

HOMELESSNESS ETC. (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003

EXPLANATORY NOTES

HOMELESSNESS: PRIORITY NEED FOR ACCOMMODATION

Section 3: Statement on abolition of priority need test

6. This section requires the Scottish Ministers to publish a statement setting out an action plan for the abolition of the priority need test. Under *subsection (1)* the statement must be published by 31st December 2005 and must cover past, current and future action by Ministers and local authorities which contributes towards allowing local authorities to perform their homelessness duties without distinguishing between applicants on the basis of priority need. *Subsection (2)* requires that the statement include a target date, not later than 31st December 2012, for achieving the removal of priority need and also requires the statement to incorporate interim objectives which may, under *subsection (3)*, include proposals to expand the definition in section 25 of the 1987 Act of those having a priority need for accommodation. *Subsection (4)* requires Ministers to keep the statement under review and allows for modification; *subsection (5)* requires Ministers to have regard to local housing and homelessness strategies prepared under the 2001 Act in the initial preparation of the statement and when modifying it; and *subsection (6)* deals with the consultation arrangements.