

## Annual Scottish Government Homelessness in Scotland 2018/19 statistical release

This paper details top line analysis from Shelter Scotland following the publication of the Scottish Government's annual [Homelessness in Scotland 2018/19](#) statistical release.

Shelter Scotland helps over half a million people every year struggling with bad housing or homelessness through our advice, support and legal services. And we campaign to make sure that, one day, no one will have to turn to us for help. We're here so no one has to fight bad housing or homelessness on their own.

### Key points:

- Homelessness in Scotland has gone up across almost every indicator between and 2017/18 & 2018/19. **Last year there were 36,465 homeless applications in Scotland.**
- Shelter Scotland is calling on the Scottish Government to do more to prevent homelessness and to properly resource local authorities to respond to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness.
- Attempts to transform support for people becoming homeless (Housing First) risk being thwarted as local authorities buckle under increasing demand and the need to cut costs.
- Despite new initiatives around homelessness, the system is overwhelmed by extremely high levels of need.

### Applications:

- Homeless applications have continued to rise in Scotland for the second year in a row and have gone up by 3% in the past year.
- The number of homeless children has risen for the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row - a 3% increase on 2017/18.
- The number of people sleeping rough (at least once in the 3 months leading up to a homeless application) has increased by 8% on the previous year.

### Temporary accommodation:

- The number of families with children/pregnant women in temporary accommodation has risen to 3,415 - an increase of 2% on 2017/18.
- There has been a 57% increase in the number of breaches of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO) <sup>1</sup> with 33% of the above breaches of the UAO were from City of Edinburgh Council.
- The average length of time a household spent in temporary accommodation in 2018/19 has increased 5% on the previous year.
- Local authorities did not offer temporary accommodation on 3535 occasions in 2018/19 (a 10% increase on 2017/18) - 95% of these failures to accommodate were carried out by Glasgow City Council.

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<sup>1</sup> Note: The Unsuitable Accommodation Order changed definition in October 2017 to reduced legal time limits from 14 to 7 days.

## Annual Homelessness Statistics 2018/19: Regional Breakdown<sup>2</sup>

	Aberdeen + Aberdeenshire	Dundee	Edinburgh	Glasgow
<b>Homeless applications</b>	2781 (0%)	1466 (+5%)	3229 (-1%)	5679 (+8%)
<b>Households assessed as homeless</b>	2269 (0%)	1019 (0%)	3077 (-2%)	4660 (+11%)
<b>Households in temporary accommodation</b>	767 (-6%)	262 (+3%)	1515 (+10%)	2191 (+2%)
<b>Children in temporary accommodation</b>	275 (+2%)	170 (-3%)	1260 (+15%)	1950 (+9%)
<b>Average no. of days in temp</b>	145 (-8%)	131 (-6%)	268 (+13%)	204 (+12%)
<b>Applicants who slept rough within the 3 months before application</b>	220 (+16%)	135 (-23%)	355 (+16%)	540 (+1%)

- Since 2012, everyone in Scotland has had the right to a home should they become unintentionally homeless. Despite this world leading legislation, homelessness continues to rise in Scotland. Greater urgency is essential to stop further increases and more vulnerable people risking homelessness.
- Shelter Scotland welcomes the progress the Scottish Government has made on building 50,000 affordable homes, 35,000 for social rent by 2021 but ongoing future supply of good quality affordable and social housing will be critical to addressing homelessness.
- New Scottish Government-led initiatives like rapid rehousing and [Housing First](#) will take time to bed in, and only deal with the terrible consequences of becoming homeless, they do not prevent homelessness in the first place.

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<sup>2</sup> Shelter Scotland has 4 Community Hubs operate services across Aberdeen(shire), Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. The table below shows figures for 2018/19 as well as the change compared to 2017/18.