

# The Homeless Persons (Provision of Non-permanent Accommodation (Scotland) Regulations 2010

Jim Anderson

Homelessness Team



# Why create new Regulations?

- Commitment in Firm Foundations.
- SG/CoSLA agreement on key joint priorities in assisting councils to achieve 2012 target
- Acknowledgement of greater role for PRS in delivering sustainable housing options for homeless households.
- Consultation exercise produced a broad consensus on the general principle of greater use of PRS in providing a housing option for homeless households.



# Consultation process

- Initial consultation carried out in 2008, including seminar on 12 September 2008.
- Agreed way forward with ‘set of circumstances’ designed to provide protection for prospective tenants and landlords.
- Further consultation exercise with key stakeholders in summer of 2009 on the issue of tenancy length.



# Circumstances in which non-permanent accommodation can be provided in discharging duty

- Tenancy length – 6-month/12-month process.
- Affordability.
- Housing support assessment.
- Availability of Housing Support.
- Advice and information
- Written consent



# Legislative timetable

- Regulations made in Parliament on 6th January 2010
- Regulations laid in Parliament on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Subordinate Legislation Committee on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010
- Local Government & Communities Committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2010
- Regulations will now come into force on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010



# Accompanying guidance

- Importance in providing clarity and assisting in consistency of implementation.
- Short-life reference working group – cross sector representation – SG, CoSLA, ALACHO, SHR, Shelter Scotland, CRISIS, SCSH, SAL, SRPBA.
- Group has met twice in February to share views.
- First draft of guidance at point Regulations come into force.
- Agree review period and production of final draft.



# Main aims of Regulations

- To provide an option to LAs in discharging duty.
- Increasing choice for applicants with their informed agreement.
- Not a panacea – usefulness will vary across LA areas – depending on PRS provision.
- No mandatory change in practice – suitability and sustainability are key elements to success
- Can be used as part of a housing options approach.