



**Scottish Federation of  
Housing Associations**



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# Halfway to 2012

## The Role of the RSL

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1<sup>st</sup> October 2007

# Statutory Role of RSLs -Origins

- 1999 – Homelessness Task Force set up
- 2000 – Interim Report
- 2001 – Housing (Scotland) Act
- 2002 – Final Report
- 2003 – Homelessness (Scotland) Act

# Housing (Scotland) Act 2001

- Section 5 gave LAs powers to refer homeless cases to RSLs
- RSL must comply with LA request within a reasonable period of time
- Very limited reasons for refusal

# Some Section 5 Statistics (2005/6)

- Almost 4000 homeless people housed
- This is 14% of all RSL allocations
- Around 7000 referrals
- Success rate of referrals around 56%
- 98% given permanent tenancies....

....however, this is only part of the picture....

# Non-Statutory Contribution by RSLs

.....there are other routes into RSL stock for homeless people.

- All RSL allocations policies must give reasonable preference to homeless (1987 Act)
- CHR commonalities exercise – homelessness given highest priority in almost every RSL policy
- SCORE – 42% of ALL allocations by RSLs going to homeless
- RSLs not always good at measuring/publishing allocations outcomes

# Section 5 Operational Difficulties

- Inconsistencies in interpreting protocols
- Multiple referral=high failure rate
- Section 5 vs Nominations Agreements
- CHR further complicates
- SG recognises that work needs to be done
  - commissioned review of Section 5

# Scottish Government Review of Section 5

Will look at:

- Pre-referrals
- Nominations Agreements
- Protocols
- Good Reason Guidance
- Awareness Raising
- Common Housing Registers & Choice Based Letting



# Wider Challenges Facing RSLs

- RTB restrictions end in 2012!!
- Support & care solutions/sustainable tenancies
- Solutions need to be more than just a numbers game
- Avoid sectoral defensiveness
- Expand the role of RSLs
- Remain committed to aims of 2012



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