

Fife Council

Why we are engaging with Fife Council (Fife)

We are engaging with Fife about its **services for people who are homeless**.

To assess the risks to people who are homeless we have reviewed and compared the data for all councils from the Scottish Government's 2017/18 national homelessness statistics, the Annual Returns on the Charter and information from our previous engagement with Fife. From this we identified areas where we require further information and assurance from Fife:

- how people access the service:
 - Fife reported a 4.32% decrease on the previous year in the number of homelessness applications; and
 - in Housing Options cases, the low percentage of people Fife recorded as presenting for homelessness reasons for whom the council completed a homelessness application.
- Fife's assessment of homelessness applications:
 - the percentage it assessed as intentionally homeless is above the Scottish average;
 - the percentage resolved before assessment is above the Scottish average;
 - the percentage where contact was lost before assessment is above the Scottish average;
 - the percentage withdrawn before assessment is above the Scottish average; and
 - the percentage it assessed within 28 days is below the Scottish average;
- temporary accommodation:
 - Fife did not make an offer of temporary or emergency accommodation on around 15 occasions where it had a duty to make an offer;
 - Fife breached the unsuitable accommodation order on around 5 occasions; and
 - the number of offers of temporary accommodation refused is above the Scottish average;
- outcomes for people who are homeless:
 - the percentage of unintentionally homeless people with whom Fife lost contact is above the Scottish average;
 - the percentage it did not know the outcome for is above the Scottish average; and
 - the percentage of its lets Fife makes to people who are unintentionally homeless is below the Scottish average; and
 - the relatively high number of people waiting for more than one year for an outcome.

What Fife must do

Fife must:

- provide us with the information we require about its homelessness service; and
- demonstrate to us that it complies with its duty to offer temporary or emergency accommodation and the unsuitable accommodation order.

What we will do

We will:

- review the information we require Fife to provide and meet with it quarterly;
- monitor Fife is complying with its statutory duties in relation to offers of temporary or emergency accommodation and the unsuitable accommodation order; and
- review our engagement with Fife when it has finalised its Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan.

Regulatory returns

Fife must provide us with the following annual regulatory returns:

- Annual Assurance Statement;
- Annual Return on the Charter; and
- the return on the Energy Efficiency Standard for Social Housing.

It should also notify us of any material changes to its Annual Assurance Statement, and any tenant and resident safety matter which has been reported to or is being investigated by the Health and Safety Executive or reports from regulatory or statutory authorities or insurance providers, relating to safety concerns.



[Read more about Fife Council >](#)

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