

St  
Martin  
in  
the  
Fields

Charity

# Vicar's Relief Fund

Impact  
Report

2019/20



**St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity helps people who are experiencing, or at risk of becoming homeless. We are best known for our annual BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal with St Martin-in-the-Fields. The money we raise directly supports people through The Connection at St Martin-in-the-Fields and across the UK through the Vicar's Relief Fund (VRF) and the Frontline Network.**

**The VRF helps people experiencing homelessness through small, quick grants that prevent eviction or help people access accommodation. We award grants of up to £350, and we usually process grant requests in 1-3 days. We give grants to people across the UK through frontline workers.**





As *[our client]* was due to move in, the council reversed its decision to pay rent in advance and he was facing instant eviction onto the streets again. The Vicar's Relief grant saved the day, allowing him to have the property. Since moving in, he has been engaging successfully with alcohol and gambling addiction services and has been able to have full access to his little son. These factors have been crucial in improving his mental health significantly.

Tenancy Support Officer, Wales



# Our year in numbers

Awarded  
**5,498**  
grants

44% increase  
on last year



Helping  
**8,760**  
people

46% increase  
on last year



Accessing  
accommodation

**4,061**

Grants given to individuals and families

Preventing  
eviction

**1,437**



Maximum  
grant amount

**£350**

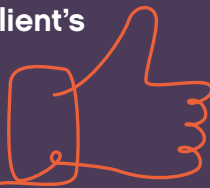
Total value of all the  
grants given in 2019-20

**£1,586,471**



Support workers who  
applied on their client's  
behalf and were  
awarded grants

**1,942**



Average grant decision  
turnaround time

**2.5**



**WORKING DAYS**

# Breakdown of grants

## Accessing accommodation



**3,350** Moving into new accommodation

**398** ID to access accommodation

**199** Clearing rent arrears to access social housing

**48** Removal costs

**36** A fee towards a DRO or bankruptcy application to access accommodation

**30** Emergency accommodation whilst waiting for secure accommodation to be ready

## Preventing eviction

Rent arrears

**1,043**

Fee towards a DRO or bankruptcy application

**144**

Service charge arrears

**229**

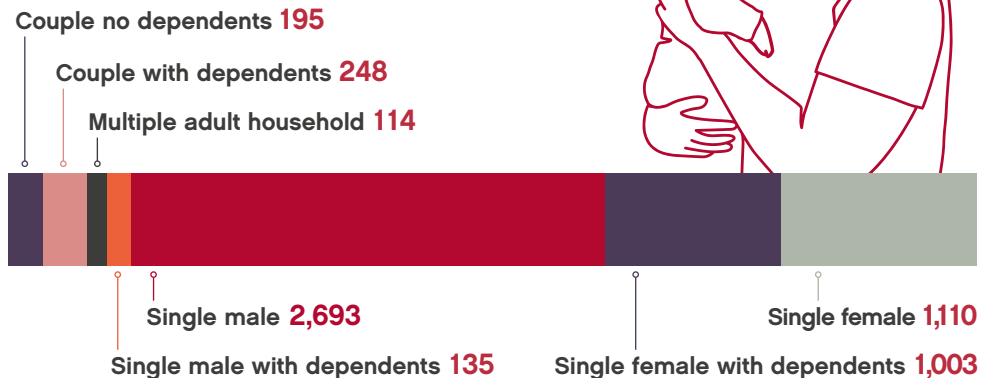
Costs of a deep clean or de-cluttering

**21**



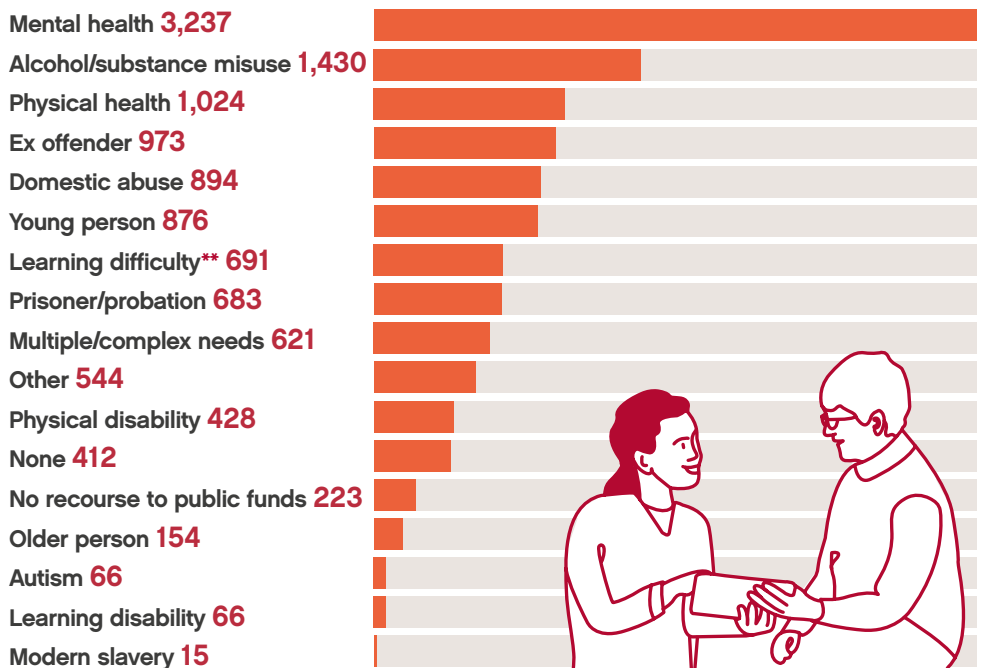
# Beneficiaries

## Household circumstances

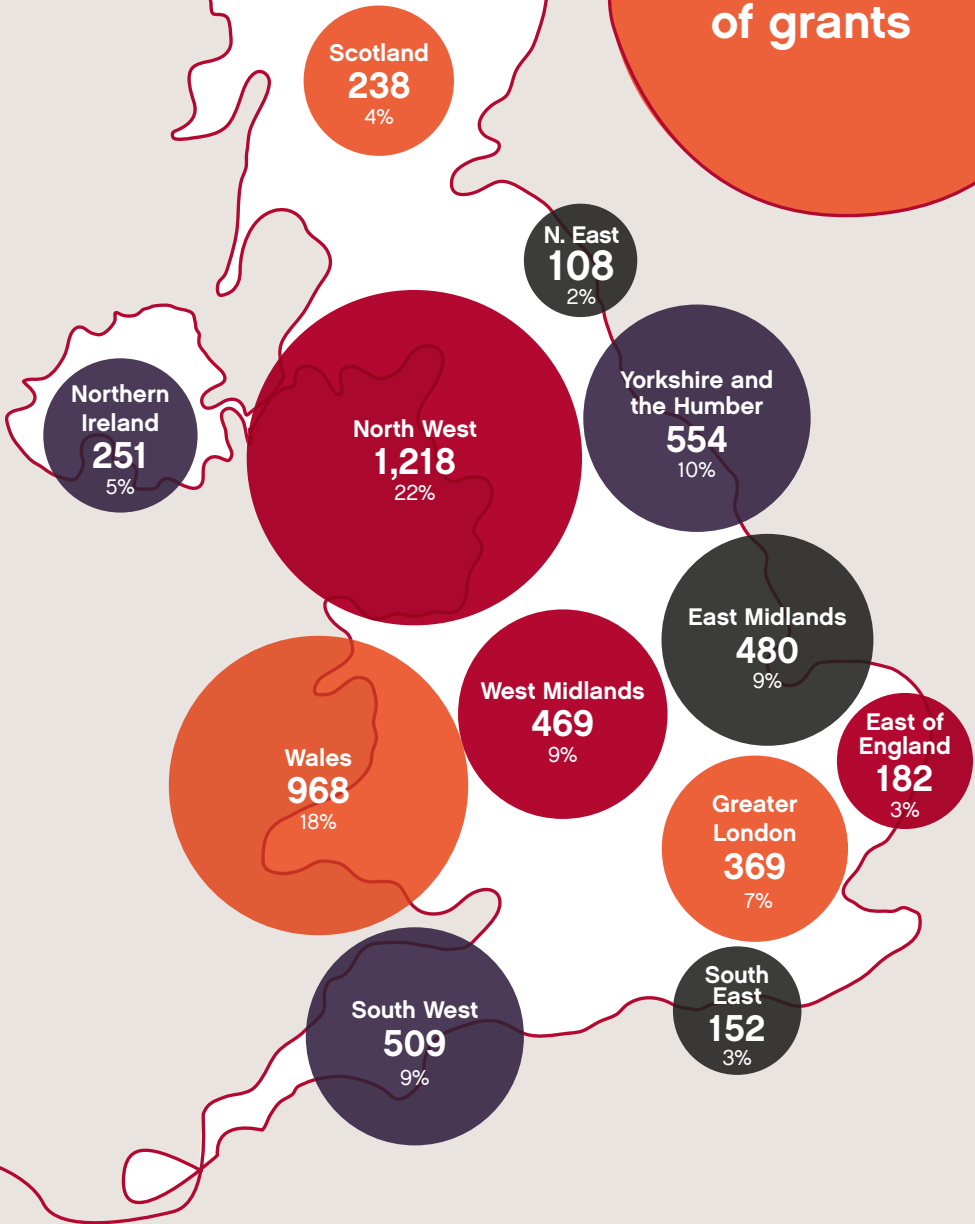


## Support needs\*

\*Users are able to choose more than one category  
\*\*e.g. Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia



# Regional breakdown of grants



## Looking forward

We will continue to be guided by the voice of frontline workers and the people they work with. Our work continues to be supported by the BBC Radio 4 Christmas Appeal.

To find out more or to donate go to: [smitfc.org/donate](https://smitfc.org/donate)

At the Frontline Network, we support frontline workers who work with people experiencing homelessness. If you are a frontline worker, join for free to access funding, resources, & a strong frontline worker community: [frontlinenetwork.org.uk](https://frontlinenetwork.org.uk)

**The St Martin-in-the-Fields Charity**  
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London, WC2N 4JH

[vrf@stmartinscharity.org.uk](mailto:vrf@stmartinscharity.org.uk)  
[frontlinenetwork.org.uk](https://frontlinenetwork.org.uk)

Registered Charity No:  
1156305 / 261359

Published July 2020



Just to say thank you so much for your help in assisting me to secure my property. You guys have been amazing, and thank you for all your communication throughout. This has really helped me getting back on track, you never know how much this has meant to me. Facing homelessness is a terrible experience and you guys have helped me so much, I literally couldn't see no way out, and honestly the help you guys have given me when I had no one to help me, this I will never forget.

West Midlands-based grantee

