

Scotland's Housing Network Welfare Reform Forums

East, West & North Events
October/November 2021

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Topics for Today

1. SHN Updates (SHN)
2. Universal Credit Update (DWP)
3. Welfare Reform & Social Security in Scotland (Scottish Government)
4. Open Forum Discussion

- Future Forums
- Main UC Change – ending of £20/week additional allowance
- Tenant Hardship Loan Fund (July 2021):
 - ✓ No award breakdown available by LA area only applications
 - ✓ 951 applications as at July 2021
 - ✓ 65% Private Rented & 35% Social Rented
 - ✓ Share of applications – Highest are Glasgow City (17%) & City of Edinburgh (13%) and lowest East Dunbartonshire, Orkney, Shetland Isles (all 0.2%)

SHN Updates: Some Figures & Sources

- 5.836m people (471,171 in Scotland) in Great Britain on Universal Credit as at 9th Sept 2021
- Approx 2.226m (38%) of these are working
- Over the period August 2020-August 2021 UC caseload increased in 23 Scottish LA areas however nationally only a 2% increase compared to Great Britain average of 6%
- In Great Britain, 4,970,211 **households** on Universal Credit as of May 2021 with 85% of these 'in payment' – approx. 84% increase in households on UC since March 2020
- In Scotland, 412,916 households on Universal Credit as @ May 2021 with 85% of these 'in payment' – approx. 71% increase in households on UC since March 2020

Sources:

- [Universal Credit statistics, 29 April 2013 to 9 September 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/universal-credit-statistics)
- [Universal Credit Scotland dashboard 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/universal-credit-scotland-dashboards-2021/pages/index.aspx)

Forum Discussion Points

- Organisational working environment for landlords & customer service for 'UC tenants'?
- Tenant Hardship Loan Fund
- UC allowance changes – emerging impacts?
- Operation of the Landlord Portal – improvements required from landlord perspective?
- Any new or emerging issues on rent collection or debt management?

Future WR Forums 2021/22

Location	Feb 2022
East (Edinburgh)	Tuesday 15/02/22
West (Glasgow)	Thursday 17/02/22
North (Inverness)	Thursday 24/02/22



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