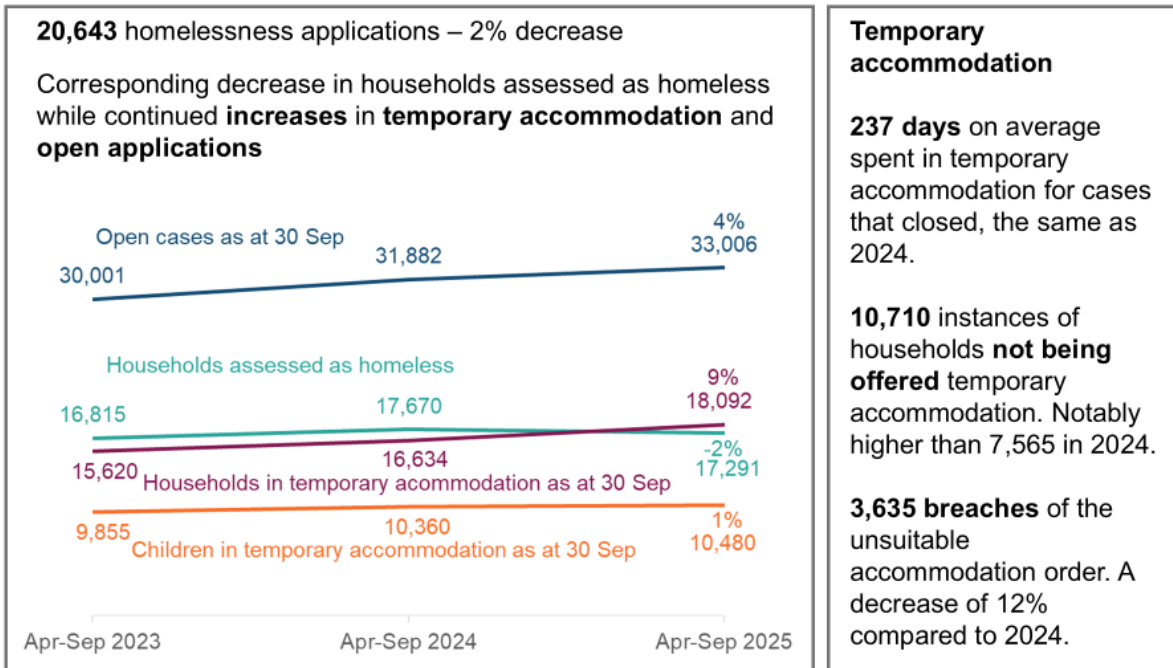
**Accredited Official Statistics**



# **Homelessness in Scotland: Update to 30 September 2025**

# Main findings: April to September 2025

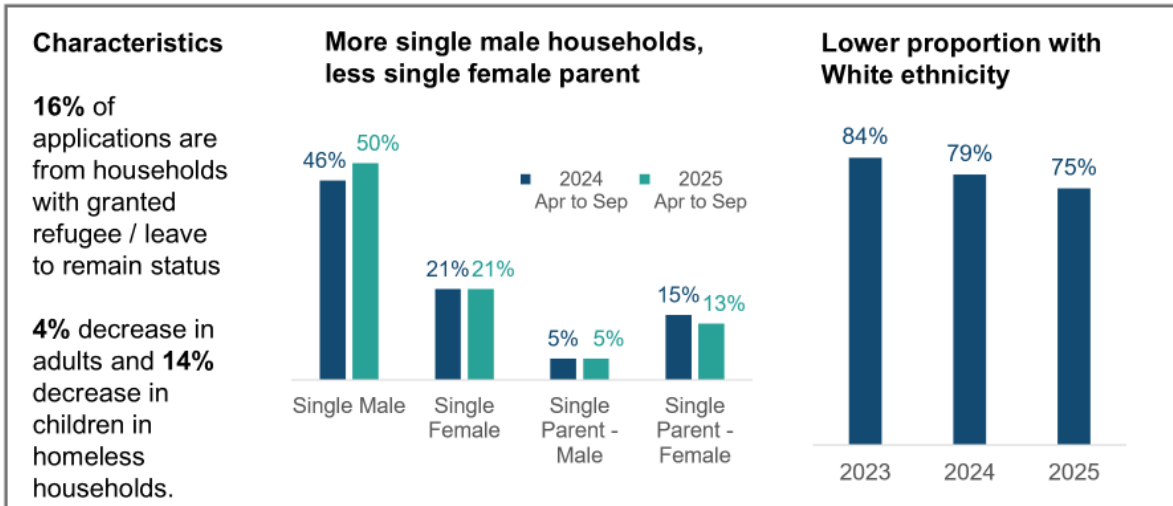
Comparisons are with the corresponding periods in the previous years, and percentage changes are shown between the latest two periods.



**Outcomes**

**6%** decrease in the number of cases closed.

**83%** of unintentionally homeless households secured **settled accommodation** where the outcome was known.



# Introduction

This statistics bulletin provides information on homelessness in Scotland in the six-month period from 1 April to 30 September 2025 alongside comparisons with the corresponding period in previous years. Quarterly breakdowns of data are provided from 2023 in the supporting tables.

The main purpose of this publication is to provide an indication of trends for key aspects of homelessness including applications, assessments, use of temporary accommodation and outcomes ahead of the annual publication, which includes a fuller set of information.

The statistics in this publication are based on administrative data collected by local authorities in the course of processing homelessness applications. A limitation of this approach is that data is not collected for any households that are homeless but do not engage with their local authority. For this reason the statistics in this publication do not necessarily cover the entire homeless population in Scotland. More detail on the data sources we use are included at the end of this publication.

Excel workbooks containing the tables and charts referenced in this publication are available to download at our [supporting documents page](#).

These statistics are [accredited official statistics](#). The Office for Statistics Regulation has independently reviewed and accredited these statistics as complying with the standards of trustworthiness, quality, and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#).



These statistics were accredited on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2012. The published accreditation is also available at [Accredited Official Statistics](#)

## What is the statutory duty of the local authority?

If a household is unintentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness), the local authority must offer settled accommodation. Until this is available, the local authority must offer temporary accommodation.

If a household is intentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness), the local authority has no statutory duty to provide settled accommodation (although they may choose to do so). There is a duty to provide temporary accommodation and advice and assistance to help the household secure alternative accommodation.

Temporary accommodation must be offered, if it is required, while the household is awaiting an assessment decision.

The statutory duty lies with the local authority the household applies to. Up until 28 November 2022, if a household had no local connection to the one to which it applied, but to another local authority, they may be referred. From 29 November 2022, local authorities no longer have the power to refer an applicant to another local authority in Scotland on the grounds of their local connection.

A household can accept or refuse offers of accommodation. A local authority's duty to secure accommodation for unintentionally homeless households would be fulfilled by an offer that is refused, provided that the offer is a reasonable one.

More information on the duties local authorities have to assist people who are threatened with or experiencing homelessness can be found in the [Code of Guidance on Homelessness](#)

## **A Quick Guide to the Homelessness Process**

A household is homeless if they have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere, or have accommodation but cannot reasonably occupy it. A household is threatened with homelessness if it is likely they will become homeless within two months.

There are **three stages involved in a homeless application in Scotland**:

1. The Application stage where the household first presents to the local authority.
2. The Assessment stage which determines:
  - a. If the household is eligible for assistance. Households with no recourse to public funds are not eligible for homelessness assistance, though may be provided temporary accommodation while their status is assessed;
  - b. whether the household is homeless or threatened with homelessness;
  - c. if the household is homeless, whether this is 'unintentionally' or 'intentionally'; and
  - d. if unintentionally homeless, whether there is a connection to the local authority to which the application was made and/or to any other local authority. (Note: local connection legislation changed in November 2022).
3. The Outcome stage. A case can be closed only once the local authority has fulfilled its statutory duty or contact has been lost for 28 days.

## **A note on interpreting the figures**

It is not possible to make direct links within a reporting period for each stage of the homelessness process as households will be at a different stage at different times.

That is, not all applications made between 1 April and 30 September 2025 will have an assessment or temporary accommodation placement within that same six-month period. Similarly, some assessments made between 1 April and 30 September 2025 will relate to applications received prior to this; and some temporary placements in this period will relate to household applications and assessments prior to this also. Furthermore, there will be households who entered and exited temporary accommodation within the same reporting period, and therefore will not appear in the end of period snapshot of households in temporary accommodation.

To also note:

- it is possible for households to make an application and/or be assessed more than once in the same period (although this would be extremely unlikely in a six-month period)
- not all households assessed as homeless enter temporary accommodation

Where the publication refers to 'in the six-month period' this relates to the period 1 April to 30 September 2025, unless another year has been specified in the text. Where years e.g. 2025 and 2024 are referred to in the publication (including charts), this relates to the respective six-month period 1 April to 30 September in each of the years.

The term 'homeless households' is used throughout the publication to denote households who have been assessed as (unintentionally or intentionally) homeless or threatened with homelessness.

### **Impact of households with leave to remain / refugee (including Ukrainian) eligibility**

There has been an increase in the number of applications from households with leave to remain / refugee (including Ukrainian) eligibility over the last few years. Between 1 April and 30 September 2024 and 2025, there was an increase from 1,955 to 3,020 in the number of leave to remain / refugee households and an increase from 160 to 180 Ukrainian Displaced Households. Together, these groups accounted for 16% of homelessness applications nationally. Data relating to these households has been made available in a separate workbook available on our [supporting documents page](#).

### **Impact of changes to local connection legislation**

Of the 17,290 households assessed as homeless between April and September 2025, 15,105 (87%) had a local connection to the local authority where they applied, 770 (4%) had a local connection to another (Scottish) local authority only and 1,420 (8%) had no known connection to any local authority in Scotland.

The proportion with only a connection to another (Scottish) local authority is slightly higher than the last few years (between 2% and 3%), although still a relatively small proportion overall.

### **Stock transfer authorities**

For six local authorities – Argyll & Bute, Dumfries & Galloway, Eilean Siar, Glasgow, Inverclyde, and Scottish Borders – stock was transferred from local authority control to housing associations between 2003 and 2007. This should be borne in mind when interpreting figures at local authority level, particularly for outcomes by accommodation type.

# The extent of homelessness in Scotland

## Key Points

- ↓ Decreases in applications and households assessed as homeless
- ↑ Increases in households and children in temporary accommodation and open applications
- 16% of all applications are from households granted refugee / leave to remain status

## Applications, assessments, and households in temporary accommodation

**Table A: Homelessness applications, assessments and households in temporary accommodation, April to September 2024 and 2025**

Measure	2024 Apr-Sep	2025 Apr-Sep	Change	
			Number	Percent
Applications	21,111	<b>20,643</b>	-468	-2%
Assessed as homeless	17,670	<b>17,291</b>	-379	-2%
Open applications as at 30 September	31,882	<b>33,006</b>	1,124	4%
Households in temporary accommodation as at 30 September	16,634	<b>18,092</b>	1,458	9%

Over the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2025, there have been decreases in the number of homelessness applications and households assessed as homeless. However, the number of open homelessness applications and households in temporary accommodation have continued to increase, with both now the highest in the time series (2003 and 2002, respectively).

The number of children in temporary accommodation also reached the highest in the time series, now at 10,480, although a much smaller increase (120 or 1%) compared to households in temporary accommodation.

## Eligibility

Applications from households granted refugee / leave to remain status (including Ukrainian nationals present through an appropriate scheme) increased by 51% (from 2,115 to 3,200). Applications from these households account for 16% of homelessness applications

nationally and are the highest number and proportion in the series. The number of applications from households across all other eligibility categories decreased.

There were 6,175 live cases for households granted refugee / leave to remain status as at 30 September 2025, accounting for 19% of the national total.

## **Intentionality**

Of the 17,291 applications that were assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness in the six-month period in 2025, 16,792 (97%) were assessed as unintentionally homeless and 499 (3%) were assessed as intentionally homeless. The number of households assessed as intentionally homeless has been increasing in recent years, following a notable drop as a result of change in legislation from a duty to a discretionary power in November 2019. Current figures are still below pre-legislation change and account for 2% of all assessments.

## **Local authority differences**

### **Applications**

Twenty local authorities experienced a decrease in applications between 2024 and 2025, with the other twelve experiencing an increase.

Glasgow experienced the largest numerical decrease (382, 9%) and Aberdeen City the largest numerical increase (181, 20%).

The local authorities with the largest number of applications from households granted refugee / leave to remain status were Glasgow (1,700, accounting for 44% of their applications), Edinburgh (655, accounting for 33% of their applications) and Aberdeen City (270, accounting for 25% of their applications).

### **Open homelessness applications**

The increase in open applications is dominated by Edinburgh with an increase of 1,203 (from 7,441 to 8,644) between September 2024 and 2025. The next largest increase was in Glasgow (267), despite a decrease in applications.

The largest decreases were in Falkirk (376) and Fife (214).

### **Households in temporary accommodation**

Edinburgh (690, 17%) and Glasgow (642, 17%) had the largest numerical increases between September 2024 and September 2025. Perth and Kinross (37, 63%) and Aberdeenshire (42, 51%) also experienced high proportionate increases.

The largest numerical decrease was in Fife (74, 7%).

# Reasons for Homelessness and Prior Circumstances

## Key Points

↑ Continued increase in the reporting of rough sleeping

## Reasons

The three most common reasons for homelessness remain fairly constant: asked to leave (26%), non-violent household dispute (18%) and violent household dispute (13%).

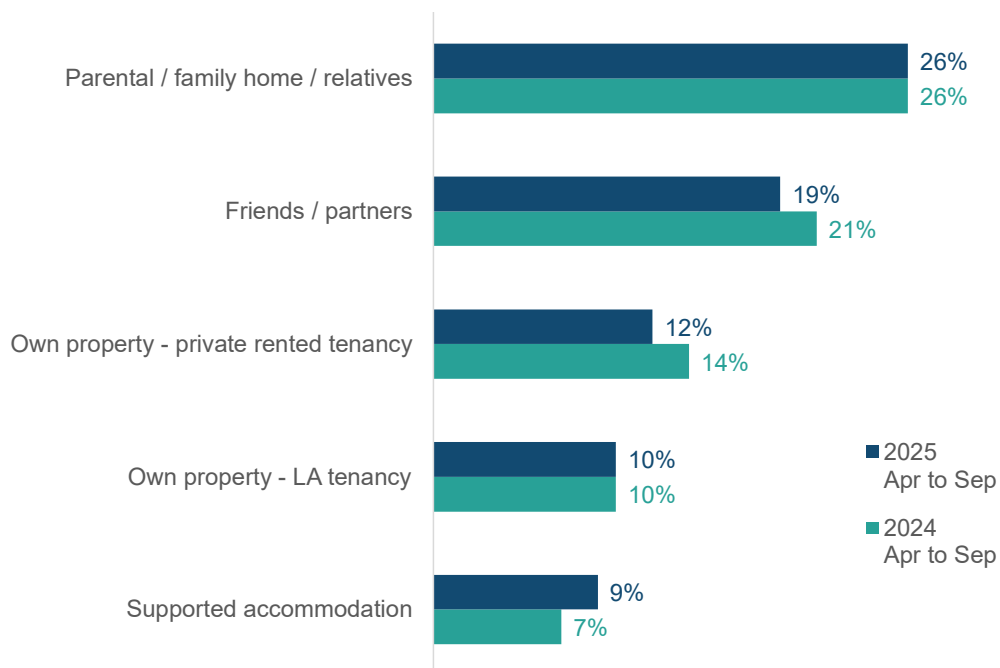
A new category “left asylum accommodation” was introduced in April 2025. This shows 2% of all applications cited this as a reason for homelessness.

Some applicants (76%) also provided additional reasons for homelessness. ‘Not to do with applicant household’ (54%) was the most common, followed by ‘mental health reasons’ (26%).

## Previous property

### Decrease in proportion of households becoming homeless from friends/partners and private rented tenancies; increase from supported accommodation

Chart 1: Five most common property types from which households became homeless, 2024 and 2025



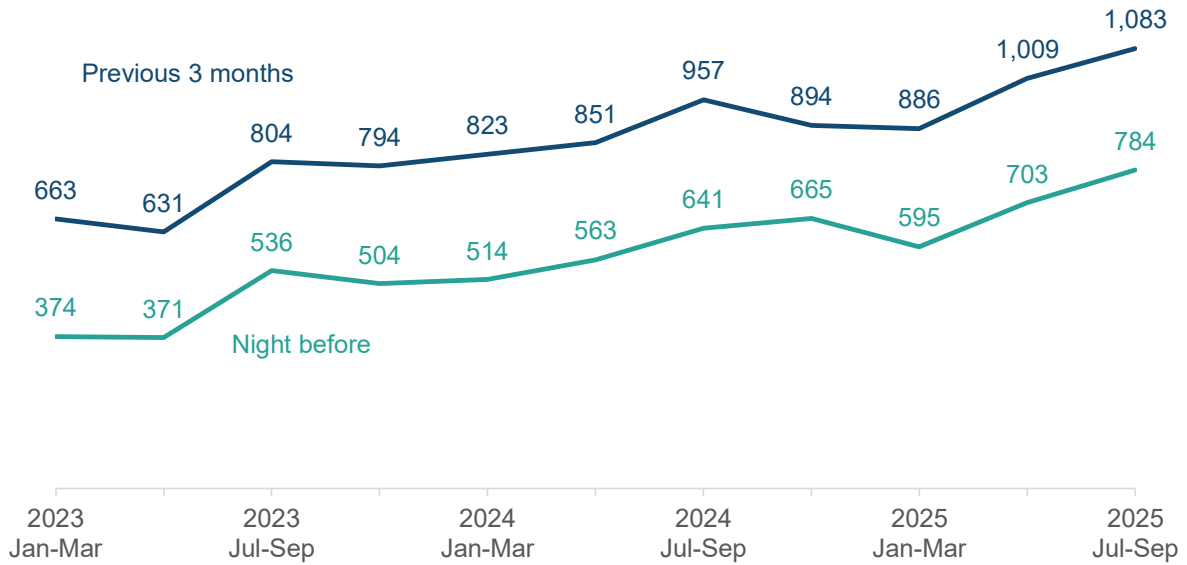
Households becoming homeless from a 'private rented tenancy' has experienced the most fluctuation over the last few years as a result of legislation which was introduced to protect renters over the COVID-19 pandemic and through the cost of living crisis. However, the proportion of households homeless from a private rented tenancy has been consistently between 11% and 14% for the last eleven quarters.

The increase in households from supported accommodation will be associated with the rise in applications from households granted refugee / leave to remain status. Additionally, the new category "asylum accommodation" was introduced in April 2025 and shows 2% of homeless households stating this is where they become homeless from.

# Rough sleeping

## Continued increases in the reporting of rough sleeping

Chart 2: Households experiencing rough sleeping prior to making a homelessness application, quarterly, January 2023 to September 2025



Over the six-month period 1 April to 30 September 2025, 7% of all households reported rough sleeping the night before and 10% in the previous three months. These are both increases compared to previous years, and the highest proportions since 2004-05 and 2008-09, respectively.

# Characteristics

## Key Points

- ↓ Decrease in the number of people in homeless households, with a larger decrease for children than adults
- More single male applicants; less single female parent applicants
- ↓ Decrease in White (Scottish) main applicants

There were 19,469 adults and 7,304 children associated with households assessed as homeless between April and September 2025. This represents a 4% decrease in adults and 14% decrease in children compared to 2024.

There have been some changes to the characteristics of homeless households compared to the previous year.

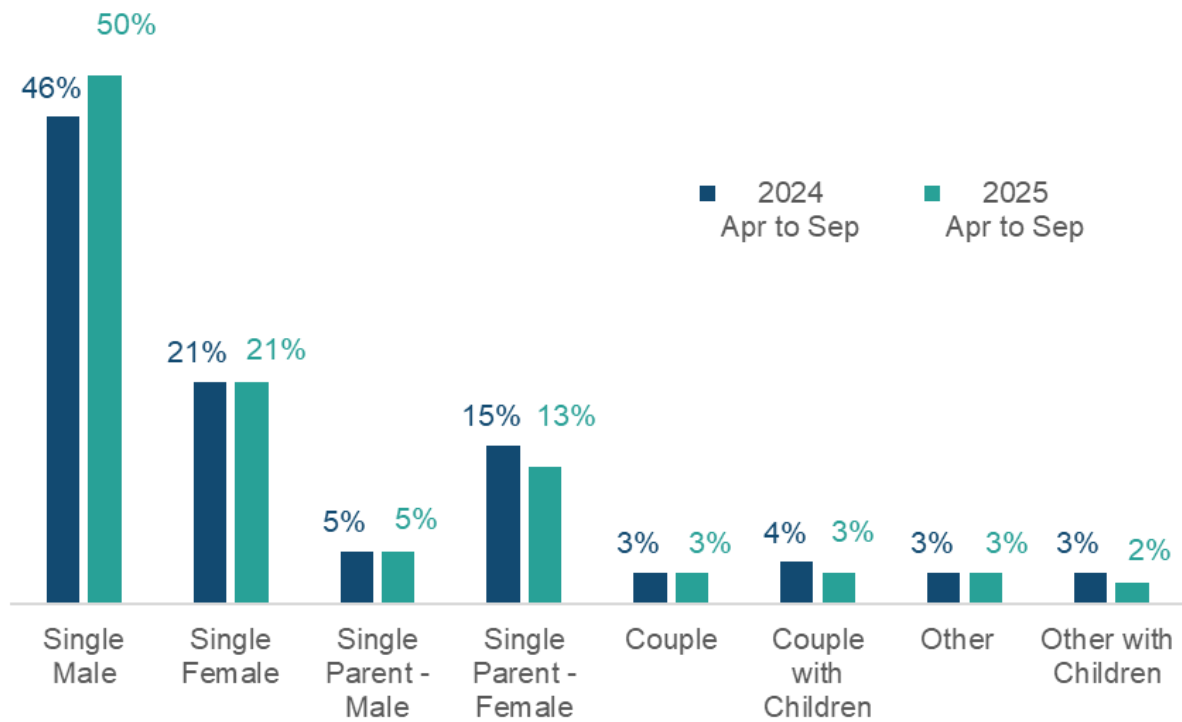
## Gender, age and household type

There is a slightly higher proportion of male main applicants (59%) in 2025 compared to 2024 (57%). Increases have been experienced for males aged 18 to 34 in particular (from 26% to 29%).

Conversely, the proportion of female main applicants aged 18 to 49 decreased (from 36% to 33%).

## Increase in proportion of single male households; decrease in single female parent households

Chart 3: Household type (households assessed as homeless), April to September 2024 and 2025

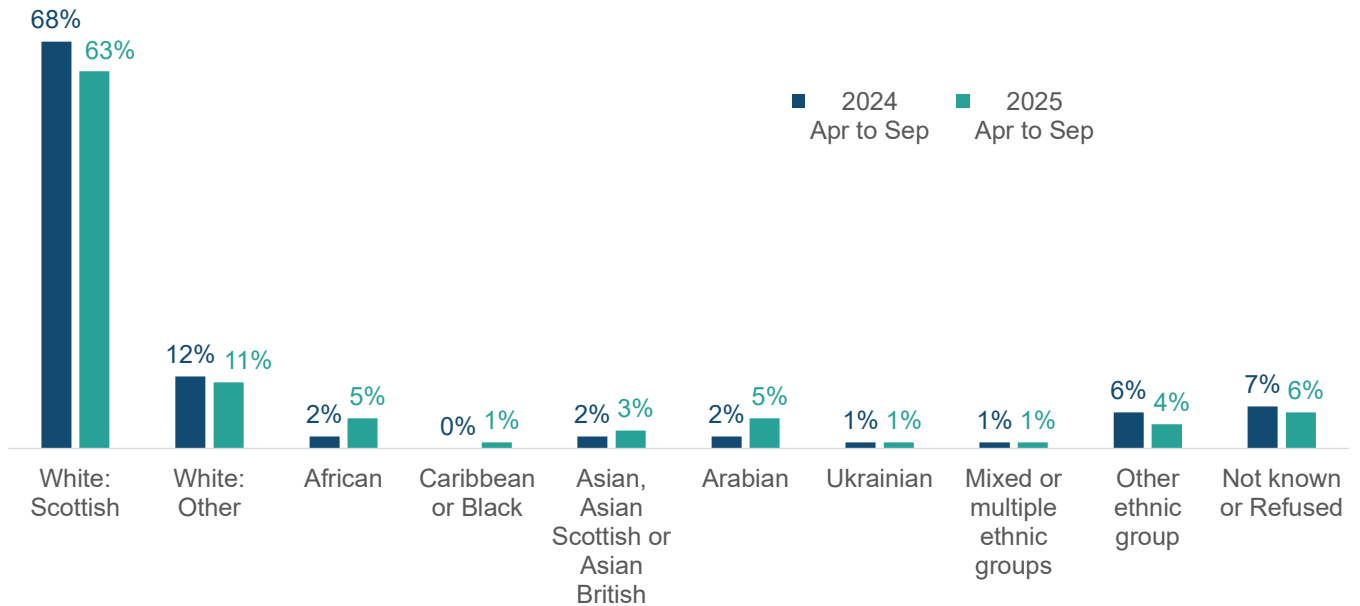


The proportion of households with children has decreased from 27% to 24% between 2024 and 2025. This ties in with the finding above that there is a much larger decrease in the number of children compared to adults.

## Ethnicity

**Decrease in proportion of White applicants, driven by White Scottish; increases for African, Caribbean or Black, Asian and Arabian**

**Chart 4: Ethnicity of main applicants (households assessed as homeless), 2024 and 2025**



It is likely that the changes in the reporting of ethnicity are a result of the increases and decreases across eligibility categories. For example, the decrease in White ethnicities will be linked to the decrease in applications from British, EEA, EU and A8 citizens.

# Temporary Accommodation

## Key Points

- Households who took up temporary accommodation spent an average of 237 days
- There were 10,710 instances temporary accommodation was not offered
- There were 3,635 breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order

## Sources of temporary accommodation data

Since 2002, local authorities have provided aggregate snapshot information relating to households in temporary accommodation. While this allows trends to be explored over time, understanding around individual placements and how these relate to assessed households is not possible from the snapshot data. Therefore, since 1 April 2016 placement level information on households in temporary accommodation has been provided to enable a more rounded picture of the use of temporary accommodation.

The snapshot data shows 18,092 households in temporary accommodation as at 30 September 2025. The placement level returns show that there were 19,158 temporary accommodation placements open at 30 September 2025, 1,066 (6%) higher than the snapshot returns. Differences may be explained by the returns including different types of temporary accommodation and the placement level returns experiencing a lag in cases being closed.

Both of these figures show households in temporary accommodation at a point in time and, as such, will include those who have recently entered temporary accommodation as well as those who have been in temporary accommodation for a longer period of time (including prior to the reporting period).

Please note headline temporary accommodation figures are reported in the [Extent of Homelessness](#) section.

## Reporting of temporary accommodation

Between April and September 2025, 23,572 temporary accommodation placements were entered and 22,654 were exited. This is a net difference of 918. This is not quite the same as the increase of 852 households in temporary accommodation between 31 March and 30 September 2025 from the HL2 data, however, this is likely due to the differences in the collections outlined above. Total number of placements is a useful measure for showing the overall scale of temporary accommodation usage. However, placement level analysis alone provides limited insight due to the often very transient nature of the use of temporary accommodation. It is not unusual for households to enter and exit multiple placements, with or without gaps in between.

When considering certain aspects of temporary accommodation such as number of placements, average time spent in temporary accommodation etc., the true extent of this

can only be fully understood once a household's homelessness application has been closed.

## How many households entered temporary accommodation for the first time? How many exited for the last time?

Between April and September 2025, 12,375 households entered a first (ever) temporary accommodation placement. This may include households who made a homelessness application prior to this. Over the same period, 9,696 households exited their last (ever) temporary accommodation placement. A household is considered to have 'exited' temporary accommodation in a reporting period only if their homelessness case has closed and their last associated temporary accommodation placement is within that period.

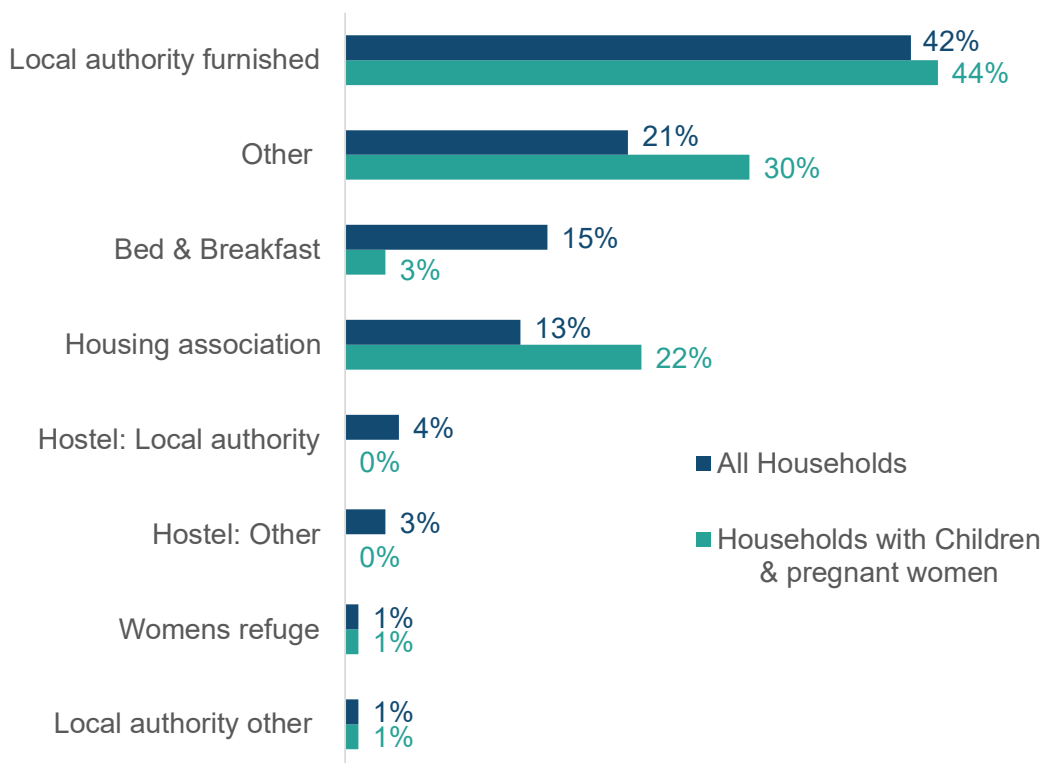
These figures give a net difference of 2,679 (22%) more households entering temporary accommodation for the first time than exiting for the last time. This relates to the increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation which can be seen in the snapshot figure, although the numbers will not match given the differences outlined above.

Edinburgh and Glasgow had the largest numerical difference with 636 and 622, respectively, more households entering than exiting temporary accommodation.

## What types of temporary accommodation are used?

### Social housing more commonly used and Hostel and Bed & Breakfast accommodation less commonly used for households with children & pregnant women

**Chart 5: Types of temporary accommodation used for all households and households with children & pregnant women, as at 30 September 2025**



For all households, the use of local authority furnished temporary accommodation experienced the largest numerical increase from 6,558 in September 2024 to 7,626 in September 2025 (16%). Hostel (other) also experienced a large proportionate increase of 35% (from 437 to 592).

The 'Other' category includes 'newer' types of temporary accommodation such as rapid access accommodation, community housing and shared tenancies, which can be deemed suitable.

### **How long do households spend in temporary accommodation?**

For cases that closed between April and September 2025, where there was at least one temporary accommodation placement, households spent an average of 237 days in temporary accommodation. This is the same as the same six-month period in 2024 and a little lower than 241 for October 2024 to March 2025.

### **How often do applicants refuse temporary accommodation?**

A household can choose to refuse an offer of temporary accommodation made by the local authority. There were 3,120 refusals of temporary accommodation between April and September 2025. This is 340 (10%) less than the same period for 2024.

### **How often do local authorities fail to provide temporary accommodation?**

A local authority is required to indicate when they do not offer any temporary accommodation to a household and are therefore acting unlawfully.

Between April and September 2025, there were 10,710 instances of households not being offered temporary accommodation. This is quite a bit higher than the 7,565 in 2024. The majority (6,815 out of 10,710) of these were in Glasgow. The next highest was Edinburgh who reported 3,585 instances over the six month period.

An additional seven local authorities reported at least one instance of not offering accommodation over the six month period in 2025. These were Aberdeen City, Angus, Clackmannanshire, Fife, Midlothian, Renfrewshire and South Lanarkshire.

### **How often do local authorities breach unsuitable accommodation legislation?**

Between April and September 2025 there were 3,635 reported breaches of the unsuitable accommodation order (UAO) across eighteen local authorities. This compares to 4,150 in the same six month period in 2024.

Glasgow accounted for 1,785 of the breaches, an increase from 1,650 the previous year. The next highest was Edinburgh with 560, although this was a notable decrease from 985 the previous year.

There were notable decreases for Aberdeen City (from 270 to 155), Fife (from 235 to 50) and Renfrewshire (from 60 to 0) between 2024 and 2025. Relatively large numerical increases were noted in Dundee City (from 125 to 180) and West Lothian (from 180 to 230).

**Important!** Local authorities have been addressing reporting anomalies and inconsistencies as a result of uncertainty caused by the extension of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO) legislation in May 2020. Although these are now largely resolved for the latest submitted data, they will remain in previously submitted data. Therefore, a degree of caution should be exercised when considering the figures, and in particular, comparisons with previous years.

See [known data quality issues](#) for further details.

# Outcomes

## Key Points

- 6% decrease in closed cases
- 83% of unintentionally homeless cases secured settled accommodation as an outcome. The same as 2024.

Homelessness cases are closed once the local authority has fulfilled its statutory duty or contact has been lost with the applicant household for 28 days. Local authorities provide information on the circumstances and outcomes of homelessness cases once they have been closed.

## Cases closed

Over the six-month period in 2025, there were 19,280 homelessness applications closed. This is a decrease of 6% compared to 2024. Of those, 15,706 related to households assessed as unintentionally homeless.

## Lost contact

Contact was maintained for most households assessed as unintentionally homeless (92%, the same as last year) and intentionally homeless (89%, also the same as 2024).

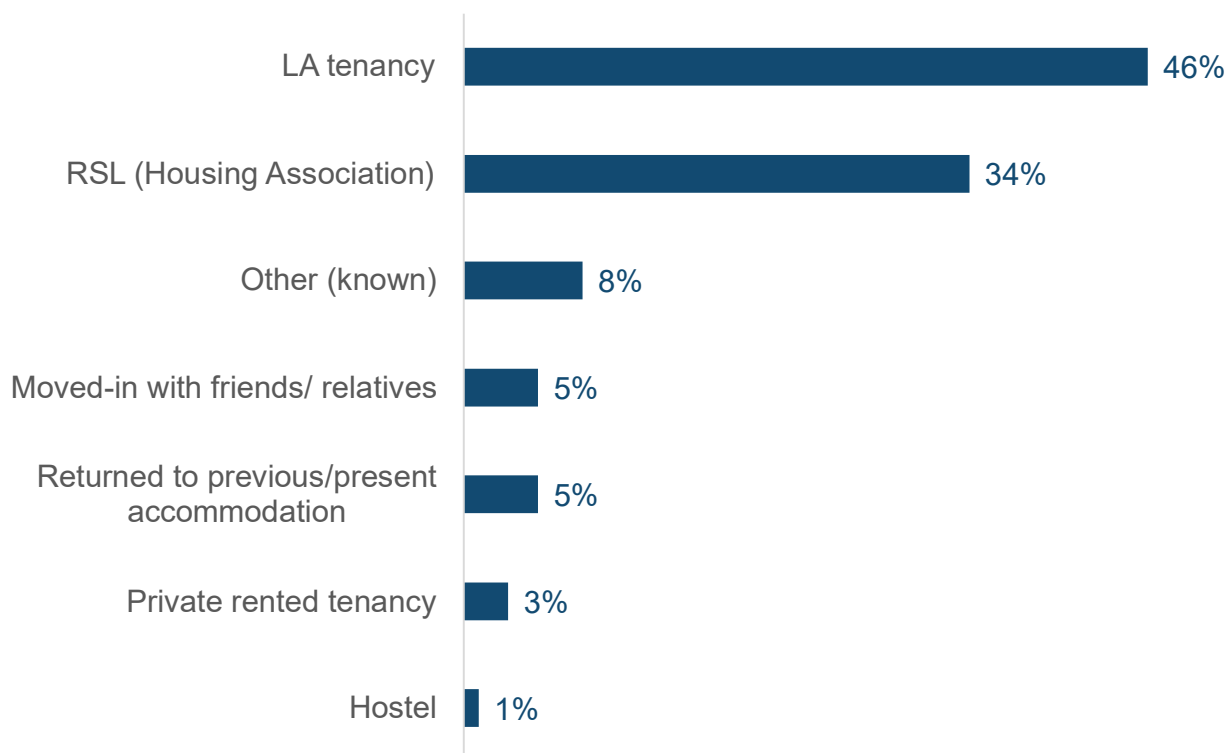
## Outcomes

Of the 14,060 unintentionally homeless cases that closed in the six-month period (where contact was maintained and the outcome known), 83% secured settled accommodation. This is the same as in 2024.

Settled accommodation here is defined as a local authority tenancy, a tenancy with a registered social landlord or a private rented tenancy.

## Local authority tenancy and registered social landlord accommodation account for the vast majority of outcomes for homeless households

**Chart 6: Outcomes for households assessed as unintentionally homeless or threatened with homelessness, April to September 2025**



The proportion of intentionally homeless households securing settled accommodation decreased from 40% to 30%. However, these are based on relatively small numbers and are therefore susceptible to natural fluctuation.

For cases that closed between April and September 2025, it took an average of 277 days from assessment to case closure. This compares to 275 days between April and September 2024 and 287 days between October 2024 and March 2025.

### Housing support assessments

Upon closing a homelessness case, local authorities are required to assess whether any housing support services are required by the household for any cases assessed as unintentionally homeless and where it has reason to believe that support would be beneficial. It also has a duty to provide that support if needed.

Across Scotland, assessments for housing support needs were carried out in 84% of cases where there was a duty to assess between April and September 2025. Support was provided for 44% of all cases, although support was not provided for 4% who were identified as needing it. In 16% of cases where there was a duty to assess, no assessment took place and no support was provided.

# Data and Methodology

Data within this publication is available in electronic format within tables and charts on the [supporting documents page](#).

The statistics included in this publication are based on administrative data collected by local authorities in the course of carrying out their homelessness activities. This data is collected from local authorities and quality assured by the Scottish Government on a quarterly basis. Details about the data we collect, our quality assurance process, and how we engage with users to improve our statistics are outlined in our quality assurance statement.

[Data Protection Impact Assessment and Quality Assurance Statement for HL1, HL2, HL3 and PREVENT1 data collections](#)

## Updates to previous statistics

The data we use in this publication is collected from local authorities on a quarterly basis. As a result these figures are updated on an ongoing basis and may differ from those previously published. This may be a result of delays in some cases being reported to the Scottish Government due to IT issues, quality assurance processes and delayed entry of data – particularly at the end of the financial year.

For example, this publication estimates that 10,397 homeless applications were made in January to March 2025, but our annual 'Homelessness in Scotland: 2024-25' publication gave a figure of 10,202. This is a difference of 195 applications, or approximately 2%. A table comparing the annual number of applications is included in the tables accompanying this publication.

## Known data quality issues

There are other data quality issues which we are aware of:

- There are a small number of temporary accommodation cases on the Scottish Government temporary accommodation placement database that are recorded as open but are linked to homelessness applications that we know to be closed. This occurs when a local authority fails to provide an update for these cases after the placement is closed. In these cases, we have taken the approach of using the close date of the homelessness application as the exit date of the temporary accommodation placement. This may have the impact of inflating the length of time these households are recorded as using temporary accommodation.
- Snapshot data about temporary accommodation provided by Fife and Orkney do not include all temporary accommodation placements used and therefore understates the number of households in temporary accommodation within these councils.
- There were previously a large number of inconsistencies between local authorities in the reporting of breaches of the Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2020. From May 2020 to September 2021 exceptions were put in

place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which caused confusion for some local authorities, particularly around when the extension of the legislation (from only households with pregnant women and/or children to all) should commence. Local authorities were able to capture different levels of information regarding breaches around this time (i.e. whether an exception could or could not be applied) which has implications for data comparability. In May 2022, enhanced guidance was issued to provide clarity around the reporting of breaches. It was anticipated that this should relate to all data from 1 April 2022, and while the vast majority of issues have now been resolved, there are still some legacy issues. Therefore, caution should be exercised when making comparisons with previous years.

## **Comparability with other UK homelessness statistics**

Because of the substantial differences in legislative frameworks and data collection methods that exist across the UK care needs to be taken in comparing homelessness statistics across the four countries.

In June 2025, the Office for National Statistics published an updated homelessness coherence article [Homelessness in the UK: 2004 to 2024](#). This followed on from the [UK homelessness: 2005 to 2018 report](#), which assessed the comparability and coherence of existing UK government homelessness data sources.

Also published in September 2019, the [GSS Homelessness Interactive Tool](#) allows users to explore the similarities and differences between how key concepts relating to homelessness are defined across the four UK countries. It allows users to explore an applicants' process through each of the different homelessness systems and enables users to visualise the different definitions of homelessness currently being used for official statistics and how these compare.

## Summary of current legislation

The Housing (Homeless Persons) Act 1977, now consolidated into [Part II of the Housing \(Scotland\) Act 1987](#), introduced statutory duties on Local Authorities to assist those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness (potentially homeless), including providing accommodation in certain circumstances.

The legislation currently requires Local Authorities to make inquiries into the circumstances of applicants to satisfy themselves whether the applicant is homeless or potentially homeless. Once the authority is satisfied this is the case, prior to 31 December 2012, it also determined whether the applicant had a priority need. However, from 31 December 2012, the [priority need test was abolished](#).

The Local Authority may then test whether the applicant became homeless intentionally and, in some cases, whether the applicant has a local connection with another authority in Scotland, England or Wales. There were changes in legislation from 7 November 2019 which give local authorities the power to assess for intentionality, rather than it being a legal duty to do so. Local connection with an authority can be based on residency, current employment, family associations or other special reasons. From November 2022, local authorities no longer have the power to refer an applicant to another local authority in Scotland on the grounds of their local connection. However, the power to refer applicants with a local connection to an authority in England and Wales remains, provided they do not have a local connection with the authority receiving the application. Only applicants who are assessed as being unintentionally homeless may be referred to another authority.

[Section 24 of the Housing \(Scotland\) Act 1987](#), as amended, defines homelessness for the purposes of the Act as follows. A person is homeless if they have no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere. A person is also homeless if they have accommodation but cannot reasonably occupy it, for example because of a threat of violence. A person is potentially homeless (threatened with homelessness) if it is likely that they will become homeless within two months. A person is intentionally homeless if they deliberately did or failed to do anything which led to the loss of accommodation which it was reasonable for them to continue to occupy.

[Section 25 of the Housing \(Scotland\) Act 1987](#), as amended, defined the categories of household regarded as having a priority need for accommodation. Further details can be found in the [Code of Guidance on Homelessness](#).

[The Housing \(Scotland\) Act 2001](#) amends the 1987 Act and requires councils to provide a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance to all applicants assessed as homeless, regardless of whether they have been assessed as being in priority need.

[The Homelessness etc. \(Scotland\) Act 2003](#) is more long-term in scope, notably introducing a phasing out of the distinction between priority and non-priority applications. The ultimate aim of the Act was to ensure that everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless was entitled to settled accommodation from 31 December 2012.

In November 2012, the Scottish Parliament approved the [Homelessness \(Abolition of Priority Need Test\) \(Scotland\) Order 2012](#) which gave effect to this commitment. From 31 December 2012, the priority need test for homeless households was abolished. As a result, from this date, all unintentionally homeless households are entitled to settled accommodation.

The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Order 2004 came into force on 6 December 2004, and is intended to prevent the routine use of unsuitable temporary accommodation for households with family commitments. Under this Order, Local Authorities cannot put households with children and pregnant women into temporary accommodation which is not suitable, unless exceptional circumstances apply. Unsuitable accommodation is defined in the Order as accommodation which does not meet standards relating to the physical properties of the accommodation (the physical standard), its proximity to health and education services (the proximity standard) and its suitability for use by children (the safety standard).

The 2004 order was revoked by [The Homeless Persons \(Unsuitable Accommodation\) \(Scotland\) Order 2014](#), which came into force on the 21 November 2014. The 2014 order adds the additional requirement that the accommodation must be wind and watertight.

While the Order provides for exceptional circumstances, in which accommodation which does not meet the physical and/or proximity standards may be used, the safety standard must always be met. Further details can be found in the [Code of Guidance on Homelessness](#).

The 2014 Order specifies that the local authority may provide an applicant with temporary accommodation which does not meet the requirements set out by Article 5 of the Order, but for no longer than 14 days in total in respect of that person's application. The [Homeless Persons \(Unsuitable Accommodation\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2017](#), which came into force in October 2017, reduces the number of days from 14 to 7 days before a 'breach' is recorded for the applicant remaining in such unsuitable accommodation.

The [Homeless Persons \(Unsuitable Accommodation\) \(Scotland\) Amendment Order 2020](#) extended the order to include all households, rather than just those containing children or a pregnant woman.

The [Housing Support Services \(Homelessness\)\(Scotland\) Regulations 2012](#) came into force on 1 June 2013. These Regulations make provision in relation to the duty of Local Authorities to assess whether some persons found to be homeless or threatened with homelessness ("an applicant") need housing support services.

Regulation 2 prescribes four types of housing support services which apply for the purposes of that duty. If a Local Authority has reason to believe that an applicant may be in need of one or more of these services, it must assess whether the applicant, or any person residing with the applicant, is in need of such support. If so, the Local Authority must ensure that the service is provided to the person who needs it. There is [guidance available for local authorities on their Housing Support Duty to Homeless Households](#).

## **Summary of Local Authority duty to homeless households:**

### **Unintentionally homeless**

Provide temporary accommodation until settled accommodation has been secured.

Settled accommodation is defined as:

- A Scottish Secure Tenancy (SST)
- A Private Residential Tenancy

If the applicants have previously been evicted for anti-social behaviour in the last 3 years, or if they are subject to an anti-social behaviour order - a short Scottish Secure Tenancy can be offered.

In some circumstances, the Local Authority can provide non-permanent accommodation. These circumstances are laid out in [the Homeless Persons \(Provision of Non-permanent Accommodation\) \(Scotland\) Regulations 2010](#).

Under certain circumstances, a Local Authority may apply a local connection test and refer the applicant to another Local Authority (outwith Scotland). The receiving Local Authority must then secure settled accommodation for the applicant.

### **Intentionally Homeless**

Provide temporary accommodation for a reasonable period of time, advice and assistance.

### **Potentially homeless, unintentionally so**

Take reasonable steps to ensure that accommodation does not cease to be available.

### **Potentially homeless, intentionally so**

Provide advice and assistance to help retain accommodation.

## Tell us what you think

We are always interested to hear from our users about how our statistics are used, and how they can be improved.

### Enquiries

For enquiries about this publication please contact:

Homelessness Statistics & Analysis

E-mail: [homelessness\\_statistics\\_inbox@gov.scot](mailto:homelessness_statistics_inbox@gov.scot)

For general enquiries about Scottish Government statistics please contact:

Office of the Chief Statistician

e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@gov.scot](mailto:statistics.enquiries@gov.scot)

More information about Scottish Government statistics is available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

### Join our mailing list

If you would like to receive notification about statistical publications or find out about consultations on our statistics, please join the [ScotStat mailing list](#).

### Future publications

Details of future publications can be found on our [forthcoming publications](#) page.