

UNISON Scotland *Influencers*

General election briefing 2024

HOUSING CRISIS

Rising rents and mortgages are a main cause of financial hardship. Low paid public services workers in private rented homes are suffering the most.⁵ A strong system of rent regulation is needed.

But the root cause is the shortage of social housing. 175,000 people are on local authority waiting lists including disabled adults and children trapped in inappropriate housing.⁶ More than 32,000 households were assessed as homeless in 2023. More households than ever are living in temporary accommodation, including 9,600 children.⁷

A sustained programme of capital investment is urgently needed to enable councils and RSLs to meet needs through new build, purchase and buy-back of former council stock and upgrade and retrofit homes.

KEY FACTS

- Fewer than 30% of UK households now have mortgages.
- 1 in 6 UNISON members surveyed are struggling to pay their rent or mortgage and 1 in 4 of those renting privately are in difficulty.
- New let private rents rose by 15.8% in Scotland over the past year.
- A third of UNISON members who rent privately spend 60% of their household income on housing.

QUESTIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- What will you do to solve the housing crisis?
- What plans do you have to bring down the cost of housing?
- Do you support increased provision of social housing?

USEFUL RESOURCES

- [Resources Briefing – Housing and the Cost of Living Crisis](#)
- [‘Through the Roof’: Housing and the Cost of Living Crisis for Public Service Workers’](#)
- [Social Housing at the Heart of the Recovery: UNISON Scotland Housing Manifesto](#)

⁴ <https://www.stuc.org.uk/resources/profitting-from-care-rport.pdf>