

FAIRER SCOTLAND DUTY SUMMARY TEMPLATE

<p>Title of Policy, Strategy, Programme etc</p>	<p>The Homeless Persons (Suspension of Referrals Between Local Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2022</p>
<p>Summary of aims and expected outcomes of strategy, proposal, programme or policy</p>	<p>The Homeless Persons (Suspension of Referrals Between Local Authorities) (Scotland) Order 2022 exercises the power, under Section 33A of the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987, allows Scottish Ministers to modify the rules on local connection. It suspends the power of all Scottish local authorities to refer a homeless person/household to another local authority within Scotland on the grounds of the applicant's local connection status.</p> <p>This policy supports people experiencing homelessness or who are at risk of homelessness by removing a barrier to accessing the help and support they need. The suspension of local connection referrals will allow people affected by homelessness to choose to live in an area where they can access the specific services and person-centred support they require and where they are able to integrate successfully into the local community.</p>
<p>Summary of evidence</p>	<p>Scottish Government collects quarterly statistical data on the local connection status of homelessness applicants and the number of referrals made by each local authority. This has been analysed to establish long-term trends which shows most applicants chose to remain in an area where they have an established local connection and local authorities rarely make referrals based on local connection status.</p> <p>There have been two public consultations which show wide-spread support for the principle of this change. In addition, officials have engaged with a wide range of key stakeholders including local authorities, frontline services and our homelessness lived experience group to assess the benefits and address any concerns related to this legislative change.</p> <p>A monitoring and reporting framework has been developed to gather evidence from local authorities, stakeholders and households who choose to settle in a</p>

	<p>new area to provide qualitative evidence to measure impact in addition to the statistical data already gathered by Scottish Government.</p>
Summary of assessment findings	<p>Having considered the data and evidence available and completing the Fairer Scotland Duty assessment, there are no changes required to reduce inequalities of outcome.</p> <p>The monitoring and evaluation framework will allow analysis of the impact from the implementation of the legislation for homeless households, frontline services and local authorities. This data will be reviewed regularly to inform whether any future changes to the policy are required.</p>
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