

Agenda Item	8b
Report No	SR/12a/22

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: Skye & Raasay Committee

Date: 31 October 2022

Report Title: Homelessness in Skye & Raasay at 30 September 2022
(Supplement to Housing Performance Report)

Report By: Executive Chief Officer – Property and Housing

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

1.1 This report provides information on Homelessness in Skye & Raasay utilising a spot snapshot as of close of business on 30 September 2022.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Members are invited to consider the information provided on homelessness in Skye & Raasay at the end of September 2022.

3. Background

3.1 This report provides information with respect to homelessness within the Skye and Raasay area based on a snapshot taken at close of business on 30th September 2022. It aims to provide not only a figure on homeless caseload at that given time, but also consider general reasons for homelessness, length of time cases have been on the homeless caseload at that time and also the length of time they have been on the HHR to that date.

4. Homeless Caseload

4.1 At 30 September 2022 there were 54 active homeless cases from Skye/Raasay.

The 54 S&R cases presented from across the Ward area, with slightly more from the South End of Skye as opposed to the North End & Raasay, although this would vary on any given day. Of the S&R Homeless caseload:

- 70% are in employment on Skye at this time;
- 65% have a family connection to Skye & Raasay;
- All are currently residing on Skye & Raasay;
- 72% have been resident on S&R for more than 1 year;
- 61.5% have been resident on S&R for more than 3 years
- 66.7% are single;
- 11.1% are couples;
- 18.5% are families;
- 3.7% have a composition not defined above.

5 Reasons for Presentation

5.1 Many households have more than one contributing factor to their homelessness.

Of the cases under consideration within this report:

- 53.7% are related to the breakdown of relationships, whether between partners or families;
- 9.3% relate to tied or employment based accommodation;
- 25.9% have been issued with a legal Notice to Quit by their landlord;
- 44.4% have been asked to leave their accommodation (as opposed to being issued NTQ) and their situation has not been salvageable;
- 14.8% have disclosed some form of abuse or harassment within their application process;
- 35.2% have disclosed other circumstances within their application which have impacted their situation.

6 Time in Homelessness

6.1 The average duration for a homeless case at that time was 175 days for Skye & Raasay. Factors influencing the length of time in homelessness include lettings areas selected and turnover in those areas and style of housing required including any special features.

6.2 Homeless households are awarded priority points towards allocation in accordance with the Highland Housing Register Allocations Policy.

7 Homeless Accommodation

7.1 Where we have a responsibility to offer accommodation to someone who has presented as homeless, that responsibility lies across Highland and as such, the client can be offered suitable temporary accommodation anywhere within Highland depending on what is available at that given time.

7.2 There are 18 temporary furnished units within Skye & Lochalsh, located across Portree, Broadford and Kyle of Lochalsh. Eight of these are leased from LSHA by THC for this purpose.

7.3 Homeless households presenting to Highland Council may be offered temporary accommodation anywhere in Highland where reasonable. The limited availability and low turnover of temporary accommodation in Skye & Lochalsh means that all temporary furnished units on Skye are occupied by households with a local connection to Skye and Lochalsh.

Designation: Executive Chief Officer – Property and Housing

Date: 25 October 2022

Author: Rory MacLeod, Housing Manager (North)