

For letting agents

CRISIS

Help to Rent Edinburgh

**You're key agents
in Edinburgh's
plan to end
homelessness**



**Together
we will end
homelessness**

Edinburgh's booming. But people who find themselves homeless don't often share in the city's success. They can spend over a year in temporary accommodation, often Bed and Breakfasts and hostels, or sofa-surfing. They're frequently in, or trying to find, work. But without a stable base, it's hard to hold down a job.

We don't need to tell you how far the odds are stacked against people who are homeless in the city's buoyant housing market.

Your agency can help change those odds. Because as a letting agent, you're a trusted broker for your landlords: the people with the keys to end homelessness.

Help to Rent Edinburgh is a new service, commissioned by City of Edinburgh Council and run by Crisis, to help people who are homeless find a privately rented home.

At Crisis, we know Edinburgh's rents are often unaffordable for people on lower incomes. But we also know that by looking

hard and acting quickly, it's still possible to find an affordable property in the city. Help to Rent aims to maximise the opportunities for our clients to access those properties, by breaking down some of the barriers they face right now.

We know private landlords are a diverse group. For some, housing a tenant seeking a long-term home, who has access to bespoke advice and support from a reliable service, on top of any support provided by the agency, might appeal.

Other landlords may be interested in the opportunity to use their property for social good, and transform someone's life. Perhaps landlords with a larger portfolio would be considering offering just one property: a let with a feel-good factor?

What we offer

- prospective tenants in urgent housing need, who've been assessed by the Council and by Crisis as able to afford and manage a private tenancy, and have had advice and training on tenancy responsibilities
- a legal deposit guarantee (to the same value as a cash deposit), covering damage, loss and arrears, for up to two years from tenancy start. This offers landlords exactly the same protection as a cash deposit, without the need to use a Tenancy Deposit Scheme
- first month's rent in advance, paid quickly
- a dedicated staff member for letting agents and landlords

- to help with start and end of tenancy processes, issues arising through the tenancy, and to act on your feedback
- a separate support officer for tenants, to help with changes of circumstances, budgeting, benefits issues, support needs and any problems
- a quick, fair claims process, should a tenancy end with damages, loss or arrears
- a guarantee that by working with us, you're improving the odds for people who are homeless in Edinburgh's housing market: every property makes a difference!

All we ask of you

- that you're willing to approach a landlord with potentially suitable property to explain and "market" the deposit guarantee (or "bond") to them
- that you let your landlords know about our service and how they can help
- that you're open to exploring ways to break down barriers for our clients that also work for you and your landlords.

Have we caught your interest?

Our Landlord Liaison Officer would love to talk to you. If you'd like to work with us but don't think what we're offering meets your or your landlords' current needs or situation, we'd still like to chat.

This doesn't commit you to anything. But it does help us to better understand what letting agencies and landlords want, or need.

If you're a letting agent and you're concerned about homelessness, please get in touch.

Help to Rent Edinburgh

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