

**sfha**

**Scottish Federation of  
Housing Associations**

# Scotland's Housing Network Forum

SFHA Update

Welfare Reform Good Practice Forums

June 2020

# SFHA Response – working with others



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We are housing Scotland

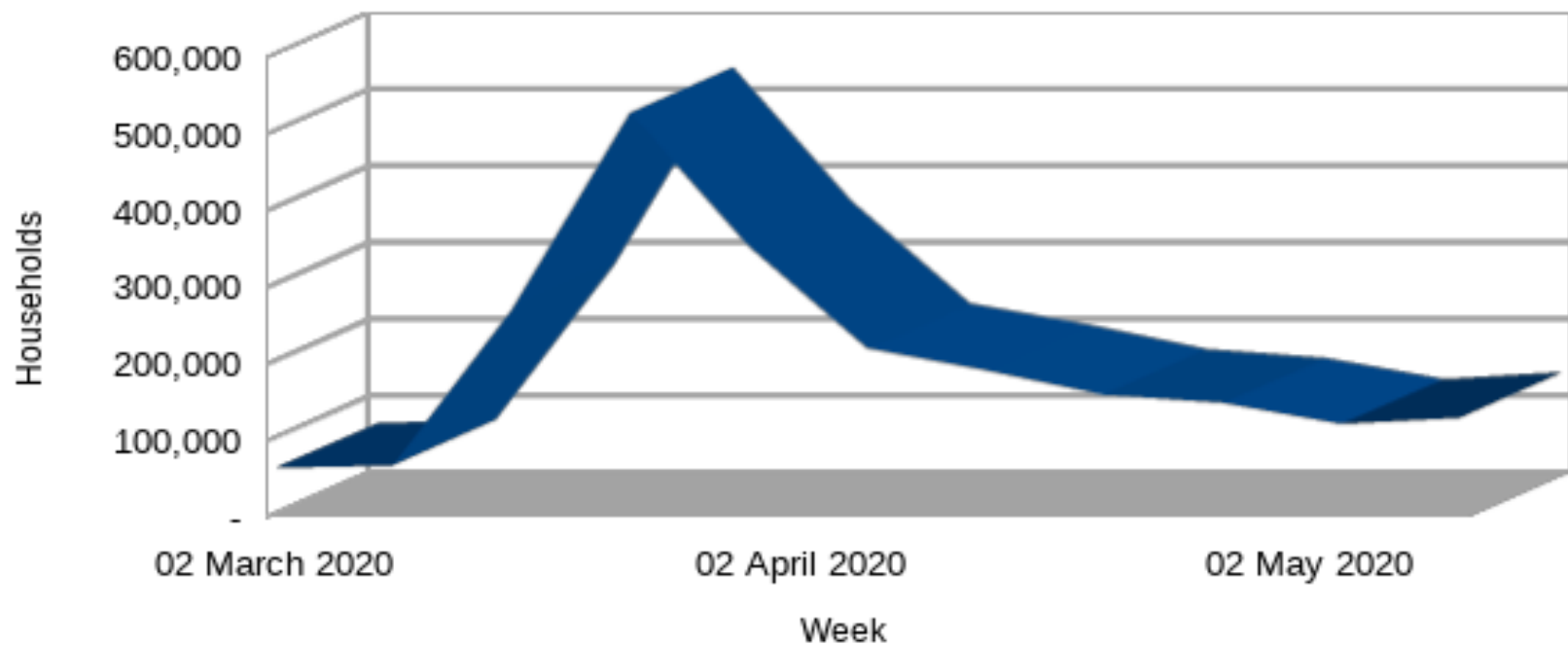
# SFHA Response - Briefings



# Universal Credit – impact of Coronavirus

Households making a UC Declaration

March 2 to May 19



# Universal Credit – impact of Coronavirus

Number of Households making a Universal Credit Declaration:

- March 2 – March 15: 132,000
- March 16 – May 19: 2.2 million

Peak week: March 23: 528,000 households (703,000 individuals)

*(Although rate of declarations has gone down, still around double what it was at start of emergency)*

# Universal Credit meets its first recession

- Resolution Foundation Report: [This time is different – Universal Credit's first recession](#)
  - UC systems coped with huge surge in demand
  - Also supporting those in work with low earnings
  - But gaps remain – legacy benefits were not boosted
  - Challenge of second surge as Job Retention Scheme phased out.
- You Tube Webinar [The Safety Net in Action?](#)

# UC in Scotland – too early to tell?

## Social Rented Sector Tenants on UC

SRS Households	August 2019	November 2019	February 2020
<b>Overall Number</b>	92,396	103,273	112,874
<b>Managed Payment to Landlord</b>	33,929 (37%)	38,486 (37%)	43,426 (38%)
<b>Scottish Choices Direct Payment</b>	21,147 (23%)	23,367 (23%)	25,888 (23%)



# Housing Benefit in Scotland (65 and under)

	August 2019	November 2019	February 2020
<b>Local Authority</b>	89,979	84,780	82,656
<b>Housing Association</b>	89,835	84,879	82,105
<b>Total</b>	179,816	169,663	164,761

# UC in Scotland – too early to tell?

## SFHA UC Impact Survey

Very small sample:

	March	April
% of tenants on UC and in arrears	59%	58%
% of tenants not on UC and in arrears	31%	33%
Average arrear of tenant on UC and in arrears	£531	£624
Average arrear of tenant not on UC and in arrears	£360	£312

# SFHA Major Concerns

- Lack of implicit consent – needed even more in a lockdown environment
- Pause of rollout of aligned payment system
- Suspension of Third Party Deductions
  - Confusion over its operation – suspension supposed to be for payments between April 10 and May 9
  - Have direct payments been affected?
  - Scottish Government have asked for suspension to be extended

# SFHA Major Concerns

- Legacy of debt: ending of UC increase in April 2021
- Digitally excluded wanting/needing to make the jump
  - Broadband connection/provision
  - Second/third wave contingencies
- More on UC and for longer?

# Scottish Housing Regulator Dashboard

## Covid-19 Monthly Report – April

### Overall arrears

- March: £137,328,386 (5.72%)
- April: £147,724,452 (5.76%)

	Arrears	Lowest %	Highest %	Total %
Local Authority	£87,238,131	2.55%	14.04%	7.18%
Housing Association	£60,486,321	0%	11.28%	4.48%