



**ORKNEY**  
ISLANDS COUNCIL

**Item: 16**

**Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 4 June 2025.**

**Homelessness in Orkney.**

**Report by Director of Education, Communities and Housing.**

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## **1. Overview**

- 1.1. Housing organisations are required to report against a number of service areas and indicators within the Scottish Social Housing Charter and homelessness is a central part of this.
- 1.2. The Scottish Social Housing Charter, which was introduced in 2012, was subject to a review in April 2017. A further review was undertaken during 2021 and the revised charter was published in 2022.
- 1.3. Some indicators have changed in recent years and the process of change is expected to continue. The requirement for councils to produce an Annual Assurance Statement in October, along with the Annual Return against the Charter in May, means that analysis of performance remains central to the delivery of housing services.
- 1.4. Councils are required to publish an Annual Report against the Charter and this was done in October 2024.
- 1.5. Reports on performance information are presented to Committee to ensure that Members have appropriate oversight in preparation for overall scrutiny of the Annual Assurance Statement in September each year.
- 1.6. The statistical and performance information in relation to homelessness in Orkney for 2024/25 is attached as Appendix 1 to this report and indicates the following:
  - The number of homeless presentations for 2024/25 decreased by 22% from 2023/24.
  - The reasons for homelessness remain broadly comparable to previous years, with a slight increase in relationship breakdown (non-violent) and asked to leave by family/friends. There has been a significant decrease in relationship breakdown (violent/abusive) and other reasons for leaving accommodation.
  - The homeless presentation figures for the period 1 April to 9 May 2025 has significantly decreased from the previous year.

- Homelessness remains a significant issue in Orkney and that lets to homeless households remain substantial relative to overall lets.

## 2. Recommendations

2.1. It is recommended that members of the Committee:

- Note the Statistical and Performance Information on Homelessness for 2024/25, attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

### For Further Information please contact:

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### Implications of Report

- Financial** - Expenditure on homelessness is charged to the Other Housing budget within the General Fund. The net homelessness budget for 2024/25 was £1,140,900 with an actual net spend of £882,801 which gives an underspend for the financial year of £258,098.
- Legal** - The Council has a legal duty to help people who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. Monitoring performance as required by the recommendation in this report will assist the Council in discharging this duty satisfactorily.
- Corporate Governance** – Not applicable.
- Human Resources** - Not applicable.
- Equalities** - An Equality Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
- Island Communities Impact** – An Island Communities Impact Assessment is not required for performance reporting.
- Links to Council Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Council Plan strategic priorities:
  - ☐ Growing our economy.
  - ☒ Strengthening our Communities.
  - ☐ Developing our Infrastructure.
  - ☒ Transforming our Council.
- Links to Local Outcomes Improvement Plan:** The proposals in this report support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the following Local Outcomes Improvement Plan priorities:
  - ☒ Cost of Living.
  - ☐ Sustainable Development.
  - ☒ Local Equality.

☐ Improving Population Health.

9. **Environmental and Climate Risk** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
10. **Risk** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
11. **Procurement** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
12. **Health and Safety** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
13. **Property and Assets** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
14. **Information Technology** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.
15. **Cost of Living** - None directly related to the recommendations in this report.

### **List of Background Papers**

[Housing Services Annual Reports](#)

[Scottish Social Services Housing Charter](#)

### **Appendix**

Appendix 1 – Statistical Information on Homelessness.

# **Appendix 1 - Statistical and Performance Information on Homelessness for 2024/25**

## **1. Legal Definition**

### **1.1.**

The statutory definition of homelessness is set out in section 24 of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 (the Act). This states that a person is homeless if he has no accommodation in the UK or elsewhere. A person is to be treated as having no accommodation if there is no accommodation which he, together with any other person who normally resides with him as a member of his family or in circumstances in which the local authority considers it reasonable for that person to reside with him:

- Is entitled to occupy by virtue of an interest in it or by virtue of an order of a court, or
- Has a right or permission, or an implied right or permission to occupy, or in England and Wales has an express or implied licence to occupy, or
- Occupies as a residence by virtue of any enactment or rule of law giving him the right to remain in occupation or restricting the right of any other person to recover possession.

### **1.2.**

Further, a person shall not be treated as having accommodation unless it is accommodation which it would be reasonable for him to continue to occupy.

### **1.3.**

Regard may be had, in determining whether it would be reasonable for a person to continue to occupy accommodation, to the general circumstances prevailing in relation to housing in the area of the local authority to whom he has applied for accommodation or for assistance in obtaining accommodation.

### **1.4.**

In terms of Section 24(3) of the Act, a person is also homeless if he has accommodation but:

- He cannot secure entry to it; or
- It is probable that occupation of it will lead to abuse (within the meaning of the Protection from Abuse (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 14)), or
- It is probable that occupation of it will lead to abuse (within the meaning of that Act) from some other person who previously resided with that person, whether in that accommodation or elsewhere; or
- It consists of a movable structure, vehicle or vessel designed or adapted for human habitation and there is no place where he is entitled or permitted both to place it and to reside in it; or

- It is overcrowded within the meaning of section 135 of the Act and may endanger the health of the occupant; or
- It is not permanent accommodation, in circumstances where, immediately before the commencement of his occupation of it, a local authority had a duty under section 31(2) in relation to him (i.e. a local authority is satisfied that an applicant is homeless).

### **1.5.**

For the purposes of the last bullet point noted above, “permanent accommodation” includes accommodation:

- Of which the person is the heritable proprietor.
- Secured by a Scottish secure tenancy.
- Secured by an assured tenancy that is not a short assured tenancy.
- Where paragraph 1 or 2 of schedule 6 to the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 (asp 10) is satisfied in relation to the person, secured by a short Scottish secure tenancy (i.e. has been evicted previously and therefore tenancy has been granted as a short Scottish secure tenancy).

### **1.6.**

A person is threatened with homelessness if it is likely that he will become homeless within 2 months.

## **2. Statistical Information on Homelessness**

### **2.1.**

The number of homeless presentations since 2014/15 is shown in the table below. It should be noted that each application refers to a household and may therefore be a single person or a family group:

<b>Year.</b>	<b>Number of Applications.</b>
2024/25.	113.
2023/24.	144
2022/23.	142.
2021/22.	132.
2020/21.	136.
2019/20.	118.
2018/19.	134.
2017/18.	119.
2016/17.	127.
2015/16.	99.
2014/15.	87.

## 2.2.

At its highest in 2011/12 there were 155 homeless applications. Since then there has been a variable picture. In 2024/25 there has been a marked decrease from the previous year.

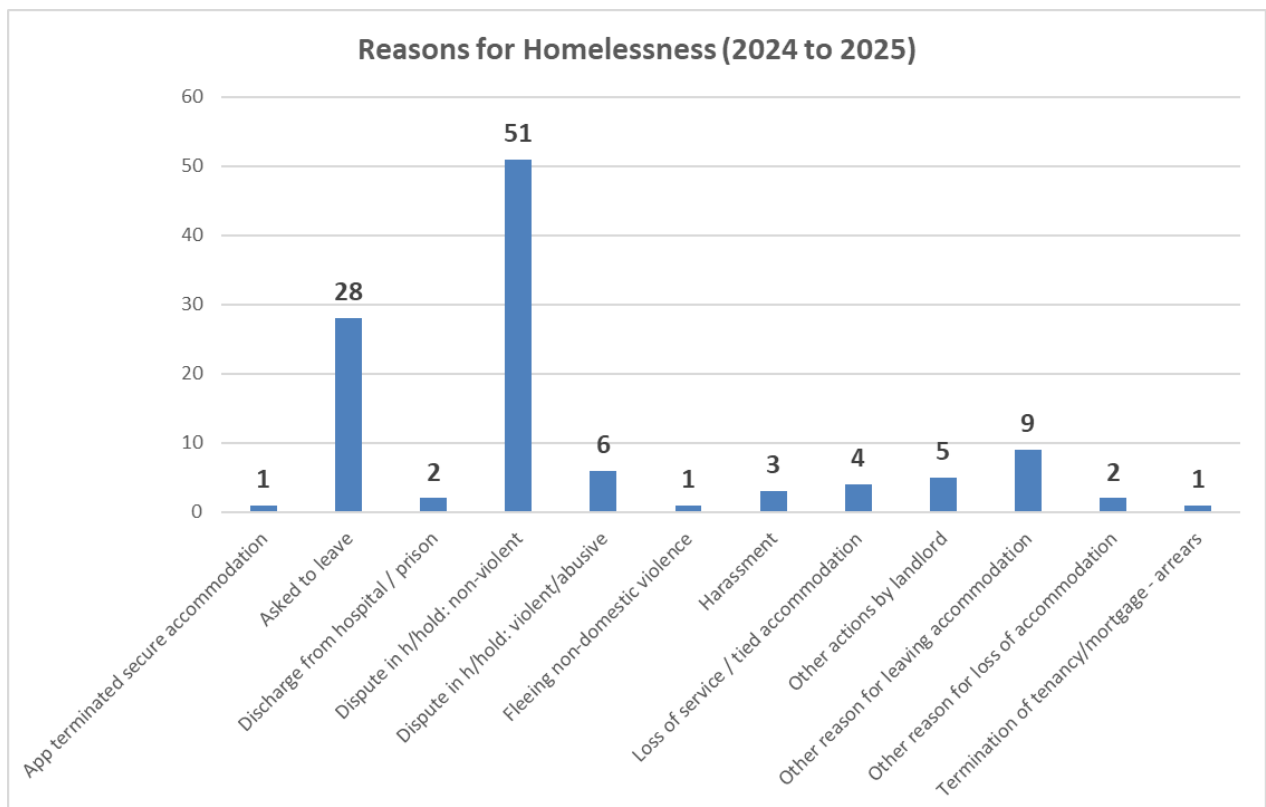
## 2.3.

The number of homeless presentations between 1 April and 9 May each year is detailed below. It is difficult to assess at this early stage in the year whether it is the case that presentations will remain broadly comparable throughout the year.

Year.	Number of Presentations.
2025.	9.
2024.	19.
2023.	19.
2022.	17.

## 2.4.

The graph below shows the main reasons behind homeless presentations in 2024/25:



## **2.5.**

Generally, the reasons behind homeless presentations remain broadly similar to those of previous years. There was a slight reduction in dispute in household (non-violent) and an increase in asked to leave by family/friends. The dispute in household violent/abusive has seen a significant decrease from the previous year.

## **2.6.**

The graph shows 11 households where the main reasons recorded for their homeless presentation were “other reason for loss of accommodation” and “other reason for leaving accommodation” which means that the reason detail is less clear than other categories. An example of a reason for loss of accommodation could be if the house was no longer suitable for their needs or it was deemed to be Below the Tolerable Standard, this means it fails to meet basic requirements for safety and essential amenities like water, lighting and heating.

## **2.7.**

The number of presentations from young people under 25 has declined, but their proportion within the overall percentage total has remained steady. The table below provides more detail.

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of young people presenting as homeless.</b>	<b>Percentage of total homeless applications.</b>
2024.25	22.	19%.
2023/24.	27.	19%.
2022/23.	27.	19%.
2021/22.	21.	16%.

## **2.8.**

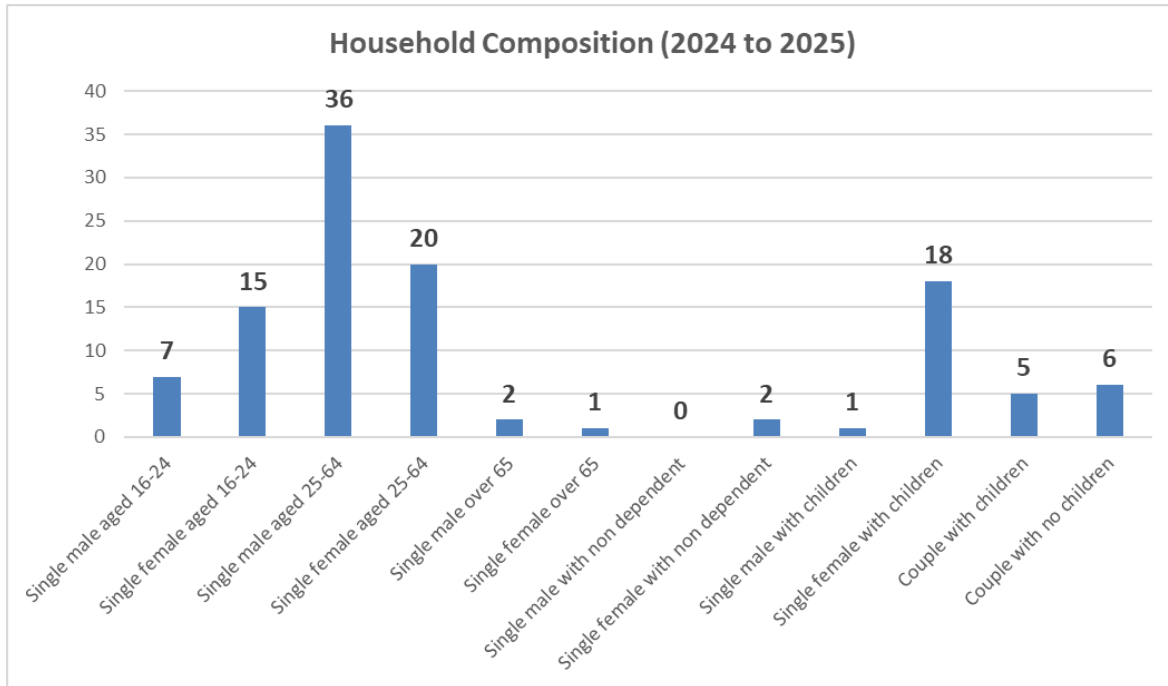
The young persons’ supported accommodation projects remain vital in addressing homelessness amongst this client group and the facilities have remained fully occupied most of the year.

## **2.9.**

The Council developed six units of accommodation in 2015 which are being used as move on accommodation for young people who are ready to progress from the supported accommodation projects. These are providing support for those young people who have some independent living skills but insufficient levels to maintain unsupported accommodation.

## **2.10.**

The household composition of all homeless applications for 2024/25 is shown in the graph below:



### 3. Statistical Information on Temporary Accommodation

#### 3.1.

At 31 March 2025, 74 households were in temporary accommodation. This compares to previous years as follows:

Year.	Number of households in temporary accommodation.
31 March 2025.	74 households.
31 March 2024.	75 households.
31 March 2023.	72 households.
31 March 2022.	47 households.

#### 3.2.

The table above shows that there is still a significant number of households in temporary accommodation compared to previous years. Care generally needs to be taken with this indicator as this represents one day of the year rather than it being a cumulative figure. Equally, throughout financial year 2024/25, the number of households in temporary accommodation has generally been above 70 households.

#### 3.3.

The number of emergency tenancies created each year decreased in 2024/25, as shown in the table below:



<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of new emergency tenancies created.</b>
2024/25.	83.
2023/24.	109.
2022/23.	107.
2021/22.	99.

### **3.4.**

The trend in respect of the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation has generally declined over recent years. In 2024/25, 22 households were offered Bed and Breakfast accommodation, a decrease from 23 households the previous year. As each placement in Bed and Breakfast is recorded separately, the 22 cases represent a total of 51 individual placements. It should also be noted that three of those cases spent 35 days, 28 days and 26 days respectively in Bed and Breakfast accommodation which has impacted on the overall average duration figure. During 2024/25 insufficient temporary accommodation was available to meet the needs of homeless households which has resulted in the use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation remaining high for this financial year.

### **3.5.**

The figures are shown in the table below:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of nights.</b>	<b>Average duration.</b>
2024/25.	347.	6.8 nights.
2023/24.	191.	8.3 nights.
2022/23.	182.	4.9 nights.
2021/22.	266.	5.2 nights.

### **3.6.**

The Homeless Persons (Unsuitable Accommodation) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2014 (as amended) in effect prevents the legitimate use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation for housing homeless households except in certain circumstances.

### **3.7.**

Temporary exemptions were in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, which meant the Council had not breached the order prior to 2022/23. However, this has become a significant challenge due to the increasing number of homeless households requiring temporary accommodation. In 2024/25, the Council breached the order on 16 occasions, involving a total of 9 individual households – none of which included children. In comparison, there were 7 individual household breaches during 2023/24.

### 3.8.

The average time from homeless presentation to completion of the Council's duties under the homelessness legislation is shown by year in the table below:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Time from homelessness presentation to completion of Council's duties.</b>
2024/25.	40 weeks.
2023/24.	29.7 weeks.
2022/23.	26.7 weeks.
2021/22.	27 weeks.

### 3.9.

In 2024/25 the average time from homelessness presentation to completion of the Council's duties under the homelessness legislation has increased. A range of reasons account for this timescale such as young people living in the supported accommodation who required long periods before they were ready to take on a permanent tenancy and the availability of permanent accommodation of the right size and area. A total of 28 cases waited over a year to be permanently rehoused. In general terms the pressure is related to one-bedroom properties. Section 6.14 shows the number of households permanently rehoused by the Council and Orkney Housing Association Limited.

## 4. Changes to the Legislation

### 4.1.

From 1 January 2013 the homelessness legislation changed. The result was that the priority need classification (assessment of vulnerability) was removed nationally leaving three remaining hurdles. These were:

- Is the household homeless?
- Has the household become homeless intentionally?
- Does the household have a local connection (for example, have they lived in the area for six out of the last 12 months, three out of the last five years, have a connection as a result of employment or some other special reason)?

### 4.2.

This process has changed as a result of amendments to the Homelessness etc (Scotland) Act 2003. From November 2019, the duty to consider intentionality became a power to do so. In December 2020, the Council resolved that investigation into the intentionality criteria should continue within the assessment process.

### 4.3.

Changes to the local connection hurdle were introduced on 29 November 2022 by the Scottish Government. This change removes the hurdle of a household requiring to have a local connection with the area to which they present as homeless. Since

this change was introduced 8 households have been accepted who would have not had a local connection previously. This is being closely monitored and Council representatives continue to regularly meet with Scottish Government to analyse the impact to all 32 Councils but with particular scrutiny for the islands.

## **5. Homelessness Prevention**

### **5.1.**

Preventative work is as follows:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of households receiving housing options / advice and information.</b>
2024/25.	28.
2023/24.	26.
2022/23.	22.
2021/22.	18.

### **5.2.**

In general terms, provision of housing advice, particularly provision of a housing options interview, can reduce the number of homelessness presentations. However, there has been a general decline in households receiving housing options advice. While there has been a slight rise in homelessness presentations during the same period, it is not always possible to make a direct correlation between the two. Sometimes there are no other housing options which could assist someone and the Council does have a duty towards them under the homelessness legislation. On that basis, that is the route that requires to be taken.

### **5.3.**

The Council was re-accredited in respect of the National Standard for Information and Advice Providers three years ago and is currently undergoing the re-accreditation process. The National Standards determine that housing advice can be delivered at three different levels. The Council delivers housing advice at two of these levels as follows:

- Type 1 – General advice provided and signposting to another agency.
- Type 2 – Specific advice provided and case work delivered.

### **5.4.**

The Council is required to publish the levels and type of advice provided as part of the National Standard for Information and Advice Providers accreditation.

### **5.5.**

During financial year 2024/25 housing advice was delivered as follows:

Competency.	Type 1.		Type 2.	
	2023/24.	2024/25.	2023/24.	2024/25.
Housing Benefit.	0.	0.	1.	0.
Discrimination in Housing.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Disrepair in Housing.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Harassment and Illegal Eviction.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Homelessness (priority need).	3.	21.	2.	5.
Mobility and Transfers.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Mortgage Arrears.	0.	1.	0.	0.
Housing Options General.	5.	26.	0.	0.
Housing Options Local Authorities.	1.	1.	0.	14.
Housing Options Private Sector.	14.	5.	0.	3.
Housing Options Owner Occupiers.	1.	4.	0.	0.
Relationship Breakdown.	2.	9.	0.	6.
Rent: Private Sector.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Rent Arrears.	0.	3.	0.	0.
Repair and Improvement Grants.	0.	0.	0.	0.
Security of Tenure.	0.	4.	0.	4.
Anti-Social Behaviour.	0.	0.	0.	0.

## 6. Discharge of Homelessness Duty

### 6.1.

The percentage of homeless households interviewed within one to five days is as follows:

Financial Year.	Within 1 working day.	Within 5 working days.	Over 5 days.
2024/25.	66%.	28%.	6%.
2023/24.	63%.	33%.	4%.
2022/23.	70%.	18%.	12%.
2021/22.	80%.	13%.	7%.

### 6.2.

Care needs to be taken, however, with the indicator at section 6.1 above as households can choose when they wish to attend for an interview. Households who are facing homelessness immediately would always be interviewed within one working day. In 2024/25 there were 7 cases over five working days. The reasons

behind this were at their own request or due to work commitments. Therefore, it took additional time to make arrangements to complete the homeless interview. It is worth noting that interviews can be undertaken in person or via telephone and staff are flexible in respect of interview times.

### 6.3.

The percentage of applications assessed within 28 days is shown in the table below:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Percentage of applications assessed within 28 days.</b>
2024/25.	94.6%.
2023/24.	95.8%.
2022/23.	95.1%.
2021/22.	81.1%.

### 6.4.

The information outlined at section 6.3 above refers to the period between homeless interview and the decision as to whether they are homeless being made and shows a slight decrease in applications assessed within the period.

### 6.5.

The data below shows the average time taken between presentation and homeless assessment over the previous four years:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Time Taken.</b>
2024/25.	17.9 days.
2023/24.	18.7 days.
2022/23.	18.9 days.
2021/22.	21.6 days.

### 6.6.

This compares to previous years as follows:

<b>Time Taken.</b>	<b>2024/25.</b>	<b>2023/24.</b>	<b>2022/23.</b>	<b>2021/22.</b>
Less than 2 weeks.	34.2%.	33.6%.	31%.	29.5%.
2 to 4 weeks.	60.4%.	62.2%.	62.7%.	34.5%.
Longer than 4 weeks.	5.4%.	4.2%.	6.3%.	36%.

### 6.7.

Repeat homelessness is difficult to counteract as households may become caught in a cycle of homelessness if they secure a short term let, for instance. The numbers

increased this year mainly due to relationship breakdown, requiring a repeat application. The level of repeat homelessness is as follows:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of cases of repeat homelessness.</b>
2024/25.	6.
2023/24.	1.
2022/23.	3.
2021/22.	1.

## **6.8.**

Each year, it is generally the case that contact is lost with some households prior to the homeless decision being made. This is as follows:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Percentage of households with whom contact was lost.</b>
2024/25.	0.9%.
2023/24.	2.4%.
2022/23.	2.7%.
2021/22.	3.4%.

## **6.9.**

This is 1 case out of 111 assessed cases in 2024/25.

## **6.10.**

It is important to note that the Council must permanently rehouse households it finds to be homeless and to be unintentionally homeless. Therefore, it is not the case that the Council must permanently rehouse all households who present as homeless. The percentage of households permanently rehoused is as follows:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Percentage of households the Council accepted a duty to permanently rehouse.</b>
2024/25.	81.4%.
2023/24.	80.4%
2022/23.	78.9%.
2021/22.	74.2%.

## **6.11.**

It is expected that, in general terms, the figures outlined at section 6.10 above will rise as the homelessness legislation changes from being a system with what was

“three hurdles”, as outlined at section 4.1 above, to asking one question being “is the household homeless?”.

## 6.12.

The average length of time that a homeless household remains in emergency housing before being offered a secure tenancy from either the Council or Orkney Housing Association Limited varies considerably from year to year, depending on factors such as whether new schemes are built. The average times are shown in the table below:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Bedsit.</b>	<b>One Bedroom.</b>	<b>Two Bedroom.</b>	<b>Three Bedroom.</b>
2024/25.	4.9 months.	16.7 months.	11.2 months.	6 months.
2023/24.	9.5 months.	10.4 months.	5.8 months.	4.7 months.
2022/23.	Nil.	10.2 months.	5.4 months.	5.4 months.
2021/22.	21 days.	9 months.	5.3 months.	8.9 months.

## 6.13.

As well as the time taken to permanently rehouse a homeless household changing over time, there are also changes in respect of the number of households waiting for each size of property. Over the last 10 years demand has changed significantly with a growth in demand for one-bedroom households being most notable. The table below provides data for the previous four financial years. The figures in brackets relate to the number of homelessness presentations.

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Bedsit.</b>	<b>One Bedroom.</b>	<b>Two Bedroom.</b>	<b>Three Bedroom.</b>
2024/25 (113).	1 case.	32 cases.	15 cases.	9 cases.
2023/24 (144).	3 cases.	49 cases.	8 cases.	3 cases.
2022/23 (142)	Nil.	39 cases.	21 cases.	4 cases.
2021/22 (132).	1 case.	60 cases.	23 cases.	10 cases.

## 6.14.

The number of households permanently rehoused are as follows:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Housed by the Council.</b>	<b>Housing by Orkney Housing Association Limited.</b>
2024/25.	46.	12.
2023/24.	51.	19.
2022/23.	41.	21.
2021/22.	72.	30.

### **6.15.**

The figures shown at section 6.14 above show a decrease. In October 2020 the Scottish Housing Minister wrote to all social housing providers asking that homeless households be prioritised in terms of their Lettings Policy and therefore the Council has been taking account of this.

### **6.16.**

Section 3.1 represents the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation, although homelessness presentations are down by 30 cases from 2023/24, the number of households in temporary accommodation has only decreased by 1 compared to the previous year. This indicates continued pressure on temporary accommodation, largely due to high demand for certain property sizes—most notably, one-bedroom homes.

### **6.17.**

Since the Council's current lettings policy was implemented on 1 October 2006, the proportion of properties being allocated to homeless households has risen considerably. The situation continues to improve regarding housing a broad range of needs groups and the results are evident generally relative to the time taken to rehouse homeless applicants. This was partially as a result of the Council's programme of new build.

### **6.18.**

In general terms homeless households are usually allocated one-third of all Council vacancies.

### **6.19.**

The context surrounding homelessness continues to change. The Council had hoped to implement a new lettings policy from 1 April 2021 as a result of changes introduced by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2014, however, this had been delayed initially due to COVID-19 and has been further delayed due to staff vacancies and issues with changes to the housing management system. However, work has started to implement this during 2025/26. In financial year 2020/21, the Scottish Government directed councils to prioritise rehousing homeless households due to the pandemic, alongside the introduction of the Rapid Rehousing Transition Plan and changes to homelessness legislation, which are likely to alter the proportion of homeless households being rehoused each year. This came at a time when council house building had significantly slowed down. The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Business Plan and the Strategic Housing Investment Plan (SHIP), play a crucial role in addressing the challenges of rising homelessness while balancing the current rate of new housing construction.

### **6.20.**

During 2024/25, the Council had 91 vacancies to fill, which were allocated as follows:

- 46 Homeless Households (31 Kirkwall, 4 Stromness, 10 Mainland, 1 Isles).
- 4 Emergency Platinum (Kirkwall).



- 11 Specific Need to be in the Community (4 Kirkwall, 2 Stromness, 5 Isles).
- 11 Overcrowding (6 Kirkwall, 1 Stromness, 2 Mainland, 2 Isles).
- 4 Underoccupancy (2 Kirkwall, 2 Isles).
- 1 Medical (Kirkwall).
- 1 Corporate Parenting (1 Kirkwall).
- 4 Emergent Households (4 Kirkwall).
- 1 Unsatisfactory Living arrangements (1 Isles).
- 1 Insecurity of Tenure (1 Kirkwall).
- 7 No Priority (1 Kirkwall, 3 Mainland, 3 Isles).

## 6.21.

During 2023/24, the Council had 80 vacancies to fill, which were allocated as follows:

- 51 Homeless Households (31 Kirkwall, 11 Stromness, 7 Mainland, 2 Isles).
- 5 Emergency Platinum (4 Kirkwall, 1 Stromness).
- 7 Specific Need to be in Community (1 Kirkwall, 1 Stromness, 5 Isles).
- 2 Overcrowding (2 Kirkwall).
- 2 Underoccupancy (1 Kirkwall, 1 Isles).
- 1 Medical (Isles).
- 1 Corporate Parent (Stromness).
- 1 Emergent Housing (Isles).
- 1 Unsatisfactory Living Arrangements (Stromness).
- 1 Unsatisfactory Housing (Kirkwall).
- 8 No Priority (2 Kirkwall, 1 Stromness, 4 Mainland, 1 Isles).

## 6.22.

Allocations to homeless households in Kirkwall and Stromness as a percentage of all general needs allocations are as shown in the following table:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>General Needs Allocations to Homeless Households in Kirkwall and Stromness.</b>
2024/25.	50%.
2023/24.	52.5%
2022/23.	59.3%.
2021/22.	61%.

# 7. Appeals

## 7.1.

Any applicant has the right to appeal the Council's homelessness decision under the homelessness legislation, if they wish. This may be because they have been found to:

- Be not homeless.
- Be intentionally homeless.

- Have no local connection (up to 29 November 2022).

## **7.2.**

Various local agencies can assist an applicant to appeal if they wish, including Orkney Citizen's Advice Bureau and Advocacy Orkney.

## **7.3.**

Responsibility for considering any appeal is currently delegated to the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing and, in doing so, the case is considered in full along with any supporting information relevant to the case. The Officer who made the original decision is not involved in the appeal.

## **7.4.**

The data regarding decisions in respect of appeals is as shown below:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of appeals received in relation to homeless decision.</b>	<b>Number of cases withdrawn.</b>	<b>Number of cases not upheld.</b>	<b>Number of cases upheld.</b>	<b>Number of cases no grounds for appeal.</b>
2024/25.	5.	0.	1.	4.	0.
2023/24.	4.	0.	3.	1.	0.
2022/23.	4.	0.	1.	3.	0.
2021/22.	2.	0.	1.	1.	0.

## **7.5.**

Where an appeal has been upheld further information may have come to light during the course of the appeal.

## **7.6.**

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the Council's decision after appeal, they can consider judicial review. This process can be used where an applicant believes the Council has failed in its legislative duty.

## **7.7.**

In addition, applicants can also appeal the reasonability of temporary accommodation if they wish. This happened for the first time during 2011/12. There have been three appeals of this type in 2024/25, all of which were not upheld.

## **7.8.**

Applicants can also appeal the reasonability of an offer of permanent accommodation if they so wish. This happened for the first time during 2008/09. The decisions in this respect are as follows:

<b>Financial Year.</b>	<b>Number of appeals.</b>	<b>Number of cases not upheld.</b>	<b>Number of cases upheld.</b>
2024/25.	2.	1.	1.
2023/24.	0.	0.	0.
2022/23.	3.	2.	1.
2021/22.	14.	3.	11.