

64417 Emergency accommodation at Margaret Thomson Crescent

I am writing regarding the apparent use of flats within 5 Margaret Thomson Crescent for emergency accommodation. I understand that 7 of the 10 flats in the stairwell are going to be used for emergency accommodation, representing 70% of the properties within a single residential stairwell. I would be grateful if you could provide me with the following information:

How many properties within the stairwell are being used or are intended to be used as emergency/temporary accommodation?

The exact type of emergency accommodation that will be provided and to whom?

We will not disclose information of any properties used as Council housing as these are a person's primary residence and we consider this to be their personal information. These households have no expectation that details of their accommodation will be placed in the public realm, and we must protect the relative anonymity and safety of these households.

Who owns these properties and what arrangement the Council has with the owners?

All properties noted are owned by the City of Edinburgh Council.

Whether this arrangement is temporary and, if so, its expected duration. What management, supervision, security and safeguarding arrangements will be in place?

Whether there will be any on-site support or a designated contact for residents experiencing concerns?

In general, the placement of temporary accommodation within communities is reviewed periodically. The duration of use is not fixed and may continue indefinitely. All Council-owned temporary accommodation is managed by Council Housing Officers who will be responsible for ensuring the safety and security of our tenants, as well as ensuring common/shared areas of the building are properly maintained (in partnership with any other owner occupiers).

What assessment the Council has made of the impact on existing private homeowners and residents?

What assessment has been made of the effect of having 70% of the properties in one stairwell used for emergency accommodation?

As above, we cannot provide further information regarding these specific properties. However, general guidance is provided directly above.

Whether residents and private owners were consulted before this decision was made?

As above, we cannot provide further information regarding these specific properties. However, existing residents are not generally consulted when the Council purchases properties on the open market, unless such a purchase and subsequent use is subject to a formal planning process.

The name and contact details of the officer responsible for this arrangement?

No specific officer is responsible for this arrangement.

Whether there is a formal decision, planning application, licensing matter, landlord registration, HMO or other documentation relating to the proposed use of these properties?

Generally, the purchase of self-contained properties from the open market and their subsequent use as dwellings for households does not require any planning oversight or input from Licensing colleagues.

Whether there is a formal process through which private homeowners can raise objections or concerns about the concentration of emergency accommodation?

Members of the public can [raise concerns, make complaints and submit comments on the Council's website](#).

The expected average tenancy for those housed in this accommodation.

As above, we cannot provide further information regarding these specific properties. However, the average length of stay (in days) in temporary accommodation is broken down as follows:

Household Type	Number of cases	Total Time in temporary accommodation	Average time in temporary accommodation
Single Person	1,187	458,029	385.9
Single - Parent	193	144,194	747.1
Couple - No Children	59	17,917	3,037
Couple - with Children	72	46,710	648.8
Other - No Children	37	24,394	659.3
Other • With Children	37	44,021	1,189.80