

# Scottish Government Updates

## Housing and Welfare

# HOUSING TO 2040



# Housing to 2040 - 4 Key Themes

- More Homes At The Heart of Great Places
- Affordability and Choice
- Affordable Warmth and Zero Emissions Homes
- Improving the quality of all homes across all tenures

# Affordability and choice

## key actions

- Commitment to taking action to realise the right to an adequate home in Scotland.
- Introduction of a new Rented Sector Strategy and Housing Bill that will seek to improve accessibility, affordability and standards in the social and private rented sectors.
- We will work with stakeholders to develop a shared understanding of affordability which is fit for the future.
- Continue work with local authorities and stakeholders on the legislation, guidance and implementation for the short-term lets licensing scheme.
- We will provide tools and powers for local authorities to make best use of existing housing stock, including second homes.
- Establish a new fund for local authorities to apply to use in order to bring empty homes and potential empty homes back into residential use and convert suitable empty commercial properties in town centres.

# DHP spend in 2020/21

	Bedroom Tax Mitigation	Other DHPs			Total
<b>Budget 2020/21</b>	£59.7 m	£10.9 m			£70.6 m
<b>COVID-19 support</b>		£5 m plus £3 m			£78.6 m
<b>Total estimated funding at start of 2020/21 used for allocating funds</b>	£59.7 m Based on forecasted cost of bedroom tax mitigation at start of 2019/20	<b>Core</b>	<b>Local Housing Allowance</b>	<b>Benefit Cap</b>	£78.6 m
		£2.2 m	£1.9 m	£11.8 m	
		£3 m			
<b>Funding to date</b> (Local Government Finance Order )	£47.8 m "Tranche 1 bedroom tax" allocation	£18.9 m			£66.7 m
<b>Funding to reimburse Local Authorities for spending on bedroom tax mitigation</b>	Estimated £11.9 m "Tranche 2 bedroom tax"				

# DHP Statistics April 2021

- In April 2021 there were **67,782 cumulative applications**, an increase of 8,300 (8%) compared to April 2020.
- Total actual or committed spend was **£56.1 million** by end of April 2021, which is 19% more than at this point last year.
- Funding for the year ahead.

# Tenant Hardship Loan Fund

- 921 Applications Received.
- 180 loan awards with a total loan value of £497,910.25.
- 392 unsuccessful applications.

# 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.

# Questions



# Contact Details

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