

# [Local authorities neglecting property maintenance](#)

- [Home](#)
- [All News](#)
- Local authorities neglecting property maintenance

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Figures obtained by the Scottish Conservatives have highlighted that many local councils are not using the powers they have to ensure properties are kept in a safe and habitable state.

The figures show that, this year only 6 Councils have used Section 30 work notices in order to make essential repairs and only 1 has used a section 42 Maintenance order.

In 2012, 12 councils used the section 30 work notices, and none used the section 42 Maintenance Orders.

The last Scottish Housing Conditions Survey showed that 8% of pre 1919 built dwellings are in “critical, urgent and extensive disrepair” increasing from 5% in 2014, to 8% in 2015.

As a result of these findings, Scottish Conservative Housing Spokesman, Graham Simpson, has written to all local councils to find out why they aren't using these measures.

Graham Simpson commented:

“The Scottish Government has neglected housing maintenance for a decade, which is only storing up problems for the future.

“80% of our housing stock will still be in use in 2050 so it is vital it is well maintained to ensure people are safe and warm and not faced with costly and preventable repairs in years to come.

“The statistics show that 8% of our homes are in need of urgent repair so I am extremely concerned that people may already be living in dangerous and unfit accommodation.

“Councils have some powers but are not using them to any great extent. I have written to all local authorities to find out why this is.

“The Scottish Conservatives are examining ways in which the situation across the country can be improved and whether new legislation is required.”