

# Scottish Government Updates

## Housing and Welfare

# Homelessness

- In October 2020 we published the updated version of the [Ending Homelessness Together Action Plan](#).

The new actions in the plan include:

- Proposals to modify night shelter provision this winter and end the use of night shelter and dormitory style provision in future;
- Legislation to minimise the risk of evictions into homelessness;
- Introduction of a tenants' hardship loan fund;
- New pre-action protocols for private rented sector landlords;
- Significant increases in the money available to local authorities for crisis grants and; discretionary housing payments and investment in money advice services.

Since the beginning of the Pandemic, some further action has been taken to help prevent homelessness including the following:

- Evictions have been put on hold to help prevent homelessness
- A further extension has been made to temporary exceptions of the Unsuitable Accommodation Order (UAO).

Scotland is leading the way in delivery of affordable housing across the UK.

- Since 2007, this Government has delivered almost 97,000 affordable homes delivered, nearly 67,000 of which were for social rent and 14,661 council homes.

# Local Housing Allowance

- LHA rates maintained in cash terms
- What are the concerns?
- Letter to SoS for Work and Pensions

# Tenant Hardship Loan Fund

- 516 Applications Received
  - 52 loan offers **with funding offered totalling £146,954.66**
  - Rejections
- Extending eligibility
- Challenges

# Universal Credit Scottish choices

- Since October 2017, offers of:
  - Payment of housing costs directly to landlords; and
  - Twice monthly payments.
- Aim to provide more choice for people to manage their finances, protect tenancies and reduce build up of rent arrears.
- What's happened in the last six months?
  - DWP's housing payment changes;
  - Take up rates steady; and
  - Evaluation.

# Split (or separate) payments

- Policy aim remains: to provide everyone in receipt of Universal Credit with access to an independent income, based on their individual needs.
- Policy and delivery assessments gaining pace.
- Current proposal is based on household characteristics, rather than exact pounds and pence.
- Expected announcement in summer has been delayed.

# Questions





# Contact Details

- Pauline Torley – DHP and Housing Related Social Security  
[Pauline.torley@gov.scot](mailto:Pauline.torley@gov.scot)