

# **Scottish Welfare Fund Statistics: Update to 30 September 2020**

# Introduction

This publication provides information on the Scottish Welfare Fund for the latest quarter, 1 July to 30 September 2020. It also contains information from previous financial years dating back to 1 April 2013, when the scheme commenced its operation. The next update of this publication, to be released in April 2021, will include applications received in October to December 2020. Disclosure control has been applied to the figures reported here, with all values rounded to the nearest five observations.

The publication includes monthly management information (informal returns) for January to November 2020, broken down by local authority level. This is included for comparison with the Official Statistics and to provide more recent figures that show the impacts of COVID-19 on the Scottish Welfare Fund.

This publication also provides monthly management information on the number of applications, awards and expenditure on the Self-Isolation Support Grant broken down by Local Authority.

A supplementary spreadsheet containing 46 tables and 13 charts has also been published. Electronic versions of this document and accompanying tables and charts are available at: <https://www.gov.scot/collections/sg-social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#scottishwelfarefundstatistics>.

These statistics are being published as experimental statistics. Experimental statistics are defined in the Code of Practice for Official Statistics as "*new official statistics undergoing evaluation. They are published in order to involve users and stakeholders in their development and as a means to build in quality at an early stage.*" These statistics have not yet been assessed by the UK Statistics Authority. They have not been designated as National Statistics<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> For more information on experimental statistics please see:

[https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/images-assessmentanddesignationofexperimentalstatistic\\_tcm97-44327-1.pdf](https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2010/12/images-assessmentanddesignationofexperimentalstatistic_tcm97-44327-1.pdf)

# Summary of main points

- The Scottish Welfare Fund comprises of **Community Care Grants**, which help people to live independently, and **Crisis Grants**, which provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency.
- From when the Scottish Welfare Fund scheme began on 1 April 2013 until 30 September 2020, **403,510 individual households** have received awards totalling **£256.6 million**. A third of households receiving an award were families with children, while just over half were single person households with no children.
- In the latest quarter of data, from July to September 2020, there has been an increase in the number of awards and expenditure received by those people in the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) deciles three to six relative to those in the most deprived areas (decile one). This could indicate **a change in the demographic profile of Scottish Welfare Fund applicants** due to the impacts of COVID-19 putting a wider range of people under financial pressure.
- From July to September 2020, Local Authorities received **20,570 applications for Community Care Grants** (5% more than the equivalent quarter in 2019). Decisions were made on 19,665 applications, with **10,630 awards made** (2% fewer than the previous year) – an acceptance rate of 54% (one percentage point lower than the previous year). **Expenditure on Community Care Grant awards totalled £6.3 million**, which is 4% more than the previous year. This brings expenditure back to pre-COVID levels after a drop in the previous quarter (expenditure in April to June 2020 was 49% lower than the previous year). **The average award was £592.**
- From July to September 2020, Local Authorities received **58,895 applications for Crisis Grants** (14% more than the equivalent quarter in 2019). Decisions were made on 58,720 applications, with **38,565 awards made** (16% more than the previous year), and the acceptance rate was 66% (one percentage point higher than the previous year). **Expenditure on Crisis Grant awards totalled £3.8 million**, 21% more than the previous year. **The average award was £99.**
- From July to September 2020, 28% of Community Care Grant applications were **repeat applications**, three percentage points higher than in the same quarter of 2019. 71% of Crisis Grant application were repeats, four percentage points higher than the same quarter last year. Additionally, 62% awards were repeats, six percentage points higher than the same quarter of 2019. This is the highest proportion of Crisis grant repeat applications and awards in any quarter since the start of the Scottish Welfare Fund.
- From July to September 2020, 86% of Community Care Grant applications and 95% of Crisis Grant applications were processed within the **target time limits**.
- Local authorities have been **allocated £57.5 million** for Scottish Welfare Fund awards in 2020/21 so far, which includes a **£22.0 million COVID-19 allocation**.

There was also an estimated underspend of £2.0 million carried forward from 2019/20. Of the estimated total £59.5 million available for awards this year, **£18.9 million (32%) has been spent in the first six months of the financial year**. At this time last year, approximately the same amount had been spent (£18.9 million), however a larger proportion of the budget had been spent (54%) because the available budget was lower (£34.9 million).

- A **further £20 m** was allocated in October to a flexible fund that can be used for Scottish Welfare Fund, Discretionary Housing Payments or other means of support for people through the pandemic.
- Since April 2013, there have been 25,540 **Tier 1 reviews** for Community Care Grants and 24,985 for Crisis Grants. Just under half of decisions have been revised at this stage for both Community Care Grants (47%) and Crisis Grants (45%).
- In our previous publication, we highlighted **data quality issues** with the official statistics, and discrepancies between the official statistics and management information. While there are still data quality issues in the official statistics for certain local authorities (described in the [data quality section](#)), the discrepancies between the official statistics and management information have reduced in the last few quarters at Scotland level. Overall, the monthly management information and quarterly data extracts have similar figures for Community Care Grant applications (1% difference), a slightly larger discrepancy for Community Care Grant awards (-6% in the quarterly extract), but more similar Community Care Grant expenditure (-1% in quarterly extract). At Scotland level, there is a slightly larger discrepancy in Crisis Grant applications (-4% in quarterly extract), but awards (-1% in quarterly data) and expenditure (-1% in quarterly data) are relatively similar. Management information to November 2020 has been provided in **Tables 44 and 45** for comparison to the official statistics. However, the official statistics provide much more detailed information as well as breakdowns that are not available from the monthly management information and remain the recommended primary source for analysis and commentary.
- We have provided monthly management information of **Self-Isolation Support Grant** applications, awards and expenditure broken down by Local Authority in **Table 46**. However, comparisons should not be made between the numbers of applications received by Local Authorities, particularly due to variations in the administrative systems used to apply for the grant.

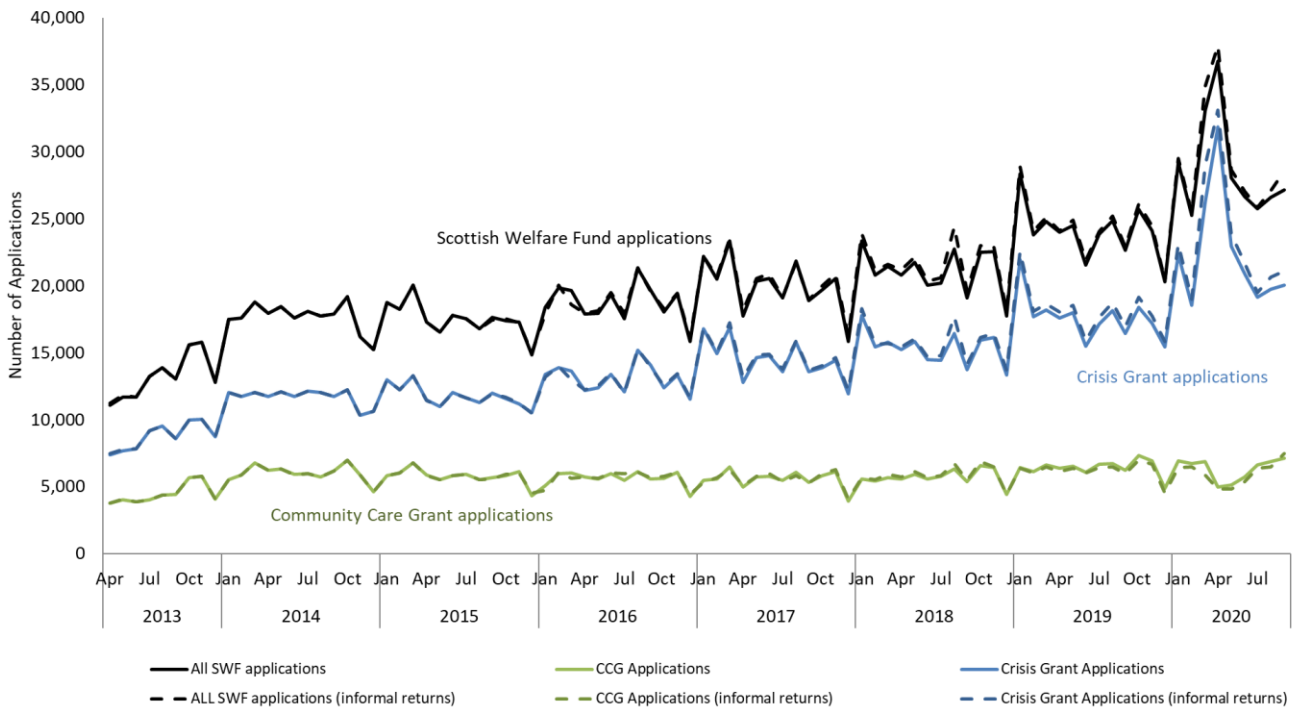
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# Applications

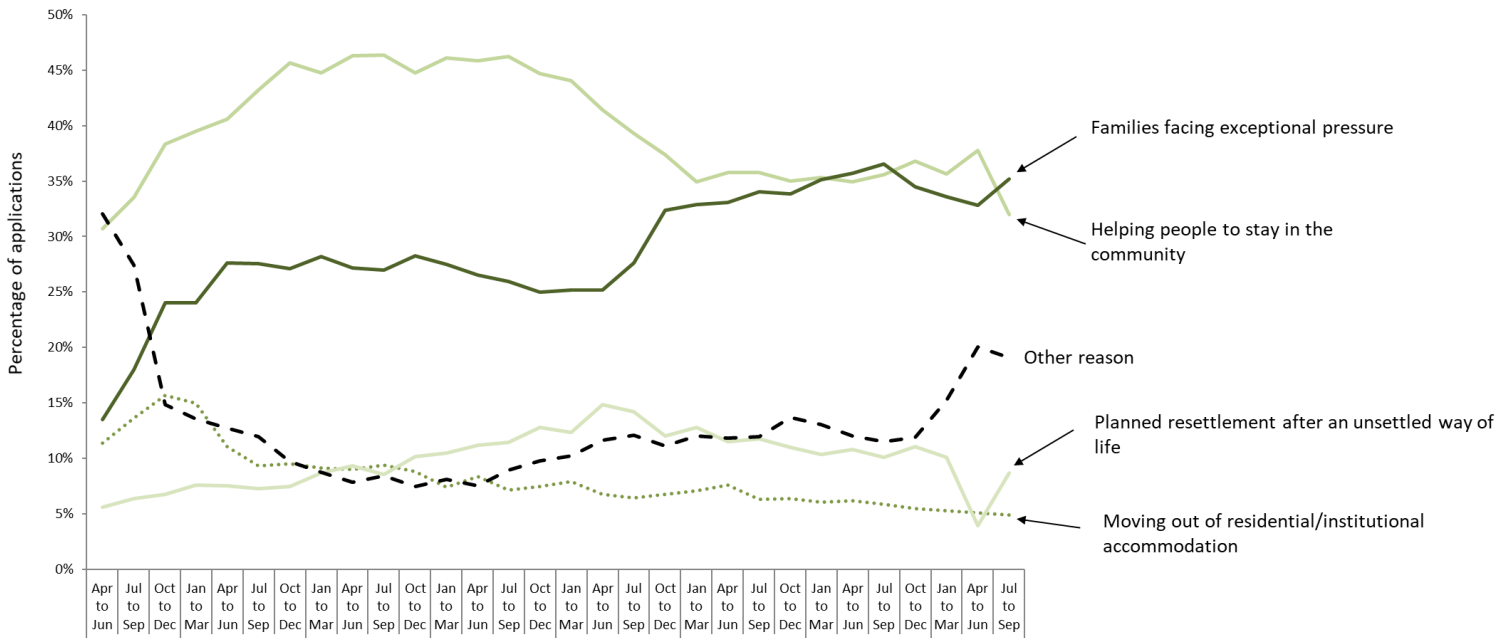
- From July to September 2020, 79,465 applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund were received (**Table 1**). The majority were for Crisis Grants (58,895, **Table 3**), and a smaller proportion were for Community Care Grants (20,570, **Table 2**).
- Compared to the equivalent quarter in the previous year, the number of Community Care Grant applications increased by 5% (985) (**Table 2, Chart 1**). At Local Authority level the change in application numbers varied from a 61% increase in Edinburgh (from 1,105 to 1,780 applications) to a 57% decrease in Shetland (from 30 to 15 applications). Community Care Grant applications increased in 19 Local Authorities and decreased in 13 Local Authorities.
- Compared to the same quarter in the previous year, the number of Crisis Grant applications increased by 14% (7,185) (**Table 3, Chart 1**). At Local Authority level the change in number of applications varied from a 77% increase in Edinburgh (from 3,480 to 6,175) to a 64% decrease in Shetland (from 60 to 20 applications) (**Table 3**). Crisis Grant applications increased in 19 Local Authorities and decreased in 13 Local Authorities.
- Community Care Grant demand and Crisis Grant demand were both affected by COVID-19 and varied month-to-month (**Chart 1**). Community Care Grant applications were lower than usual, especially in April, May and June 2020 (-22%, -21% and -6% respectively). Community Care Grant demand increased in July 2020 (6,600 applications), but remained slightly lower than July 2019 (-2%). As demand continued to increase in August 2020 (6,850 applications) and September 2020 (7,110 applications), Community Care Grant demand exceeded the same months in 2019 (+2%, and +15%, respectively).
- In contrast, Crisis Grant demand increased to a peak in April 2020 (31,830 applications, 81% more than April 2019) and decreased month on month through to July 2020 (19,145 applications, 12% more than July 2019). Crisis Grant applications began to increase again in August 2020 (19,730 applications) and September 2020 (20,020 applications). Compared to the same months in 2019, Crisis Grant demand was higher in July 2020 (+12%), August 2020 (+9%) and September 2020 (+22%).
- Monthly management information also suggests that the impacts of COVID-19 caused Scottish Welfare Fund demand to increase in October and November 2020 compared to the same months last year (**Tables 44 and 45**). In October, the number of applications for Community Care Grants were at their highest since the start of the financial year, whereas Crisis Grants applications were at their highest since May.

**Chart 1: Applications to the Scottish Welfare Fund – Scotland – Monthly**



- During July to September 2020, 'Families facing exceptional pressure' was the most common reason for Community Care Grant applications (7,245, 35%) (**Table 4, Chart 2**), followed by 'Helping people to stay in the community' (6,585, 32%). The next most frequent reason for applications was 'Other reason' (3,930, 19% of applications).
- The overall increase of 985 Community Care Grant applications, compared to the same quarter of 2019, was largely accounted for by 1,675 more applications for 'Other reason' (increase of 74%). The increase in applications for 'Other reason', is consistent with the previous quarter and may have been due to COVID-19 related applications being recorded in that way. There were also 85 more applications for 'Families facing exceptional pressure' compared to April to June 2019 (1% increase) but fewer applications in each of the other categories, compared to the same quarter of 2019.

**Chart 2: Reasons for Application – Community Care Grants - Quarterly**

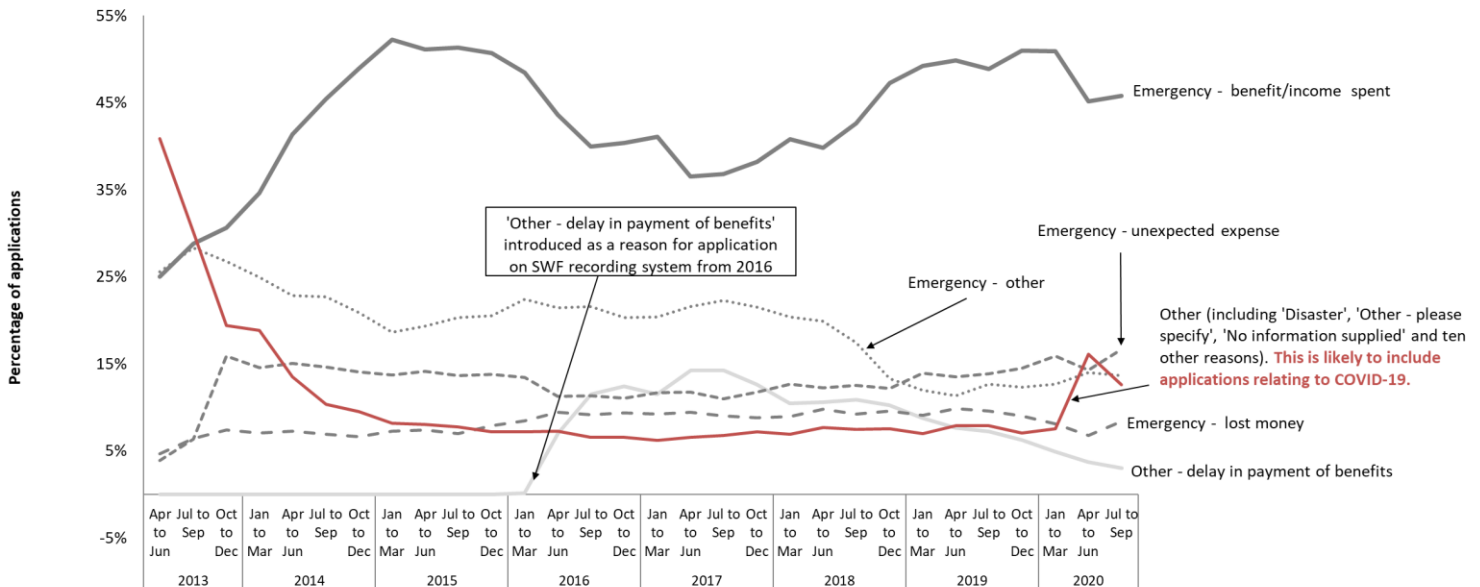


Note: "Caring for a prisoner/offender on temporary release" and "No information" are not shown – in the most recently quarter these accounted for 0% applications.



- In the most recent quarter, the most common reasons for Crisis Grant applications were different types of emergency (52,265, 89% of applications), whereas disasters such as fires and floods are less common (390, 1% of applications) (**Table 6, Chart 3**).
- Within the broader category of ‘Emergency’, the most common sub-reason remained ‘benefit/income spent’ (26,960, 46% of all applications). Crisis Grant applications for this reason increased by 7% compared to July to September 2019, and the proportion of applications with this reason increased slightly by one percentage point. Crisis Grant applications due to ‘Other – please specify’ increased by 182% compared to the same quarter of last year and increased from 2% of applications to 8% of applications. The increase in applications for ‘Other – please specify’, is consistent with the previous quarter and may have been due to COVID-19 related applications being recorded in that way.

**Chart 3: Reasons for Application – Crisis Grants – Quarterly**

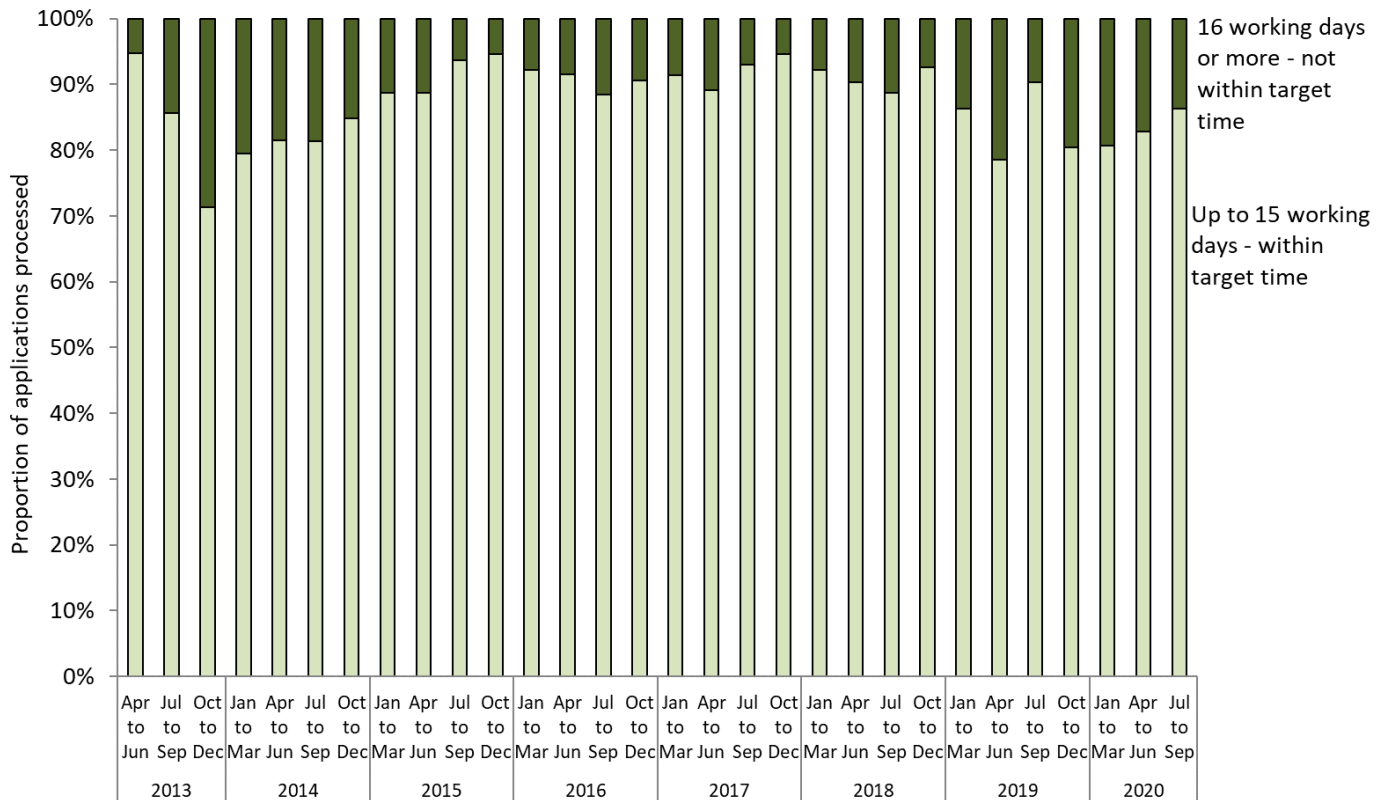


# Processing Times

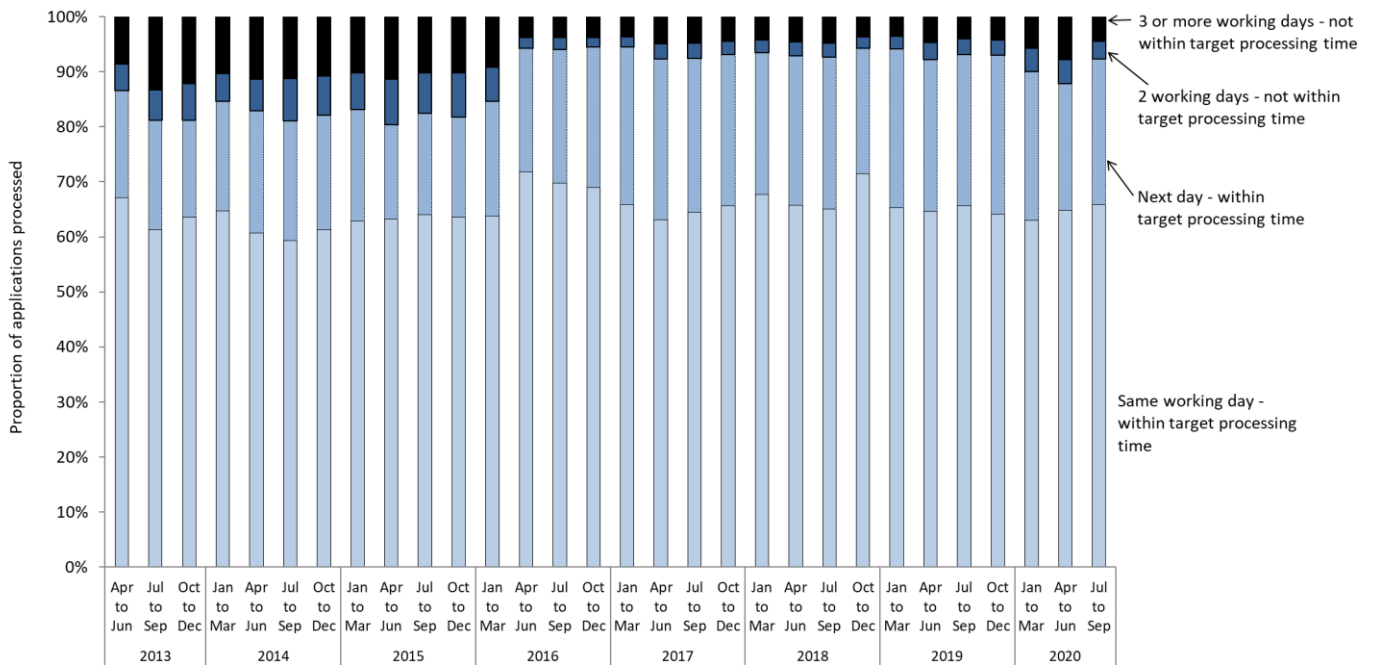
In the latest quarter:

- Overall, Local Authorities processed 86% of Community Care Grant applications within the target time of 15 working days, a decrease of four percentage points compared to the same quarter in 2019 (**Table 8, Chart 4**).
- Nine local authorities processed 100% of Community Care Grant applications within target times, and a further 18 processed at least 90% of applications on time. Two local authorities processed around 80% on time (Shetland 80%, Aberdeen City 83%), whereas Glasgow City processed 52% on time (**Table 9**). The proportion of applications processed on time has been low for Glasgow City in previous quarters in 2019/20, and the council have indicated this has been due to high demand. Processing times may have been affected by increased demand due to COVID-19.
- Overall, Local Authorities processed 95% of Crisis Grant applications within the target time, by the end of the next working day. This is a decrease of one percentage point compared to the same quarter in 2019 (**Table 10, Chart 5**).
- At Local Authority level (**Table 11**), six local authorities processed 100% of crisis applications within target timescales, and almost all processed 90% or more on time. Two local authorities processed a lower proportion on time (Glasgow City 85%, Shetland 62%).

**Chart 4: Initial Processing Times for Community Care Grants – Quarterly**



**Chart 5: Initial Processing Times for Crisis Grants – Quarterly**



Note: The target processing time for Crisis Grants changed from two working days to the end of the next working day in April 2016.

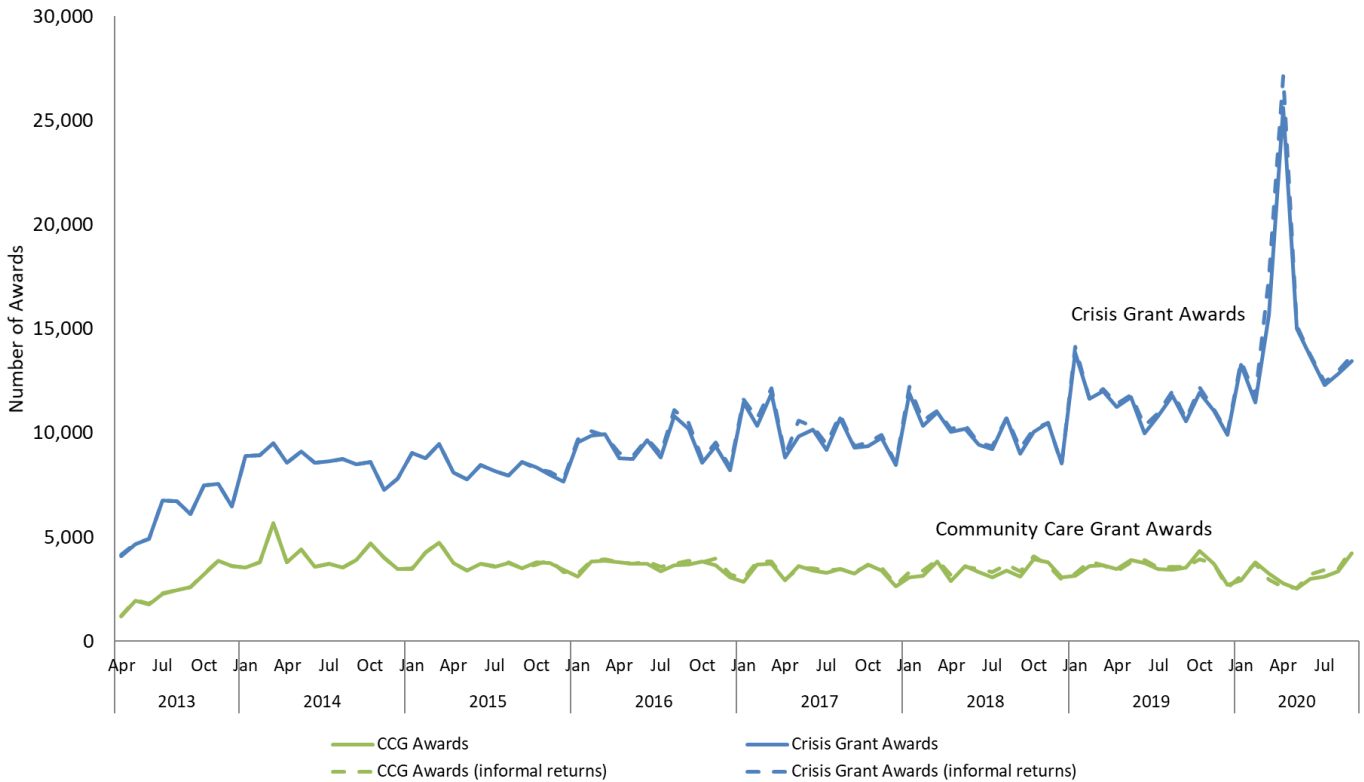
## Decisions and awards

- During July to September 2020, decisions were made on 19,665 Community Care Grant applications. The acceptance rate was 54%, which was one percentage point lower than the same quarter in 2019, but nine percentage points higher than April to June 2020 (**Table 12, Table 14, and Chart 7**). Decisions were made on 58,720 Crisis Grant applications. The acceptance rate was 66%, one percentage point higher than the same quarter in 2019, but three percentage points lower than April to June 2020 (**Table 15, Table 17, and Chart 7**).
- During July to September 2020, Local Authorities awarded 10,630 Community Care Grants, which was more than during April to June 2020 (2,355 more awards, a 28% increase) and slightly more than during July to September 2019 (210 more awards, a 2% increase) (**Table 13, Chart 6**). At the same time, Local Authorities awarded 38,565 Crisis Grants, which was less than during April to June 2020 (15,725 fewer awards, a 29% decrease) but slightly more than during July to September 2019 (5,415 more awards, a 16% increase) (**Table 16, Chart 6**).
- This suggests that the impact of COVID-19 seen during April to June 2020 (i.e. fewer Community Care Grants and more Crisis Grants awarded) was lessened in the most recent quarter, with numbers of Community Care and Crisis Grant awards returning to levels more similar to those seen during the same quarter last year.
- The number of Community Care Grant awards varied among Local Authorities (**Table 13**). Relative to the same quarter last year, awards increased in 19 Local Authorities, with the greatest relative increase in Clackmannanshire (66% increase, from 95 to 160). The greatest relative decrease was in Shetland (62% decrease, from 20 to 10), followed by Aberdeenshire (46% decrease, from 275 to 150). The highest acceptance rate was 82% in East Renfrewshire, and the lowest was 30% in Fife (**Table 14**). Overall, acceptance rates rose in 18 Local Authorities compared to July to September 2019.
- In the latest quarter, Crisis Grant awards increased in 23 local authorities (**Table 16**) relative to July to September 2019. The greatest relative increases in Crisis Grant awards (both 79% increases) were in West Dunbartonshire (from 1,080 to 1,930) and West Lothian (from 1,100 to 1,975). The greatest decrease in awards was in Shetland (76% decrease, from 40 to 10 awards). Acceptance rate rose in 22, and fell in nine Local Authorities (**Table 17**). In the latest quarter, the highest acceptance rates were 85% in both East Dunbartonshire and West Dunbartonshire, and the lowest acceptance rate was 44% in North Ayrshire.
- In the previous quarter (April to June 2020), Community Care Grant and Crisis Grant awards were affected by COVID-19 and varied month-to-month (**Chart 6**). According to the Official Statistics, Community Care Grant awards were lowest in May 2020 (2,520, 36% less than May 2019), then increased in June 2020

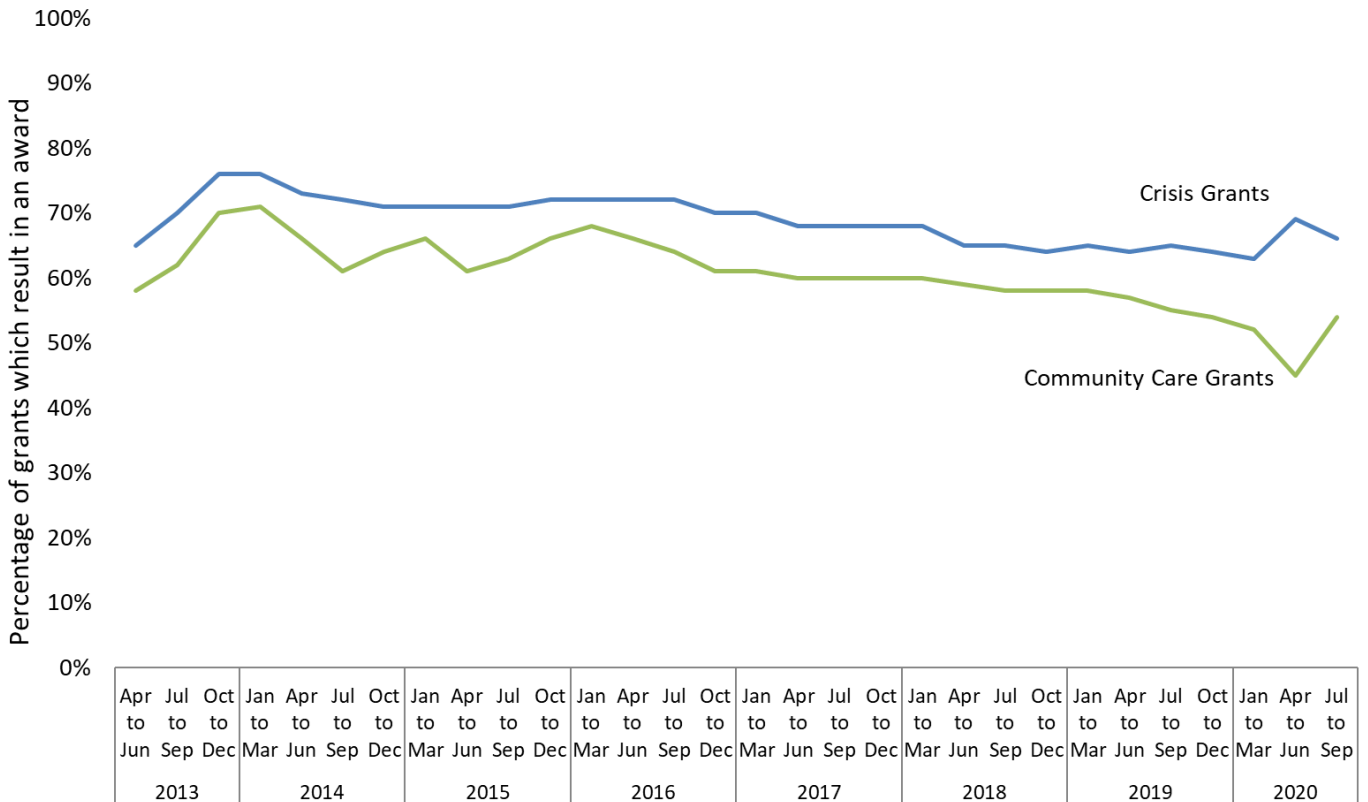
(2,990, 21% less than June 2019). In contrast, Crisis Grant awards peaked in April 2020 (25,600 awards, 128% more than April 2019), then decreased in May 2020 (15,005 awards, 28% higher than May 2019) and June 2020 (13,685 awards, 37% higher than June 2019).

- In the latest quarter, COVID-19 continued to affect both Community Care and Crisis Grant awards (**Chart 6**). According to the Official Statistics, Community Care Grant awards continued to increase in July 2020 (3,090 awards, 11% less than July 2019), August 2020 (3,335 awards, 3% less than August 2019) and September 2020 (4,205 awards, 19% higher than September 2019). Crisis Grant awards continued to decrease in July 2020 (12,285 awards, 14% higher than July 2019), but then increased again in August 2020 (12,820 awards, 9% higher than August 2019) and September 2020 (13,465 awards, 28% higher than September 2019). According to the corresponding monthly management information (**Table 44, Table 45, and Chart 6**), Community Care and Crisis Grant awards may have been even higher than indicated by the Official Statistics, which may have been affected by missing cases and data quality issues as described in the data quality section.
- Monthly management information suggests that Community Care Grant awards decreased again in October and November, whereas Crisis Grant awards continued to increase (**Table 44, Table 45**).
- In the latest quarter, there were 8% more rejections for Community Care Grants and 11% more rejections for Crisis Grants than in the same quarter of 2019, although the distribution of rejection reasons remained similar (**Table 18, Table 19**).

**Chart 6: Number of Scottish Welfare Fund Awards – Scotland – Monthly**



**Chart 7: Community Care Grant and Crisis Grant acceptance rates – Quarterly**



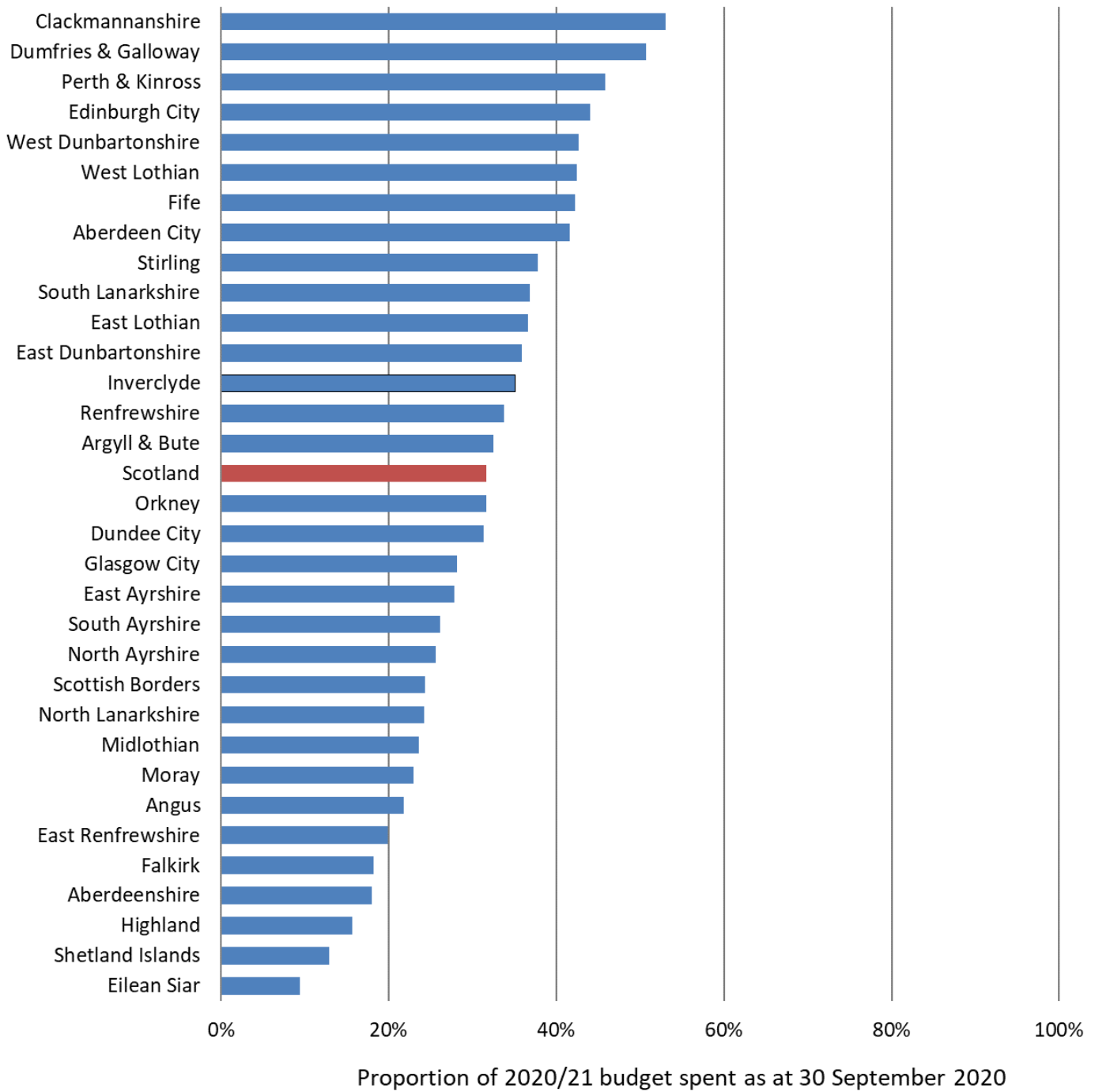


long-term trend: in the previous quarter Crisis Grant expenditure exceeded Community Care Grant expenditure due to COVID-19 (**Table 23, Chart 8**). Increased Community Care Grant expenditure was driven by more applications received, more awards made and a higher average award value. The average Community Care Grant value was £592 (**Table 12**), compared to £582 in the same quarter of 2019.

- At Local Authority level, Community Care Grant expenditure increased in 20 out of 32 local authorities compared to the same quarter of 2019. Expenditure more than doubled in Argyll & Bute (111% increase from £77,229 to £162,676), Dumfries and Galloway (116% increase from £139,360 to £300,426) and Orkney (102% increase from £9,782 to £19,749), while the largest relative decrease was 64% (from £20,094 to £7,161) in Shetland (**Table 23**).
- In the latest quarter Crisis Grant expenditure was £3.8 million (**Table 23, Chart 8**), 21% higher than the same quarter of 2019. Increased Crisis Grant expenditure was driven by more applications received, more awards made and a higher average award value. In the latest quarter the average Crisis Grant award value was £99 (**Table 15**), compared to £95 in the same quarter of 2019. Most Local Authorities (25 of 32) spent more on Crisis Grants than in the same quarter in 2019, with the largest increase of 152% in West Lothian (from £78,222 to £197,319) and the largest decrease of 74% in Shetland (from £3,533 to £912) (**Table 23**).
- Official Statistics indicate that, during the previous quarter (April to June 2020), Scottish Welfare Fund expenditure was affected by COVID-19 and varied month-by-month (**Chart 8**). Crisis Grant expenditure peaked in April 2020 at £2.5 million (157% higher than April 2019) then decreased to £1.3 million in June 2020 (43% more than in June 2019). At the same time Community Care Grant expenditure fell to £1.0 million in May 2020 (60% less than May 2019) then increased to £1.3 million in June 2020 (41% less than June 2019) (**Chart 8**).
- During July to September 2020, Scottish Welfare Fund expenditure continued to be affected by COVID-19 (**Chart 8**). Community Care and Crisis Grant expenditure increased month-by-month to September 2020, up to £2.7 million (29% more than September 2019) and £1.4 million (31% more than September 2019), respectively.
- Monthly management Information suggests that Community Care Grant expenditure fell slightly to £2.6 million in October 2020 before increasing to £3.1 million in November 2020, while Crisis Grant continued to increase to £1.5 million in October 2020 and £1.6 million in November 2020 (**Table 44, Table 45**).

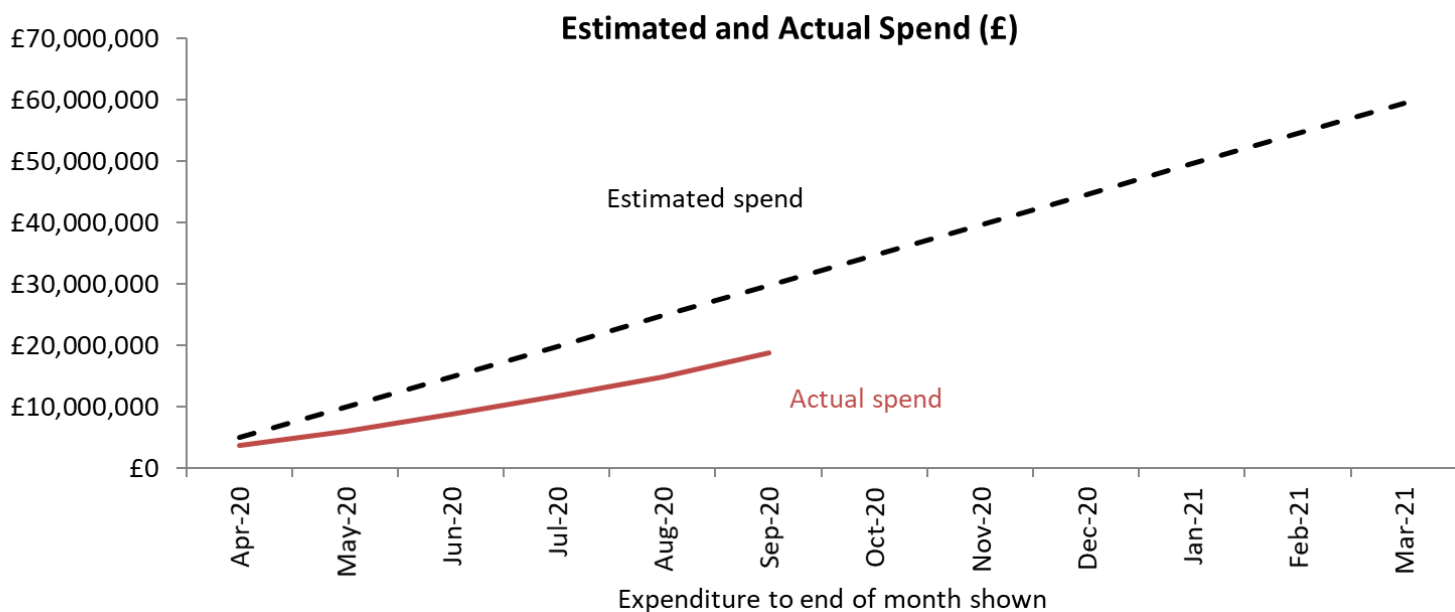


**Chart 9: Proportion of annual budget spent as at 30 September 2020**



- Local authorities have been allocated £57.5 million for Scottish Welfare Fund awards in 2020/21 so far, which includes a £22.0 million COVID-19 allocation. There was also an estimated underspend of £2.0 million carried forward from 2019/20 (see the [Data Quality](#) section for issues relating to estimation of underspend). Of the estimated total £59.5 million available for awards this year, £18.9 million (32%) has been spent in the first half of the financial year. At this time last year, approximately the same amount had been spent (£18.9 million), however a larger proportion of the budget had been spent (54%) because the available budget was lower (£34.9 million). (**Table 24, Table 25, Table 26, Chart 9 and Chart 10**).
- At this point in the year, percentage of budget spent (including estimated previous underspend) ranges from 9% in Eilean Siar to 53% in Clackmannanshire. There were specific data quality issues for Edinburgh that will have meant some expenditure was recorded in April 2020 that should have been recorded in March 2020, see the [data quality section](#). (**Table 26, Chart 9**). Edinburgh (51% spent) and Clackmannanshire (53% spent) may be on track to spend all of their allocated funds during 2020/21 at current rates of expenditure.

**Chart 10: Cumulative Expenditure on the Scottish Welfare Fund – Monthly**



#### Housing costs within Universal Credit:

- From 1 April 2017, the UK Government introduced a change to the entitlement for housing costs within Universal Credit (UC), resulting in people aged 18-21 years no longer being eligible, unless the individual is covered by an exemption<sup>2</sup>. The policy applies to new claimants, claiming UC on or after 1 April 2017, in an

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-costs-for-18-to-21-year-olds>

area using the full, digital service. To mitigate against this, the Scottish Government extended the Scottish Welfare Fund on an interim basis to provide Community Care Grants to 18-21 year olds affected by this change<sup>3</sup>. Based on management information supplied to Scottish Government by Local Authorities, these grants amounted to around £14,000 from 1 April 2017 to 31 December 2018. Applications, awards, expenditure and review data relating to these grants have been excluded from the rest of this publication. On 5 November 2018, the UK Government laid regulations coming into force on 31 December 2018 revoking the removal of assistance with housing costs for those aged 18-21. We have not received any further management information on these grants since December 2018.

#### Family Reunion Crisis Grants:

- Delivery of Family Reunion Crisis Grants commenced on 14 May 2018. The grants support refugee families arriving in Scotland under family reunion rules to settle with their family member already resident in the Local Authority area. Applicants can apply for both Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants through this scheme. Based on management information supplied to Scottish Government by Local Authorities, these grants have amounted to around £165,000 from 14 May 2018 to 30 September 2020.

#### Self-Isolation Support Grants:

- Delivery of Self-Isolation Support Grants commenced on 12 October 2020. The grant is a £500 payment available for low-income workers who are asked to self-isolate because of coronavirus (COVID-19) and would lose income as a result. Self-Isolation Support Grants are made either as Crisis Grants or as discretionary grants for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). The grants are administered by Local Authorities, who supply management information to Scottish Government for applications received and the number and value of awards made. From when the scheme began on 12 October until 30 November 2020, Local Authorities awarded 1,862 Self-Isolation Support Grants, totalling £931,000. Self-Isolation Support Grant applications, awards and expenditure broken down by Local Authority can be found in **Table 46**. However, comparisons should not be made between the numbers of applications received by Local Authorities, particularly due to variations in the administrative systems used to apply for the grant (see [Background notes](#)).

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/fairerscotland/scottishwelfarefund/socialfund/18to21assistancewithhousingcosts>

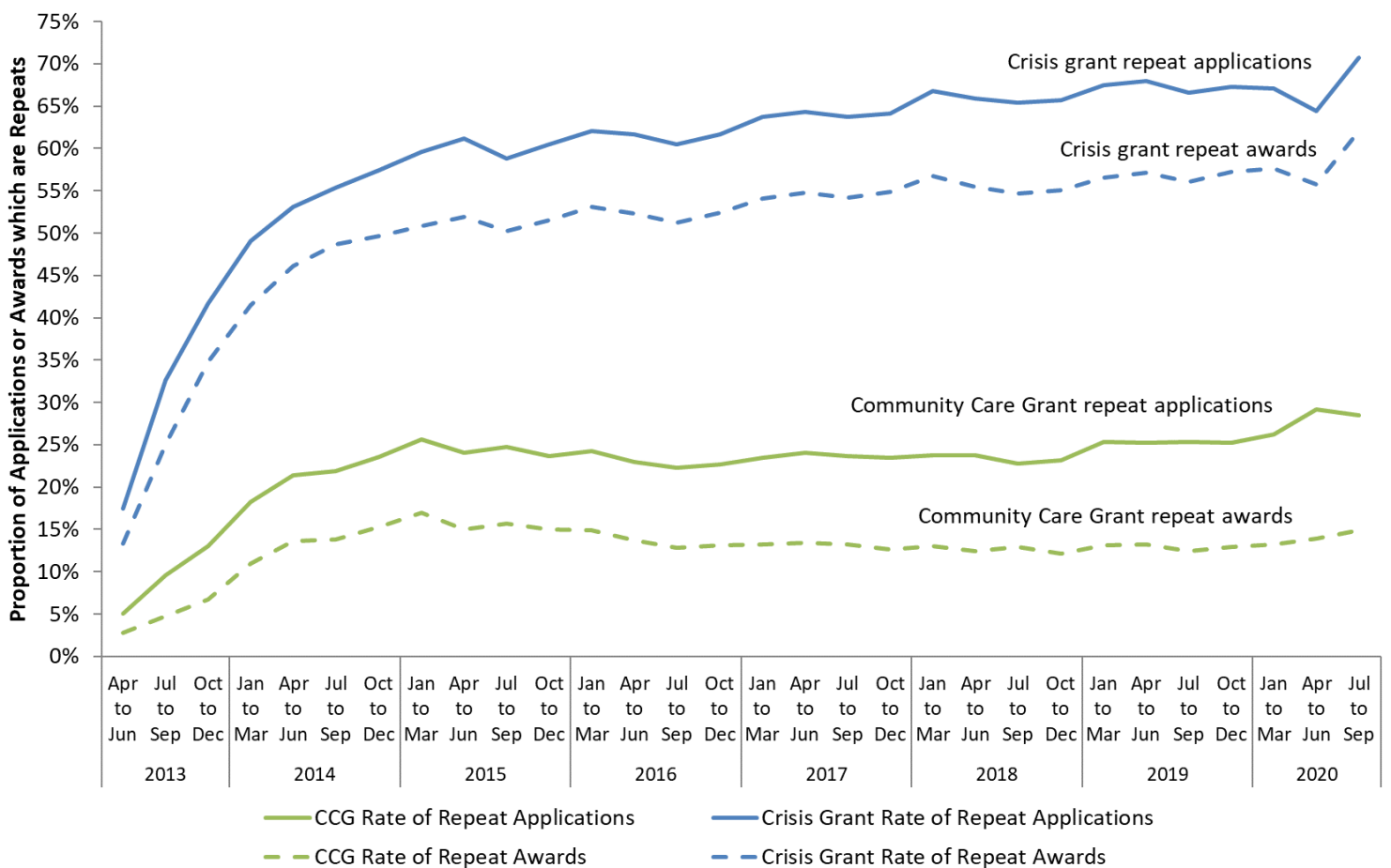
## Items and Payments

- In the latest quarter the most common Community Care Grant expenditure was on floor coverings (12,365, 23% of items), beds plus bedding (10,760, 20% of items in total), and kitchen appliances such as cookers, fridges, freezers and washing machines (14,065, 26% of items in total) (**Table 27**). The largest increase in an item category was 'Other' (+735, 38% more than July to September 2019) and the largest decreases were in beds plus bedding (-2,231, 17% less than July to September 2019) and clothing or shoes (-1,065, 53% less than July to September 2019). There were only small changes in the proportions accounted for by different items, compared to the same quarter last year and a similar pattern can be seen in the proportion of money spent on each item (**Table 28**).
- The most common Crisis Grant expenditure was on food, essential heating expenses and Other living expenses, as in previous quarters (**Table 29**). The largest increase in an item category was food, with 10% more than July to September 2019 and an increase in expenditure of 24% (£459,571). There were also large increases in 'Other living expenses' (£216,339, 47% more than July to September 2019) and 'Other' (£53,882, 92% increase). The largest decrease was in Essential Heating Costs (£39,895, 6% less than July to September 2019) (**Table 30**).
- The increase in expenditure on 'Other' items (+92%) may reflect decreasing data quality due to COVID-19. However, in the latest quarter 'Other' items still only accounted for 3% of expenditure on Crisis Grants.
- The most common payment method for Community Care Grants remained provision of new goods (55% of payments, **Table 31**), however the proportion made through 'payment into bank' and 'purchase card' methods increased (three and two percentage points respectively). For Crisis Grants cash remained the most common payment method (48% of payments, four percentage points greater than last year) (**Table 32**). There was also an increase in the number of payments made by 'payment into bank' (an increase of four percentage points) and a decrease in 'cash alternative and 'store voucher' (decrease of four percentage points for both), which is likely to be an effect of COVID-19.

## Repeat Applications and Awards

- There is a higher rate of both repeat applications and repeat awards for Crisis Grants compared to Community Care Grants (**Chart 11**).
- In the latest quarter, 28% of Community Care Grant applications were repeats, three percentage points higher than in the same quarter of 2019. This is the second highest proportion in any quarter since the start of the Scottish Welfare Fund, one percentage point lower than the previous quarter (April to June 2020) (**Table 40, Chart 11**). Additionally, 15% of Community Care Grant awards were repeats, three percentage points higher than the same quarter of 2019 (**Table 41**).
- In the latest quarter, 71% of Crisis Grant application were repeats, four percentage points higher than the same quarter last year (**Table 42**). Additionally, 62% of awards were repeats, six percentage points higher than the same quarter of 2019. (**Table 43**). This is the highest proportion of Crisis grant repeat applications and awards in any quarter since the start of the Scottish Welfare Fund (**Chart 11**).
- Increased proportions of Community Care and Crisis Grant applications and awards that are repeats are likely to be due to COVID-19 as many individuals continue to experience financial hardship because of the pandemic.

**Chart 11: Repeat applications and awards for Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants – Quarterly**



## Reviews

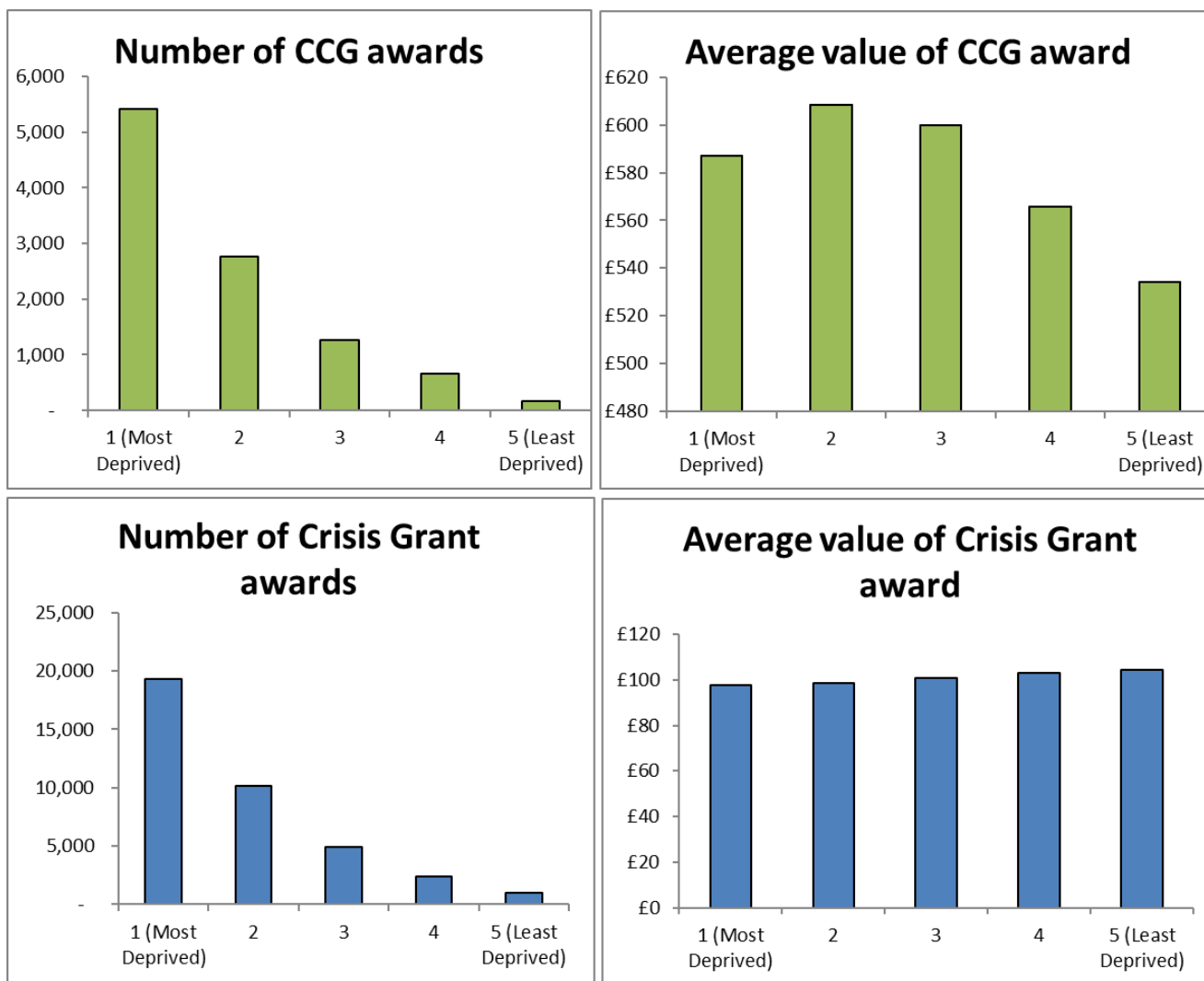
- Since April 2013, there have been 24,540 Tier 1 reviews for Community Care Grants and 24,985 for Crisis Grants (**Table 33**)<sup>4</sup>. Overall, less than half of decisions have been revised at this stage for both Community Care Grants (47%) and Crisis Grants (45%) (**Table 34**).
- Since April 2013, 75% of Tier 1 reviews for Community Care Grants have been made within the 15 working day target, while 89% of Tier 1 reviews for Crisis Grants have been made within the two working day target (**Table 35**).

<sup>4</sup> These figures do not include Tier 1 reviews for East Ayrshire for 2013.

# Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation

- Scottish Welfare Fund awards tend to go to applicants living in more deprived areas of Scotland. Around one in five people in Scotland live in the 20% most deprived areas in Scotland, as defined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD). However, in the latest quarter around half of Community Care Grants (51%) and Crisis Grants (50%) were awarded to applicants living in these areas. In comparison, around 2% of Community Care Grants and 3% of Crisis Grants were awarded to applicants from the 20% least deprived areas (**Table 36, Table 37, and Chart 12**).
- A smaller proportion of Community Care Grant expenditure was received by those in the 10% most deprived areas in Scotland in July to September 2020 (30%) than in the same quarter last year (35%). Instead the proportion of expenditure increased for those in the middle of the deprivation distribution (deciles three to five) (**Table 36, Chart 12**). Similarly, but to a lesser extent, 29% of Crisis expenditure was received by those in the 10% most deprived areas, compared to 33% in the same quarter of 2019, and the proportion of expenditure increased for those in deciles three to six (**Table 37, Chart 12**).
- As the average Community Care Grant award value changed because of COVID-19, the average award values by SIMD decile have also varied (**Table 36**). In previous quarters, Community Care Grants awarded to those in the most deprived areas had a higher average value than in less deprived areas (**Table 36, Table 37, and Chart 12**). In the latest quarter, however, grants awarded to those in the 20% most deprived areas had an average value of £587, which is lower than the average award value for quintiles two and three (£608 and £600, respectively, **Chart 12**).
- This shift in the number of Community Care Grant awards and expenditure could indicate a change in the demographic profile of Scottish Welfare Fund applicants, due to the impacts of COVID-19 putting a wider range of people under financial pressure.
- As in previous quarters, the average value of Crisis Grant awards varied less by the SIMD deciles than did Community Care Grants (**Table 37, Chart 12**).

**Chart 12: Distribution of awards and average award value by SIMD 2020 Quintile rankings of applicant's postcode – latest quarter**

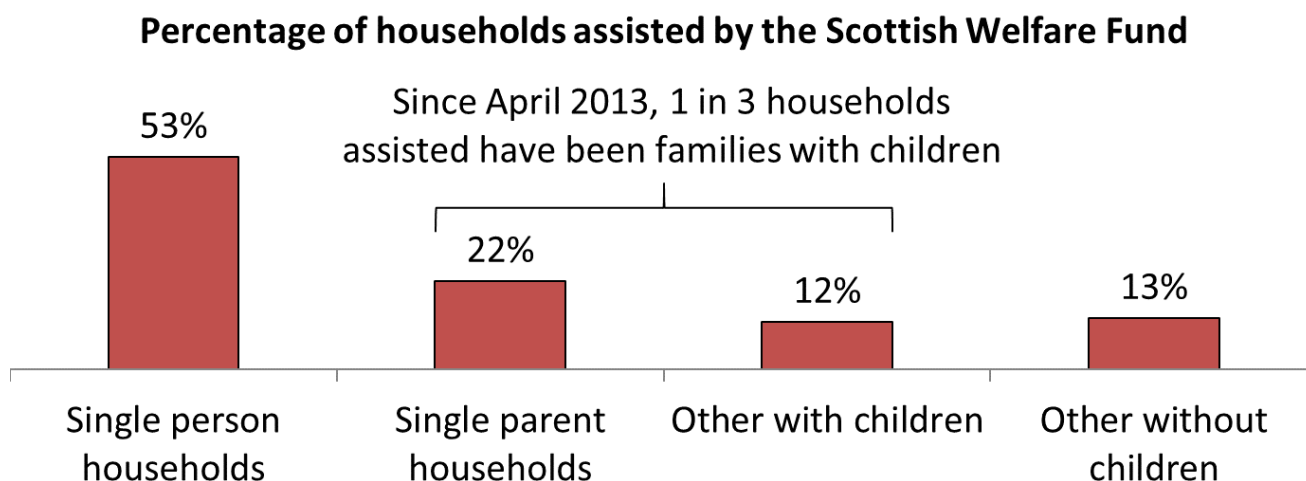




# Characteristics of Households in Receipt of Awards

- Since the scheme began in April 2013, 403,510 unique households received at least one award from the Scottish Welfare Fund. Based on the most recent award received by these households, more have received a Crisis Grant (297,000) than a Community Care Grant (218,045) (**Table 38a**).
- Since the scheme began in April 2013, of the 403,510 unique households that have received at least one award, just over half were single person households (53%), and over a fifth were single parent households (22%) (**Table 38b, Chart 13**). In comparison, the latest household estimates for Scotland indicate that only 37% households are single people, and 6% households are single parent families<sup>5</sup>. Around a quarter (25%) of households receiving awards were couples, couples with children or other types of household, whereas over half of households in Scotland are estimated to fall into these categories (58%).
- In total, since the scheme began a third (34%) of households receiving awards have contained children (**Table 38b**). Of the total £256.6 million that has been awarded, £109.5 million has been awarded to households containing children.

**Chart 13: Household types of unique households receiving funds from the Scottish Welfare Fund – all time**



<sup>5</sup> National Records of Scotland 'Estimates of Households and Dwellings in Scotland, 2019', <https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/statistics-and-data/statistics/statistics-by-theme/households/household-estimates/2019>

# Background

On 1 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) abolished two elements of the Social Fund - Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans - and transferred funds previously spent on them to Scottish Ministers. In its place, the Scottish Government established the Scottish Welfare Fund. The Scottish Welfare Fund is a national grant scheme run by Local Authorities, based on [guidance](#) from Scottish Ministers. The guidance has been developed in partnership with COSLA, Local Authorities and other stakeholders.

The objectives of the scheme are to:

- provide a safety net in a disaster or emergency, when there is an immediate threat to health or safety.
- enable people to live independently or continue to live independently, preventing the need for institutional care.

There are two types of grants in the Scottish Welfare Fund – Crisis Grants, and Community Care Grants.

A Crisis Grant aims to help people on a low income who are in crisis because of a disaster or an emergency. A disaster is something like a fire or a flood. An emergency might be when money has been stolen.

A Community Care Grant aims to:

- help people establish themselves in the community following a period of care, where circumstances indicate that there is a risk of the person not being able to live independently without this help.
- help people remain in the community rather than going into care where circumstances indicate that there is a risk of the person not being able to live independently without this help.
- help people set up home in the community, as part of a planned resettlement programme, following an unsettled way of life.
- help families facing exceptional pressures, with one-off items, like a cooker or a washing machine.
- help people to care for a prisoner or young offender on release on temporary licence.

The Scottish Welfare Fund is a discretionary, budget-limited grant scheme that prioritises applications according to need. It provides grants that do not have to be repaid. It does not provide loans.

The DWP transferred the funding spent in Scotland on its Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans for Living Expenses to the Scottish Government. For 2013/14 and

2014/15 this amounted to £23.8 million. The Scottish Government topped this amount up by a further £9.2 million, giving the Scottish Welfare Fund a total budget of £33 million for both these years. This level has been maintained at £33 million from 2015/16 to 2019/20 by the Scottish Government. Local Authorities have been able to top this up with their own funds, together with any underspends carried forward from previous years. There is no statutory limit on the amount of money which can be spent on the Scottish Welfare Fund.

In 2020/21 the programme budget for the Scottish Welfare Fund was increased to £35.5 million. In addition, £22 million was allocated in response to COVID-19 in March 2020.

The Scottish Welfare Fund was introduced on an interim basis for the first three years, prior to setting the Fund out in law. The [Welfare Funds \(Scotland\) Act 2015](#) received Royal Assent on 8 April 2015 and placed the Scottish Welfare Fund into law from 1 April 2016. The Act is supported by the [Welfare Funds \(Scotland\) Regulations 2016](#), and statutory guidance.

### **Local Authority delivery**

- Local Authorities have the discretion to provide support in different ways. Not all grants will be cash payments. They may provide vouchers, a fuel card, or goods if they think that is the best way to meet the need.
- Local Authorities also have discretion on where in their organisation they process applications and how they link the scheme to existing services.
- A Local Authority may provide assistance out of its SWF only to a person who is resident in the Local Authority area, is about to become resident in the Local Authority area, or a person who is homeless. Applicants should apply to the appropriate Local Authority. The application process will depend on the Local Authority's approach to wider service delivery and the infrastructure it has in place. Local Authorities must make provision for applications to be taken via three delivery channels, for example, online, on the phone and face-to-face.
- Details of applications, how they were processed, and the outcomes and expenditure associated with applications are stored on Local Authorities' IT systems. Four IT companies provide IT systems which underpin the provision of the Scottish Welfare Fund.

### **Application process**

- Applications are processed by decision makers within Local Authorities. Scottish Government produces statutory guidance to provide a framework for decision makers to promote consistency in decision making. In making decisions, Local Authorities need to balance the needs of the applicant against the remaining budget.

- Joint applications for a Crisis Grant and Community Care Grant are treated as two separate applications. In these statistics they are also counted as two separate applications.
- It is for the Local Authority to determine whether a grant should be made as a Crisis or a Community Care Grant. If an applicant applies for one, the Local Authority may decide to award the other if it is more appropriate to the applicant's circumstances.
- Applicants can make repeated applications for the Scottish Welfare Fund. A Local Authority does not need to consider an application if a person has applied for a Community Care Grant or a Crisis Grant for the same items or services within the last 28 days, where a decision has already been made and there has not been a relevant change of circumstances. Additionally, the number of Crisis Grant awards should normally be limited to three per person in any rolling 12 month period across all Local Authorities, although there can be exceptions.
- An initial decision will be made on the application, either to make an award for all or some of the requested items, or to not make any award. In these statistics we refer to these outcomes as 'accepted' and 'rejected' respectively. Crisis Grants are typically made in cash or cash equivalent. Community Care Grants can be fulfilled in cash, cash-equivalent or in kind, for example by providing white goods or furnishings.
- The target time for processing applications is 15 working days after receiving all the information allowing a decision to be made for Community Care Grants and by the end of the next working day for Crisis Grants.

### **Review process**

- If an applicant disagrees with the outcome of their application, there are two possible review stages. Firstly, a Tier 1 review will be carried out by the Local Authority. The target time for processing Tier 1 reviews is the end of the second working day for crisis reviews, and 15 working days for Community Care Grant reviews. At this point the original decision will either be 'revised' or 'not revised'.
- Following this, an independent Tier 2 review may be carried out by the Scottish Public Services Ombudsman (SPSO). Tier 2 reviews have been carried out by the SPSO since 1 April 2016 (previously this was done by Local Authorities). Information on tier 2 reviews carried out by SPSO can be found in the [SPSO's Annual Reports](#) and [Annual Statistics 2019-20](#).

### **Family Reunion Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants for 18-21 year olds**

- Family Reunion Crisis Grants, and Community Care Grants for 18-21 year olds affected by the change to the entitlement for housing costs within Universal Credit, are processed by Local Authorities using the same IT systems as other Scottish Welfare Fund awards. We therefore receive data for these Community Care Grant applications in monthly and quarterly data returns. However, these specific types of grants are not funded through the main Scottish Government

allocation for awards. Local Authorities are reimbursed separately for these awards. Local Authorities send separate quarterly returns detailing the application reference numbers of applications for Family Reunion Crisis Grants, and 18-21 year olds affected by the change to the entitlement for housing costs. We have excluded these applications from the analysis when producing this publication and accompanying publication tables.

## **Self-Isolation Support Grants**

- Self-Isolation Support Grants are made either as Crisis Grants or as discretionary grants for individuals with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). These grants are not funded through the main Scottish Government allocation for awards, so Local Authorities provide Scottish Government with monthly summary figures for applications received and the number and value of awards made. Self-Isolation Support Grants are processed by some Local Authorities using separate administrative systems, however other Local Authorities use the same IT system as their Scottish Welfare Fund awards. For those who use the same IT system, we also receive monthly returns detailing the application reference numbers and the date of the application. We use this information to flag the Self-Isolation Support Grant applications and exclude them from the analysis when producing this publication and accompanying publication tables.
- Local Authority level application figures should not be compared with each other due to several factors that are known to influence the number applications:
  - i) in the early stages of the scheme, and after expanding eligibility criteria, it is expected there are larger numbers of speculative applications that are not eligible.
  - ii) local authorities are currently taking different approaches to receiving/processing applications. In local authorities where online applications are used a higher number of non-eligible applications may be included in the data. As a result, the award rate in these councils may be lower than in those where applications are only possible via phone, email or outbound calling.
  - iii) figures may include applications that have been received but are still being processed.
  - iv) the extent and impacts of the pandemic have varied widely across and within local authorities.

## **About the Data**

### **How the data is collected**

One month after the end of each quarter, Local Authorities are asked to submit an XML file containing the information as set out in the data specification.

The data specification for the Scottish Welfare Fund is available at:  
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15257/1529/swf-dataspec>

Guidance to help Local Authority officers to record information is available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/15257/1529/swf-data-guidance>

and guidance for Family Reunion Crisis Grants at: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-welfare-fund-family-reunion-crisis-grant-guidance/>

The data sent to Scottish Government each quarter should include all applications where an initial decision, Tier 1 review or Tier 2 review have been completed, plus any updates to previous cases (e.g. where information within a case has been revised, or a case has reached a different stage). To take account of delays between applications being received and decisions made, and retrospective changes in award values, the data cuts that are sent to Scottish Government each quarter should be sent at least a month after the end of the quarter that will be reported on.

This data is then uploaded to the Scottish Government's ProcXed<sup>6</sup> website. Once the data has been validated by our software, the data is passed over to the Scottish Government's Communities Analysis Division.

## Revisions

Each updated publication of statistics will include revisions to figures for previous quarters, with more recent quarters being subject to a greater degree of revision than more distant ones. There are several reasons for this:

(i) the cuts of data received by Scottish Government each quarter will include retrospective changes to past applications. For example, where the actual amount spent on an item was different to the amount initially awarded, this expenditure will be updated in the new data cut.

(ii) the cuts of data received by Scottish Government only include information about applications that have at least reached the stage of having an initial decision made. Some applications may therefore be received by the Local Authority in one quarter and decided in the next quarter. Scottish Government would only receive details about these applications in the next quarter's data cut, at which point the application will be added into the previous quarter's application statistics retrospectively.

(iii) Tier 1 and Tier 2 reviews can lead to changes in final outcome and final award amount. Where a case has been reviewed, expenditure is assigned to the quarter of the initial decision rather than the review date.

## Processing times

Initial Processing Time is the number of working days between the date all information was received and the initial decision. Our count of working days counts

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<sup>6</sup> [ProcXed.NET](#) is Scottish Government's on-line validation software that supports Local Authorities in collecting and validating data.

the number of Mondays to Fridays between these two dates. No allowance is made for local holidays and bank holidays. If the date all information was provided is missing, the application date is used instead.

## Households

We collect information on all people within each application. To group people into household units we filter the people table to contain only the main applicant and their partner. We ensure that there is no more than two people for each application. We generate a unique household reference based on the hashed National Insurance Number, gender and date of birth of the main applicant, and if applicable, their partner.

## Repeat applications and awards

An application is defined as a repeat application if the household made another Community Care Grant or Crisis Grant application within the 12 months of the current application. Similarly a repeat award occurs if an award was made within 12 months of the current award. While there is no limit on the number of Community Care Grants an individual can receive in any one year, Crisis Grants are normally limited to three in a rolling 12 month period.

## Data quality

To ensure the data we receive is of the highest quality, we have asked all IT providers to implement the data specification as fully as possible. The data specification includes a number of validations. These validations are provided through an XSD schema and have also been implemented into the ProcXed system. Once Local Authorities submit data to the ProcXed system, a number of validations are triggered and warning messages appear. Local Authorities may re-submit data to fix these errors or they can comment them to explain why they believe the data to be valid. On submission of the data to the Scottish Government, each Local Authority is sent a detailed automatic report showing the contents of the data and any remaining errors.

To ensure sufficient data has been submitted, we cross check all submitted data with the monthly management information submitted to the Scottish Government (**Chart 6, Chart 8**). The automatic reports sent to Local Authorities contain charts which allow them to easily see if there is a discrepancy between these two data sources.

Known data issues March to September 2020:

City of Edinburgh experienced a software issue in March 2020 that has caused some Crisis Grant awards and expenditure from March 2020 to be recorded in April 2020 in the quarterly data extract supplied to Scottish Government. Comparison of the quarterly data to monthly management information (**Table 45**) indicates that around 1,335 crisis awards and £141,000 associated expenditure made in March 2020 has been shifted into April 2020 in the quarterly data extract used to produce this publication. This means that in Edinburgh in Jan-Mar 2020 around 33% crisis

awards and 38% expenditure are missing, and in Apr-Jun 2020 around 17% of crisis awards and expenditure should have been recorded in the previous quarter. Scotland totals will also be affected. It is not currently possible to amend case details so that they appear against the correct month/quarter/financial year.

In March 2020, some COVID-19 related Crisis Grant applications received by Glasgow City were recorded as Community Care Grant applications in the quarterly data extract supplied to Scottish Government. Comparison to the monthly management information (**Tables 44 and 45**) supplied separately by the local authority indicates that in March 2020, around 1,000 applications, 400 awards and £60,000 associated expenditure has been recorded as Community Care Grants rather than Crisis Grants. However, this is difficult to quantify exactly due to ongoing and pre-existing discrepancies between the monthly management information and quarterly extract. These issues will also affect Scotland totals. From April 2020 onwards the issue of COVID related Crisis Grants being recorded as Community Care Grants appears to have been resolved.

In our previous publications we reported discrepancies between North Lanarkshire's management information and their quarterly data extract. There is still a discrepancy in the data for March 2020. Comparison to monthly management information (**Tables 45**) indicates that around 1,100 Crisis Grant applications, 880 awards and £73,000 associated expenditure are missing from the quarterly extract used to produce this publication. These issues will also affect Scotland totals. We are working with the council to identify the cause of this discrepancy. We have provisionally included the figures supplied by North Lanarkshire in their quarterly extract in this publication, however these figures may subsequently be revised if North Lanarkshire supply an updated extract which includes additional applications.

In our previous publication we reported that Crisis Grant applications, awards and expenditure were missing from West Lothian in Apr-Jun 2020. This has now been resolved.

Scotland level figures are affected by specific issues described for Edinburgh, Glasgow and North Lanarkshire. There may be additional issues with data quality related to COVID-19. For example, comparison of management information (**Tables 44 and 45**) and figures derived from quarterly data extracts indicates discrepancies in numbers of applications, awards and expenditure for several local authorities. In many cases, the quarterly extract included fewer Community Care Grants and/or Crisis Grants than the monthly figures. This could be due to delays in applications being processed, or awards being kept as 'pending' or 'in principle' on local authority systems until they can be delivered/installed etc. However, overall at Scotland level, the monthly management information and quarterly data extracts have similar figures for Community Care Grant applications (1% difference), a slightly larger discrepancy for Community Care Grant awards (-6% in the quarterly extract), but more similar Community Care Grant expenditure (0% in quarterly extract). At Scotland level, there is a slightly larger discrepancy in Crisis Grant applications (-4% in quarterly extract), but awards (-1% in quarterly data) and expenditure (-1% in quarterly data) are relatively similar. Any issues caused by



processing or delivery/installation delays should be resolved in future updates to the publication as more data extracts are received.

Missing information/delays in receiving information:

- An application is included in the quarterly data extract to the Scottish Government only when an application has been decided and when a payment has been made. For Crisis Grants, applications are less complex and payments are made quickly, resulting in almost no lag between cases being decided and being included in the data extract. However, for Community Care Grants, a large number of items may need to be ordered and payment may not occur until up to one month later, when invoices arrive. This results in a lag time between applications beginning in the Local Authority and applications being included in the extract to the Scottish Government. To rectify this problem, we are asking Local Authorities to submit data one to two months after the end of the quarter. This will ensure that, as far as possible, all relevant cases are included in the data extract.
- Some Local Authorities may not have been able to enter all of their data in time to include in this publication. Late entry of data may mean that this data appears in subsequent quarters, rather than in the quarter when the case was actually dealt with. As dates are automatically system generated, late entry of data has a knock on effect on any calculation which involves processing times or payment times.
- Some question responses may default to “Other” in some IT systems. This particularly applies for reasons for applications, rejections, reviews and review decisions. We are currently working with IT providers and Local Authorities to ensure that the full range of questions and responses are available in all Local Authority IT systems. Some questions may not be completed at all. This includes the vulnerability and referrals questions for some Local Authorities.

Expenditure:

- Unless otherwise stated, all expenditure information in this publication is based on the date of decision. As such it should be regarded as committed spend, rather than actual spend. For example, a Local Authority may commit to purchasing floor coverings for a household and set aside money for this (on the decision date). In practice, it may be some time later before the Local Authority is invoiced and pays the money to the supplier (on the payment date). Overall, there is very little difference between analysing expenditure information using payment dates as opposed to decision dates. Where a case has been reviewed, expenditure is assigned to the quarter of the initial decision rather than the review date. This means that if the initial decision took place in 2016/17 but a review decision is made in 2017/18, all of the expenditure for the case is counted in 2016/17.
- It is possible for the value of an award to increase or decrease between the decision and payment date. For example, Local Authorities may estimate the

cost of carpets and the final invoice for these may be less than originally thought. This results in money being paid back into their systems. Where we receive updated information about this change in expenditure in quarterly data returns, the statistics for previous quarters are updated to reflect this. We also receive separate reconciliations information from some Local Authorities. Over time, the expenditure data in the quarterly monitoring may exceed monies actually spent if reconciliations are not applied. Most recently, reconciliations have been applied to South Lanarkshire data from January to March 2018.

- West Lothian have indicated that the expenditure for 2013/14 is an underestimate. This appears to have been due to issues in setting up the IT system for this data collection at the start of the scheme in 2013. Information about expenditure was collected manually rather than through ProcXed and cannot now be updated. West Lothian have indicated that this has led to an ongoing underspend being calculated for the Local Authority. Additionally, other Local Authorities have indicated that the figures published for annual over- and underspend do not always match Local Authorities' own accounts.
- Where Scottish Government receive updated information about expenditure from Local Authorities, the statistics for previous quarters are updated to reflect this. However, Local Authorities have a cut-off point after the end of a financial year at which point they have to produce accounts. At this point, expenditure for the year is calculated, and over- or underspend is calculated. At this point the council meets the overspend, or rolls forward the underspend to the next financial year's budget. If there is a change in the value of an award after this date, this will not be reflected in Local Authority calculation of the available budget for the next financial year. Additionally, some Local Authorities may choose to top up the budget for the fund at the start of a financial year with additional funds.
- In previous publications, we have included funds provided by Local Authorities in the available budget, however for this version of the publication this funding has been removed from calculations. Available budget therefore only represents the amounts allocated by Scottish Government plus any underspend from previous years, and it is assumed that Local Authorities meet any overspend each year.
- Each year the discrepancies between these annual expenditure figures and Local Authorities' accounts are compounded. We are reviewing these differences and to realign our calculation of Local Authorities' over- or underspend.
- In our tables presenting the 2020/21 funding allocations and total budgets including underspend, the amount allocated in 2020/21 to date includes the initial SWF allocation for the year (£35.5 million) and an additional COVID-19 allocation (£22.0 million). The COVID-19 allocation was actually distributed in March 2020, prior to the start of the 2020/21 financial year. It is possible that some local authorities began spending this allocation prior to 2020/21, however, information on this is currently unavailable and in our tables we have assumed that COVID-19 funding has only been spent during 2020/21.

## Joint Community Care Grant and Crisis Grant applications:

- Households can apply for both Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants in the same application. In versions of the publication covering the period up to December 2017, total applications reported were the total number of applications recorded on Local Authority IT systems. In some Local Authorities, these applications in some cases will include both a Community Care Grant and a Crisis Grant element. However, some Local Authorities now have a facility to split a single application into the Community Care Grant and Crisis Grant elements, and treat these as two separate applications. Where Local Authorities have used this facility on their IT system, Scottish government would receive this as two separate applications, with no information about whether they had originally been made together as one application. Because of this, we have changed the methodology for how total applications to Scottish Welfare Fund are reported, from the 2017/18 publication onwards. For all Local Authorities, we now report the number of Community Care Grants and number of Crisis Grant applications added together. Therefore, joint applications for Community Care Grants and Crisis Grants will now be counted in the figures as two applications. This makes the figures for total Scottish Welfare Fund applications consistent across all the Local Authorities. In addition to the issue described above, Local Authorities have informed us that on some occasions, applicants may tick boxes on their application forms to apply for both a Community Care Grant and a Crisis Grant, but based on the types of item that have been requested, the Local Authority may process this application as only a Community Care Grant (e.g. if only flooring requested) or only a Crisis Grant (e.g. if only food requested). In these cases, the statistics in this publication reflect the way in which an application has been processed by the Local Authority, rather than the original tick boxes selected by an applicant.

## Payment Methods:

- An error in data processing was discovered in regard to the Payment Method categories of 'Cash alternative' and 'Payment into bank'. This error has now been fixed and the time series has been revised to reflect this update.

## Reviews:

- Orkney are unable to supply Tier 1 review information via the ProcXed system. Orkney have supplied full details about all reviews carried out separately, however numbers are small.
- East Ayrshire were unable to submit data on Tier 1 reviews via the ProcXed system until July 2018, but were able to supply summary information about numbers of review applications and decisions separately for 2014 onwards, which is included in the publication tables. This accounts for a further 2% Community Care Grants and less than 1% Crisis Grants where it is unknown if reviews were made within target times. From July 2018 onwards, East Ayrshire have supplied full review information via ProcXed.

Improvements:

- We are working with Local Authorities to make the data more consistent across data fields and Local Authorities. We are reviewing how Local Authorities interpret the guidance and record information and also identifying issues that are due differences in IT systems.

### **Comparisons with other UK Statistics**

Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the Social Fund for the period prior to 1 April 2013 are available from the Department for Work and Pensions. The most recently available report can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/annual-report-by-the-secretary-of-state-for-work-and-pensions-on-the-social-fund-2012-to-2013>

On 1 April 2013, the Department for Work and Pensions devolved the responsibility for Community Care Grants and Crisis Loans to the Scottish Government, the Welsh Government and directly to English Local Authorities.

As a single national scheme covering the UK is no longer in operation, comparable statistics for other parts of the UK are not available.

## **An Official Statistics publication for Scotland**

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e-mail: [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk)

### **How to access background or source data**

The data collected for this statistical bulletin:

are available in more detail through [statistics.gov.scot](http://statistics.gov.scot)

are available via an alternative route. Summary tables are available at:

<https://www.gov.scot/collections/sg-social-security-scotland-stats-publications/#scottishwelfarefundstatistics>  may be made available on request, subject to consideration of legal and ethical factors. Please contact [SocialSecurityStats@gov.scot](mailto:SocialSecurityStats@gov.scot) for further information.

cannot be made available by Scottish Government for further analysis as Scottish Government is not the data controller.

### **Complaints and suggestions**

If you are not satisfied with our service or have any comments or suggestions, please write to the Chief Statistician, 3WR, St Andrews House, Edinburgh, EH1 3DG, Telephone: (0131) 244 0302, e-mail [statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:statistics.enquiries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

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Details of forthcoming publications can be found at [www.gov.scot/statistics](http://www.gov.scot/statistics)

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