

SHELTER PRISON PROJECT

**Prevention of homelessness
with regard to prisoners**

Shelter

- Craiginches (Aberdeen)
- Porterfield (Inverness)
- Perth
- Friarton (Young Offenders)

- Tenancies inappropriately terminated
- Client / Landlord unaware of HB Regulations
- Relationship breakdown
- Mat home sold/repossessed.
- Bail/Licence conditions
- Drug/alcohol dependency
- Committed offence from LA or HA tenancy address.

- Illiteracy
- Current rent arrears
- Illegal eviction
- Harassment
- Death of partner/parent
- Loss of Tied Accommodation due to custodial sentence
- Mortgage repossession
- Benefit delays

HB Regulations for Prisoners

- Remand – 52 weeks
- Custodial Sentence – 13 weeks
- 4 weeks termination notice period
- Recent amendments to backdate rules

- **Early contact with landlord essential**
- **Abandonment Notices – 28 days**
- **Illegal Evictions**

Good Practice Example of Prevention of Homelessness:

Offer “like for like” tenancies on liberation:

- **Terminate current tenancy on conviction, in writing, and request “like for like” on this document**
- **Only tenant can terminate own tenancy**
- **Hand in keys and remove belongings**
- **Clear rent account**

- No help under I.S. interest payments
- The prisoner should contact the lender as soon as possible to explain their situation
- Payment holidays for short term
- Rent out the property - lender's & insurance company's permission required.
- Partner?
- Final option would be to sell the property.

- **Many local authorities are currently working on their Prison Discharge Protocols**
- **Multi agency involvement essential**
- **Multi departmental involvement within the LA also essential**