

## Right to Buy in Pressured Areas

### Frequently Asked Questions – Updated 16<sup>th</sup> March 2016

#### What is pressured area status?

The purpose of pressured area status is to protect the amount of affordable rented housing in a Council area to make sure that there are enough houses for people who need them.

The Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 gave Scottish Ministers the power to grant any part of a local authority area as 'pressured'. This means that the Right to Buy (RTB) is suspended in these areas for new tenants for a period of up to five years.

#### Which areas were given pressured area status in South Ayrshire?

The following areas were designated for pressured area status in South Ayrshire:

<b>Ayr North</b>	<b>Ayr South</b>	<b>Annbank</b>	<b>Prestwick</b>
Annpit	Ayr Rural	<b>Crosshill</b>	Eastfield
Craigie	Central	<b>Dunure</b>	East Road
Heathfield	Belmont Old	<b>Kirkmichael</b>	Glenburn
Newton Green	Belmont South	<b>Maidens</b>	Marchburn
Woodfield	Forehill/Glencairn/ Holmston	<b>Barr</b>	Monkton
	Kincaidston	<b>Barrhill</b>	Moorfield
		<b>Colmonell</b>	Mossbank
		<b>Pinmore</b>	Prestwick
			Central
			Prestwick Toll

#### When did pressured area status begin?

Pressured area status began on 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011.

#### How long will pressured area status last?

Pressured area status will last for five years from 24<sup>th</sup> June 2011. **South Ayrshire Council has agreed to extend pressured area status from 24<sup>th</sup> June 2016 until 1<sup>st</sup> August 2016 when the Right to Buy ends for all social housing tenants in Scotland.**

**Tenants who are currently suspended from the Right to Buy because they live in a pressured area will no longer be able to purchase their Council house.**

#### I currently live in an area that has been identified as a pressured area. Can I still buy my council house?

Yes. As long as you were living in your current house as the tenant before 30 September 2002, your rights stay the same and you can apply to buy your home.

#### I currently live in an area that has been identified as a pressured area, but I have only been living there or become the tenant there after 30 September 2002. Can I still buy my council house?

If your tenancy began after 30 September 2002, you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I don't currently live in a pressured area, but I am looking for a transfer of tenancy into a pressured area. Will I still be able to buy my council house?**

If you transfer into a pressured area, you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I currently live in a pressured area and I am looking for a transfer of tenancy to a different pressured area. What happens then?**

If you currently live in a pressured area, and move to a different pressured area, you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I have been living in a council house in a pressured area from before 30 September 2002, but I have only recently succeeded to the tenancy. Can I buy my council house?**

If you have become a tenant in a pressured area after 30 September 2002 but before the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 through succeeding to the tenancy of your spouse or partner, you will be subject to the modernised right to buy and therefore you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I am about to apply to become a joint tenant with someone who is currently a tenant in a pressured area. Can we still buy our council house?**

Yes. As long as the person whose tenancy you are joining has been living in the house since before 30 September 2002. If both tenancies began after 30 September 2002 you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I am moving into a pressured area through a mutual exchange with another tenant. Can I still buy my council house?**

If you move into a pressured area through a mutual exchange, you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I live in a pressured area and I have been assigned the tenancy of the house I am living in. Can I buy my council house?**

If you become a tenant after 30 September 2002 you will not be able to buy your council house.

**I live in a tied house in a pressured area. Are my rights affected?**

No. If you live in a tied house, you do not have the right to buy your home even if you do not live in a pressured area.

**I live in sheltered housing in a pressured area. Are my rights affected?**

No. If you live in a sheltered house you do not have the right to buy your home even if you do not live in a pressured area.