

## Media Release

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# **A8 migrants workers and their experience of homelessness in Scotland**

A report published today by the *Scottish Council for Single Homeless* looks at the growing numbers of European migrant workers who become homeless.

Migrant workers from the A8<sup>2</sup> countries are making a significant contribution to the Scottish economy. However, they can be vulnerable to homelessness and can have difficulty in accessing appropriate services. Their status as migrants can also make it complex for local authorities, and other service providers, to respond effectively to their needs.

The *Scottish Council for Single Homeless* responded to concerns expressed by its members, including local authorities, and surveyed Scotland's local authorities to establish how they were addressing the needs of homeless A8 migrants. The survey sought to quantify the level of demand for services and identify any other specific issues.

Robert Aldridge, SCSH Director, said :

*'Our report shows that A8 migrants are often in precarious housing conditions, where their house is tied to their job. If you lose your job you can lose your home. If they do become homeless there is a confusing and complicated set of regulations which determine whether they can get all the help they need.'*

A law passed in 2003 means that every unintentionally homeless person will have a right to a home by 2012<sup>3</sup>.

*continued*

Robert Aldridge, SCSH Director, said :

*‘ Scotland’s local authorities are working well to meet the challenges that this target presents. Migrants are a new factor which, whilst manageable, needs to be addressed. The report makes a series of recommendations for the Scottish Executive, Department for Work & Pensions, local authorities and others and calls for further research.’*

The final report– **Homeless A8 migrant workers – the Scottish experience** – is available from *Scottish Council for Single Homeless* – cost £12.50.

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### Further information from :

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### Notes

- 1 Scottish Council for Single Homeless [SCSH] is the national membership body for organisations and individuals tackling homelessness in Scotland. Our purpose is to work in the best interests of homeless people through the prevention and resolution of homelessness.

SCSH has a broad membership including individual, representative and subscription paying members. These include a wide range of frontline services and projects for homeless people, local authorities, voluntary organisations, registered social landlords, health bodies, health and homelessness workers, academics and individuals.

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- 2 The A8 states, who joined the European Union on 1 May 2004, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.
- 3 The Homeless etc (Scotland) Act 2003.