Percentage of lets to homeless people

1. At LG&C Committee yesterday (21 April) Rosemary from Shelter said that she would provide the Committee with data on the percentage of lets going to homeless people.

2. For 2008-09 (the most recent year for which data are available) the percentage of all lets of both RSL and council homes which went to homeless people was 34.8%. That is, two-thirds of lets went to waiting and transfer list applicants.

3. Interestingly, although RSLs had considerably more lets than councils – 29,272 for RSLs compared to 24,743 for councils – RSLs allocated a much lower percentage of lets to homeless people – 24.3% compared to 47.2% for councils. That is, RSLs are letting to homeless people at around half the rate which councils are. One way of reducing the pressure on councils therefore is to increase the overall role of RSLs in allocating houses to homeless people (as indeed some individual RSLs are already doing). This view has also been put by the Scottish Housing Regulator. And it is also why Shelter has argued that the Housing Bill should strengthen the provisions for section 5 referrals. And one of the key ways in which RSLs say that they can provide more help for homeless people is if referrals are accompanied by packages of support where needed – again, an area where Shelter believes the Housing Bill can be strengthened.

4. I hope that this answers your query.

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