

Everyone should have a home

**Graeme Brown**

**Director**

Shelter

## **Main themes**

1. Housing supply and empty homes
2. Prevention of homelessness
3. Housing associations and homelessness
4. The private rented sector

## Empty Homes

- Grist to the mill for anti-development groups.
- More than 20,000 private sector homes empty for more than 6 months.
- Are incentives enough?
- Case for EDMOs in Scotland.

## **Prevention of homelessness through support**

- Right to a home but no right to support
- Right formed of:
  - a) Duty to assess support needs
  - b) Duty to secure support based on assessment
- Principle accepted in Section 32A consultation
- Makes up for changed funding regime?

## **RSLs and homelessness**

RSLs currently letting to homeless people at around half the rate of councils

Section 5 research shows that practice on the ground is patchy.

Frontline staff in RSLs are positive about Section 5.

Establish section 5 referral as the only way of homelessness referrals happening.

## Private rented sector

- Broad consensus that PRS can play greater role in meeting housing needs
- Section 32A consultation set out a limited role in short term
- Tenancy regime in PRS not looked at for more than 20 years
- Creating an intermediate PRS.