

Cost of Living

Heating and housing costs

Some individuals and households are unable heat their homes for a number of different reasons. We are asking these questions to help give us more information about heating and the choices people make.

1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources: *(Please tick one box in each row)*

	Yes	No	Don't know
You were worried you would not be able to heat your home?	☐	☐	☐
You were worried about having to choose between heating your home or eating?	☐	☐	☐
You could only afford to either to heat your home or feed yourself/your family?	☐	☐	☐
You had to go without heating for more than one day?	☐	☐	☐
You had to go without heating for one week or more?	☐	☐	☐
You have had to seek support for paying for heating?	☐	☐	☐
Paying for heating has meant that you have had to miss out on other activities?	☐	☐	☐
Paying for heating has meant that you have gone into arrears e.g. rent, Council tax?	☐	☐	☐

2. Do you know of support available locally to help you with heating your home? *(Please tick one box.)*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If you would like to, please use the box below to comment on your answer:

3. The following statements relate to housing costs. *(For each statement, please tick one box in each row.)*

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable
My housing costs are having a major impact on our family budget	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel that interest rates are too high	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel that rents are too high	☐	☐	☐	☐

4. Do you know of support available locally to help you with your finances? *(Please tick one box.)*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If you would like to, please use the box below to comment on your answer:

Access to food

Some individuals and households are unable to obtain healthy or nutritious food for a number of different reasons. We are asking these questions to help give us more information about access to food and the choices people make.

1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when, because of lack of money or other resources: *(Please tick one box in each row)*

	Yes	No	Don't know
You were worried you would not have enough food to eat?	☐	☐	☐
You were unable to eat healthy and nutritious food?	☐	☐	☐
You ate only a few kinds of food?	☐	☐	☐
You had to skip a meal?	☐	☐	☐
You ate less than you thought you should?	☐	☐	☐
Your household ran out of food?	☐	☐	☐
You were hungry but did not eat?	☐	☐	☐
You went without eating for a whole day?	☐	☐	☐

2. Are you aware of what is available in your community to support you to eat well (for example food banks or food pantries)? *(Please tick one box.)*

- ☐ Yes
☐ No

If you would like to, please use the box below to comment on your answer:

Real Living Wage

The Living Wage movement in the UK is made up of businesses and people that campaign for the idea that a hard day's work deserves a fair day's pay. Employers can choose to pay the real Living Wage, which is higher than legal minimum wage rates. Answering the following questions will assist us to understand how we can support more workers in Aberdeen to earn the real Living Wage.

1. During the last 12 months, was there a time when your wages/income did not cover your weekly/monthly outgoings? *(Please tick one box.)*
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Not applicable

2. Are you aware of the Real Living Wage set by the Living Wage Foundation? *(Please tick one box.)*
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

3. What do you think the current Real Living Wage rate is? *(Please tick one box.)*
 - ☐ £10.42 per hour
 - ☐ £10.90 per hour
 - ☐ £11.44 per hour
 - ☐ £12.00 per hour
 - ☐ Don't know

4. Are you being paid at least the Real Living Wage in your current role? *(Please tick one box.)*
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Not applicable

5. Are you aware if your employer is an accredited Living Wage employer? *(Please tick one box.)*
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Don't know
 - ☐ Not applicable

6. Are you aware of the work to Make Aberdeen a Living Wage City? *(Please tick one box.)*

☐ Yes

☐ No

7. If you answered 'yes' to the question above, please use the box below to let us know how you are aware of this work.

Security and Work

Job security gives people a sense of knowing that their job is safe and that they will be able to work in their current employment for the foreseeable future. A lack of job security can result in people feeling anxious and fearful. We would like to know how secure people in Aberdeen feel in their employment.

1. Are you currently in paid employment?

☐ Yes *(please go to Question 2 below)*

☐ No *(please go to the next page)*

2. The following statements relate to your employment. *(For each statement, please tick one box in each row.)*

	Yes	No	Don't know	Not applicable
I have a regular work contract with mainly set hours and pay	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have a flexible work contract with variable hours and pay	☐	☐	☐	☐
My flexible work pattern is at my request to fit with my commitments	☐	☐	☐	☐
I feel that I have a good work/life balance	☐	☐	☐	☐
My work hours are dependent on my employer's needs	☐	☐	☐	☐
I often have changes to my work pattern at short notice	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have to be available for work at times when I may not be needed	☐	☐	☐	☐
My work pattern regularly affects my social and family commitments	☐	☐	☐	☐
I have difficulty predicting how much I will earn each month	☐	☐	☐	☐

Homelessness

The next set of questions are about housing and homelessness in your local area and nationally. We are asking these questions to give us more information on levels of awareness and understanding of homelessness, its causes and potential solutions.

1. Here is a list of issues facing the country these days. Please indicate how serious a problem, if at all, you think each one is. *(Please tick one box in each row.)*

	Very serious problem	Fairly serious problem	Not a very serious problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know
The affordability of housing to buy or rent	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Poverty	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Unemployment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Levels of crime	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Levels of homelessness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Cost of living	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

2. Thinking about homelessness, how serious a problem, if at all, do you think it is in the following areas? (Please tick one box in each row.)

	Very serious problem	Fairly serious problem	Not a very serious problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know
In the UK as a whole	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Aberdeen City	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In the area where you live – that is within about 15-20 minutes' walk away	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Do you think that homelessness has got better, got worse or has it stayed the same over the past 12 months? *(Please tick one box in each row.)*

[illegible]

4. Now thinking about the next 12 months, do you think homelessness will increase or decrease or stay the same? *(Please tick one box in each row.)*

	Increase a lot	Increase a little	Stay the same	Decrease a little	Decrease a lot	Don't know
In the UK as a whole	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Aberdeen City	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In the area where you live – that is within about 15-20 minutes' walk away	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

5. Here are some statements about homelessness in the UK. For each one we would like you to tell us whether you think it is true or false or whether you don't know. *(Please tick one box in each row.)*

	Statement is True	Statement is False	Don't know
More people are experiencing homelessness in the UK compared to 12 months ago	☐	☐	☐
The UK has one of the highest rates of homelessness among richer countries	☐	☐	☐
In the UK, there are more people experiencing street homelessness than other groups e.g. people who are sleeping temporarily in friends' houses, squatting, staying at hostels, etc.	☐	☐	☐
Most homeless people living on the streets have been doing that for less than 6 months	☐	☐	☐
Most people who are experiencing homelessness have been homeless before	☐	☐	☐

6. Thinking about 'hidden homelessness' e.g. people who are sleeping temporarily in friends and family's houses, squatting etc. , how serious a problem, if at all, do you think it is in the following areas? *(Please tick one box in each row.)*

	Very serious problem	Fairly serious problem	Not a very serious problem	Not a problem at all	Don't know
In the UK as a whole	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Scotland	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In Aberdeen City	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
In the area where you live – that is within about 15-20 minutes' walk away	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

8. Which, if any of these things, do you think are the causes of why people are homeless?
(Please tick all that apply.)

- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Lack of opportunity/inequality
- ☐ The shortage of affordable housing to rent or buy
- ☐ Lack of targeted evidence-based interventions to address the issue
- ☐ Alcohol or drug problems
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Low wages
- ☐ Relationships breaking down
- ☐ Personal choice
- ☐ Domestic and other types of abuse
- ☐ Discrimination because of, for example, ethnicity, gender or some other reason
- ☐ Welfare state/benefits system not good enough
- ☐ Mental or physical health problems
- ☐ Lack of interest from national and local politicians
- ☐ Not enough funding of programmes and policies to address homelessness
- ☐ Poor quality services to help people in housing difficulty
- ☐ Lack of support for people leaving hospital, prison, the care system or the armed forces
- ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)
- ☐ No reason in particular
- ☐ Don't know

Other please specify:

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9. Which, if any of these, do you think are the **3 MAIN** causes of why people are homeless? *(Please tick a maximum of 3 boxes.)*

- ☐ Poverty
- ☐ Lack of opportunity/inequality
- ☐ The shortage of affordable housing to rent or buy
- ☐ Lack of targeted evidence-based interventions to address the issue
- ☐ Alcohol or drug problems
- ☐ Unemployment
- ☐ Low wages
- ☐ Relationships breaking down
- ☐ Personal choice
- ☐ Domestic and other types of abuse
- ☐ Discrimination because of, for example, ethnicity, gender or some other reason
- ☐ Welfare state/benefits system not good enough
- ☐ Mental or physical health problems
- ☐ Lack of interest from national and local politicians
- ☐ Not enough funding of programmes and policies to address homelessness
- ☐ Poor quality services to help people in housing difficulty
- ☐ Lack of support for people leaving hospital, prison, the care system or the armed forces
- ☐ Other (please specify in the box below)
- ☐ Don't know

Other please specify:

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10. In principle, to what extent do you support or oppose the following? (Please tick one box in each row.)

[illegible]

- 11.** Here is another list of actions people have suggested to do something about homelessness in the UK. To what extent do you support or oppose these? *(Please tick one box in each row.)*

	Strongly support	Tend to support	Neither support nor oppose	Tend to oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know
Offering incentives to private landlords who are willing to rent their properties to people who are homeless	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Improve legal rights and support for tenants so they don't have to move out of accommodation at short notice	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing one-off payments for people at risk to prevent homelessness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Making sure all people who were previously homeless receive financial support even if they are not in work, to help them avoid homelessness	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing paid jobs to people who are homeless	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing unpaid work opportunities to people who are homeless	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing support such as training to people who are homeless and in work to help them remain in employment	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Providing better support for people leaving prison to prevent homelessness and reoffending	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

- 12.** Have you or someone close to you such as a partner, family member or a good friend ever experienced homelessness? *(Please tick all that apply.)*

- ☐ Yes - have myself
- ☐ Yes – partner/family member
- ☐ Yes – good friend
- ☐ None of these
- ☐ Don't know
- ☐ Prefer not to say

Thank you!

Please return your completed questionnaire in the prepaid envelope provided. If you have not received an envelope, please return it to the Freepost address below (no stamp required):

Freepost RUBB-UERY-YHYE
Aberdeen City Voice
Mariscal College
Broad Street
Aberdeen
AB10 1AB

Alternatively, if you would like to complete an online version of this questionnaire, please contact:
cityvoice@aberdeencity.gov.uk

To notify us of any changes to your contact details, please email:
cityvoice@aberdeencity.gov.uk

Your Information, Your Rights

You've got legal rights about the way the Council handles and uses your data, which include the right to ask for a copy of it, to correct it, to delete it and to ask us to stop doing something with your data. Please contact the Council's Data Protection Officer by e-mail at dataprotectionofficer@aberdeencity.gov.uk or in writing at The Data Protection Officer, Legal and Democratic Services, Level 1 South, Marischal College, Aberdeen, AB10 1AU.

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