

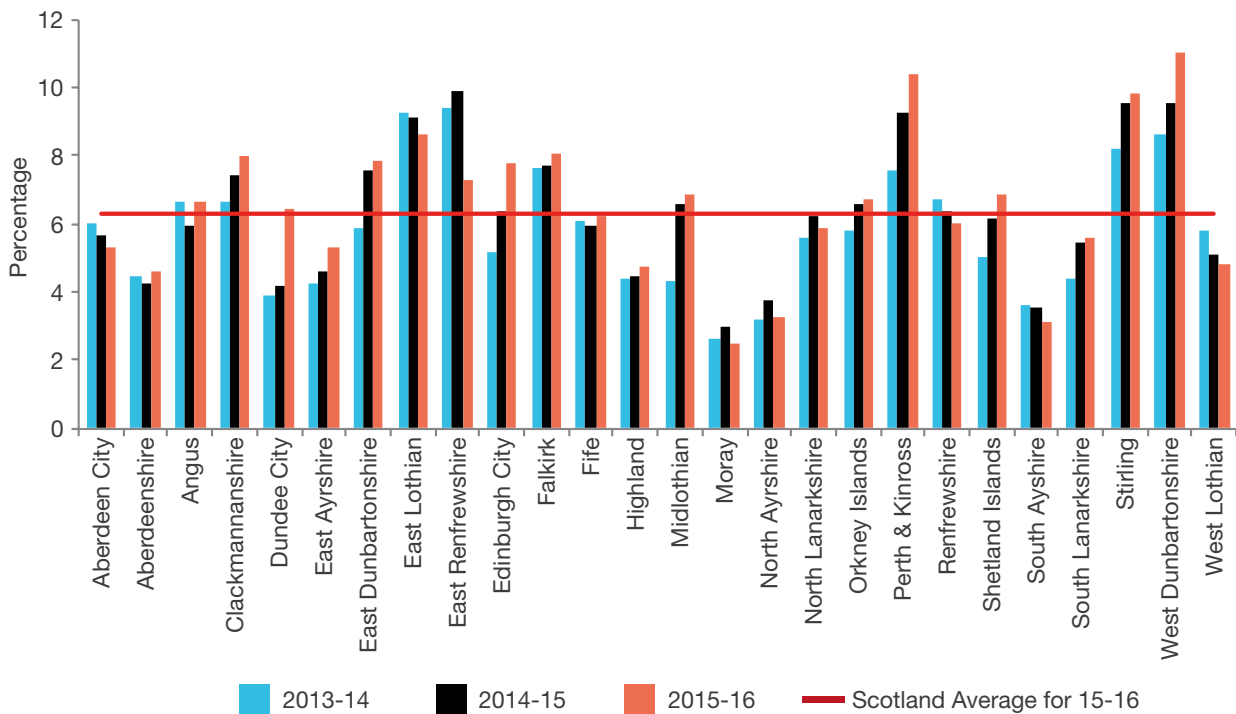
Housing

The housing information within the benchmarking framework covers housing management, housing conditions and energy efficiency. Only those councils who have responsibility for the provision of housing services are included here.

The average Scottish tenants' arrears as a percentage of net rent due has increased year-on-year from 5.6% in 2013/14 to 6.2% in 2015/16. As with Council Tax payments, evidence is emerging that the roll-out of Universal Credit is a significant detrimental factor. In 2013/14, the definition and methodology for this measure changed, therefore it is not possible to provide a direct comparison with previous years

In 2015/16, the percentage of arrears range from 2.4% to 11.0% across councils however analysis indicates variation is not systematically related to levels of deprivation, rurality or size of authority area.

Gross Rent Arrears as a Percentage of Rent Due



Source: Annual Return on the Charter (ARC), Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)

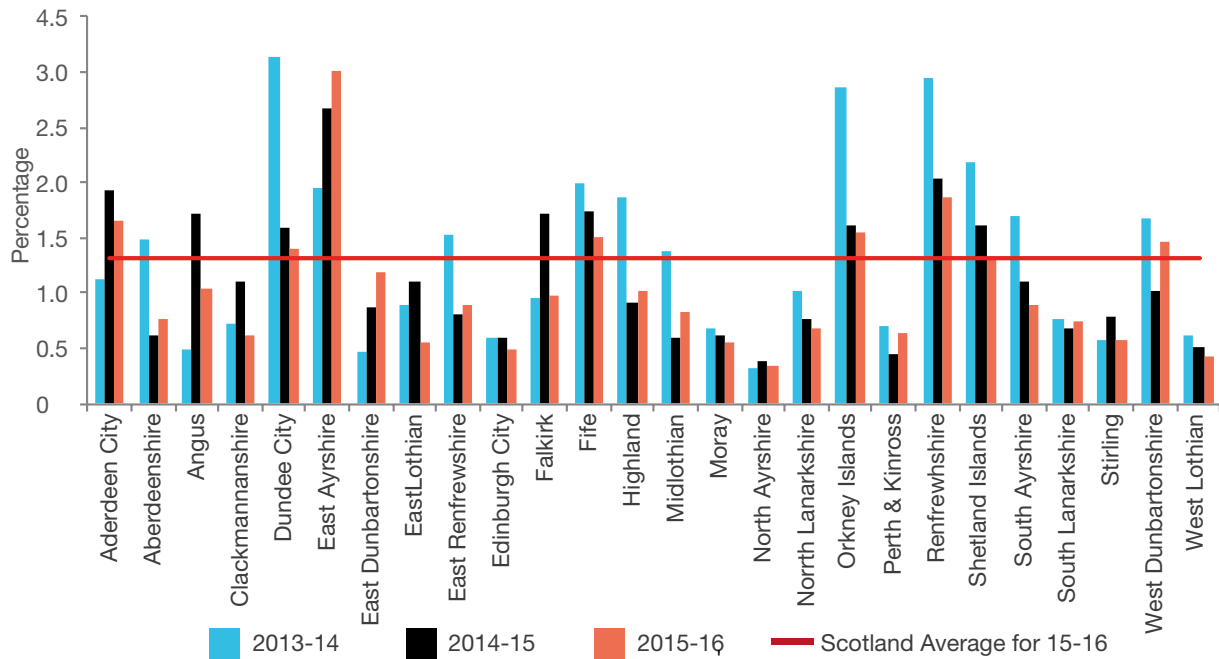
Note: Missing values represent the six councils who do not provide housing services following transfer to Registered Social Landlords



East Lothian - East Lothian Council Revenues Team established several actions to address the issue of housing rent arrears recognising levels were higher than in other similar councils. Benchmarking exercises were undertaken by the council's Revenues Team via the Scottish Rent Forum, through the use of a Housing Quality Network Health Check and the reporting of benchmarking data regarding rent arrears to the council's Policy & Performance Review Committee which helped to raise the profile of the issue within East Lothian. This has resulted in a reduction in arrears year on year since 2013/14.

Meanwhile, the rent lost due to voids has reduced from 1.3% to 1.1% since 2010/11. Again, figures vary across authorities, from 0.3% to 3.0%, however the level of variation has reduced since the base year. Neither the urban/rural nature of the council nor the size have a systematic impact here. Overall, these figures suggest the councils continue to manage their stock well in the face of mounting pressures.

Rent Lost Due to Voids



Source: Annual Return on the Charter (ARC), Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)

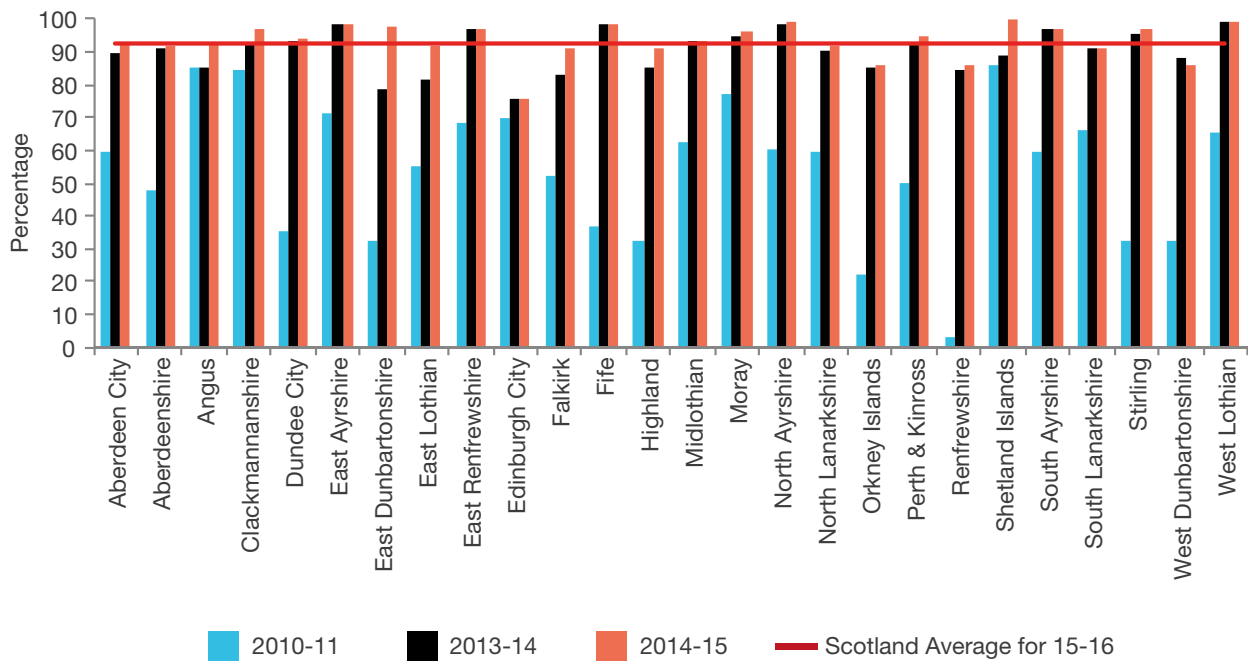
In terms of housing quality, there have been significant improvements over the past six years in terms of dwellings meeting Scottish Housing Quality Standards (SHQS) and energy efficiency standards²⁴. In 2015/16, 92.5% of council dwellings met the SHQS, an increase of 39 percentage points from 2010/11. The range across councils varies significantly from 75.7% to 99.9%, although this range has narrowed since 2010/11.

Year	% council dwellings meeting SHQS	Percentage of council dwellings that are energy efficient
2010/11	53.6	74.9
2011/12	66.1	81.2
2012/13	76.6	88.8
2013/14	83.7	94.0
2014/15	90.4	96.5
2015/16	92.5	96.2

In 2015/16, 96.2% of council dwellings were energy efficient, an increase from 74.9% in 2010/11. Councils range from 82.0% to 100% with rural councils on average reporting lower levels of energy efficiency.

²⁴ % of properties at or above the appropriate NHER (National Home Energy Rating) or SAP (Standard Assessment Procedure) ratings

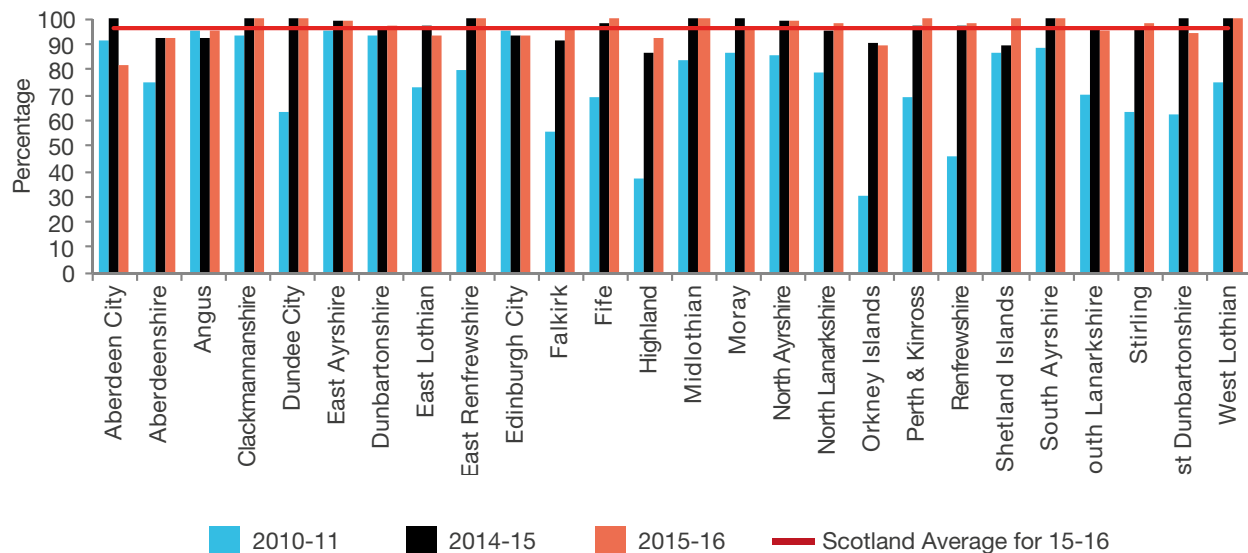
Percentage of Dwellings Meeting SHQS



Source: Annual Return on the Charter (ARC), Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)

Note: Missing values represent the six councils who do not provide housing services

Percentage of Council Dwellings that are Energy Efficient



Source: Annual Return on the Charter (ARC), Scottish Housing Regulator (SHR)

It is important to note that the sources used within this publication are not based on the Scottish Government data sources (Housing Revenue Account statistics and Scottish Housing Condition Survey) rather they are based on data collected by the Scottish Housing Regulator. There will be differences between the two sets of data. For example, the data published here reports only on council provision rather than provision by all registered social landlords. Additionally, there are differences in the SHQS methodology between SHR and SHCS