

Private Sector Housing in Southampton

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Citizens Advice Southampton

We are a **local charity**, working as part of the national Citizens Advice network.

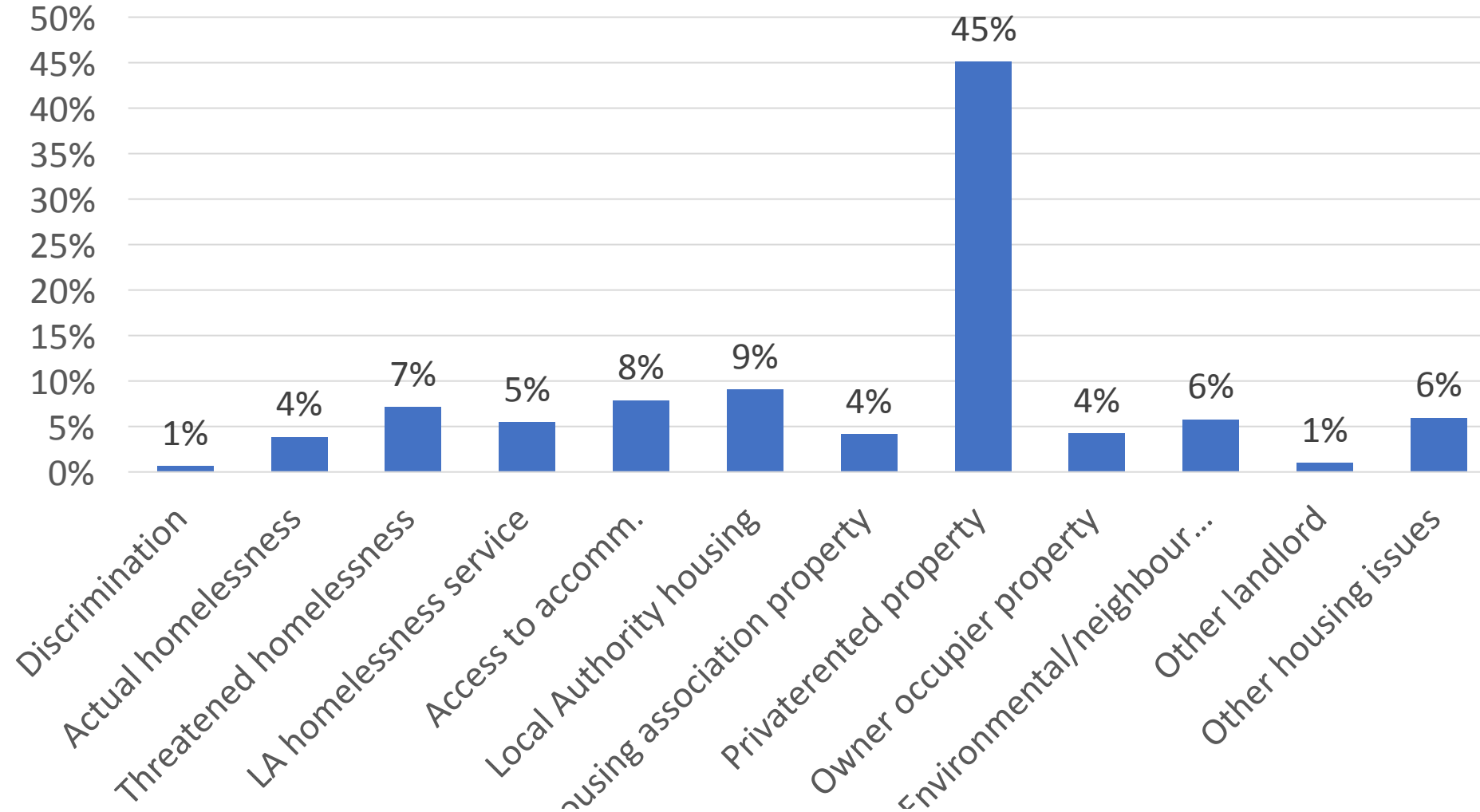
We help people **find a way forward** - whoever they are, and whatever their problem is.

Our advice is always **free, confidential, impartial and independent**.

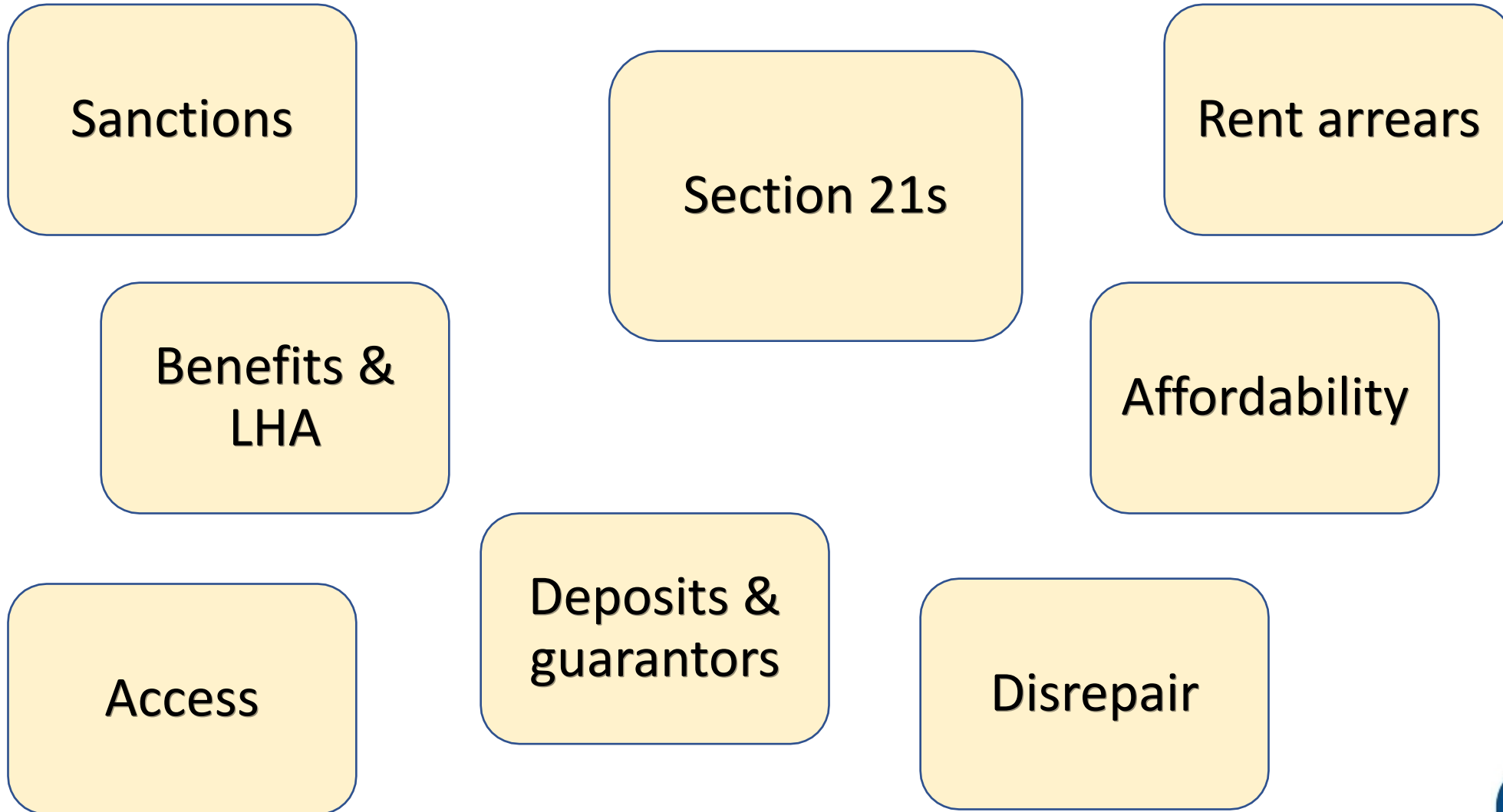
So far this year, we've helped almost **8,000 people** in Southampton with over **24,000 problems**.

We depend entirely on fundraised income to continue our work.

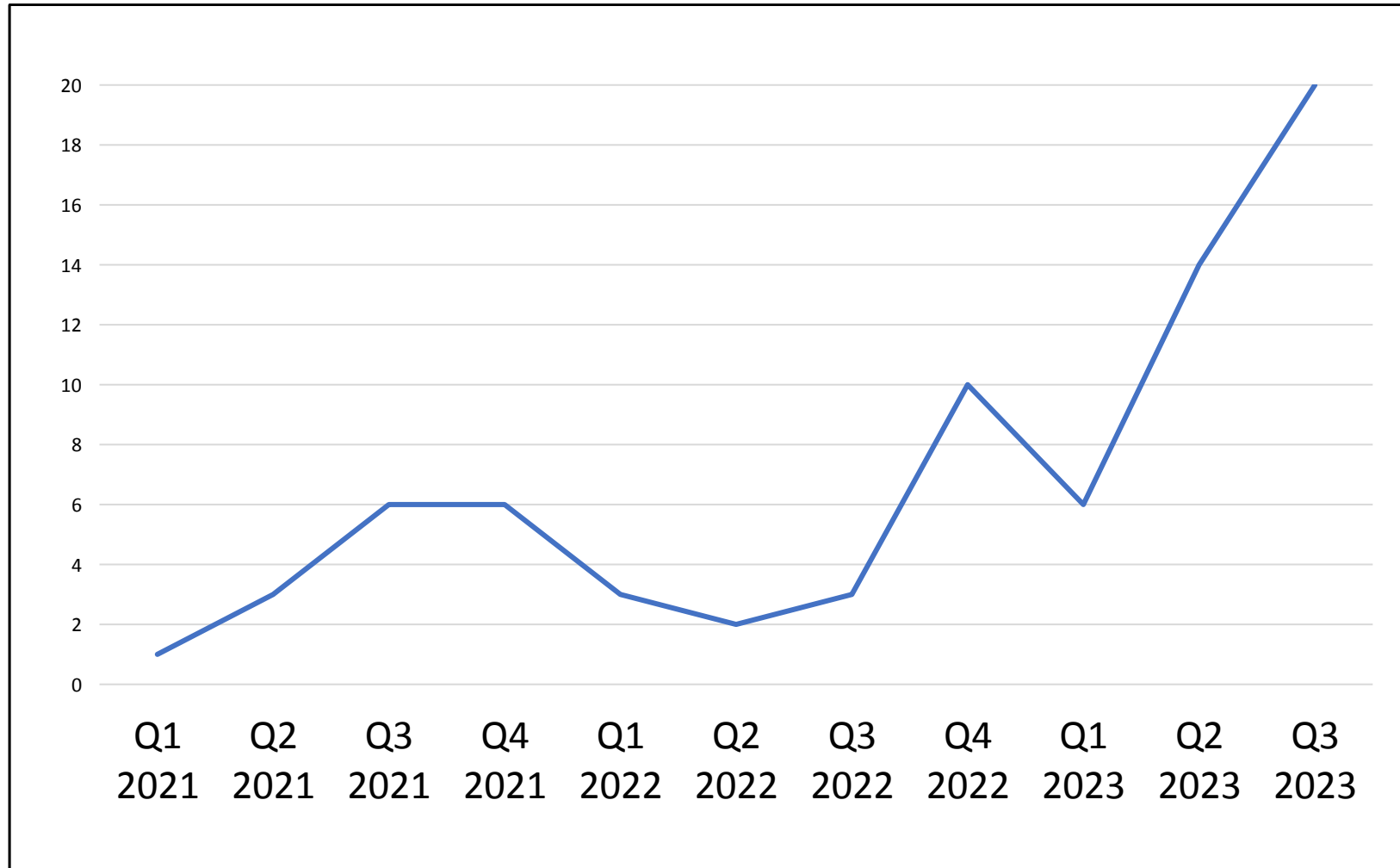
Housing Issues 2023



Most common issues we see around private sector housing



Southampton - Section 21s



Please note ...

In order to protect client identities - case studies are fictionalised.

Examples of everyday situations we support people with.

Case Study - Paul

2019 – Paul and his family move in

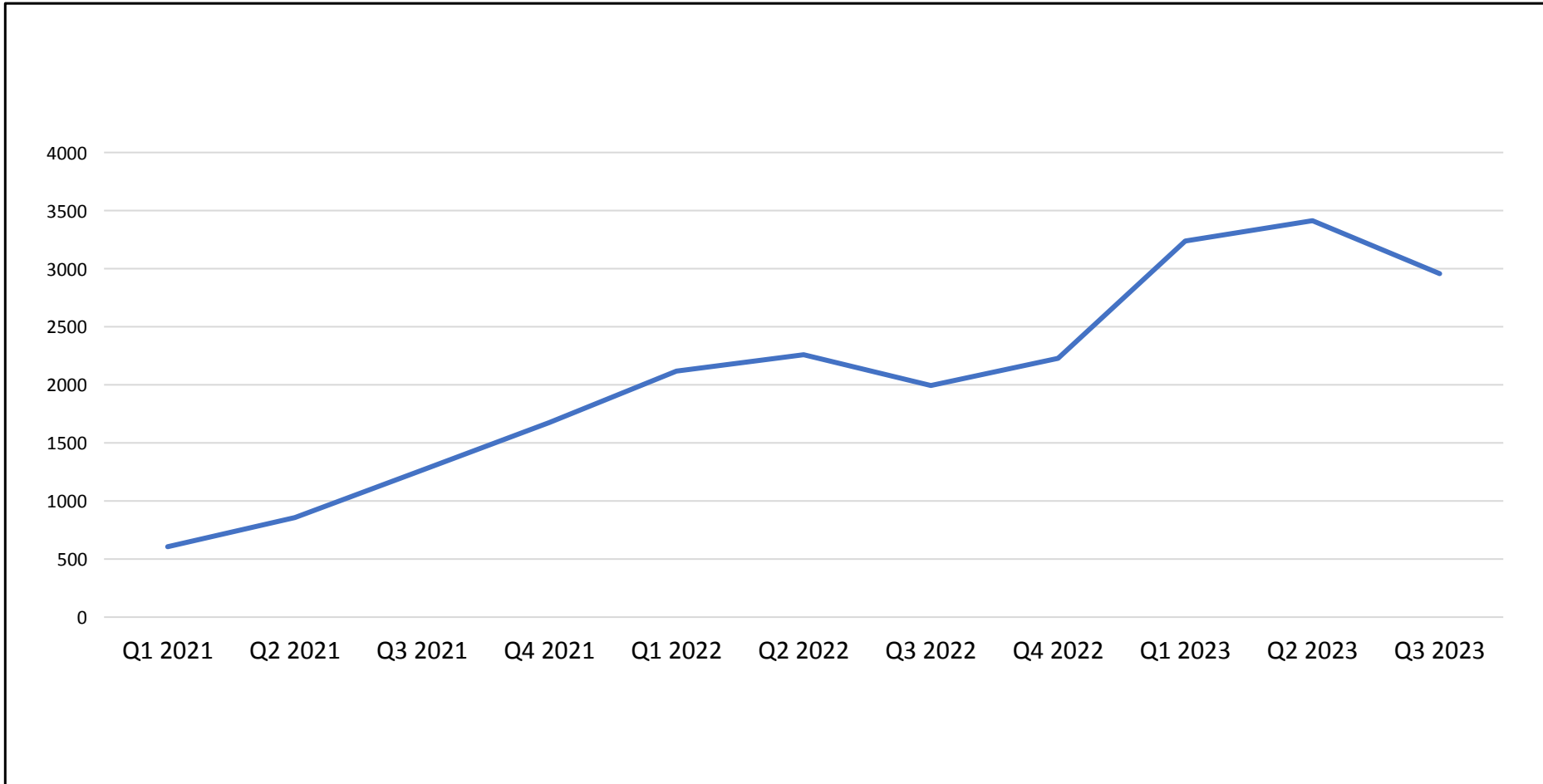
Paul repeatedly asks for repairs, which landlord refuses

Landlord wants to increase the rent to £1,600 – Paul can't afford

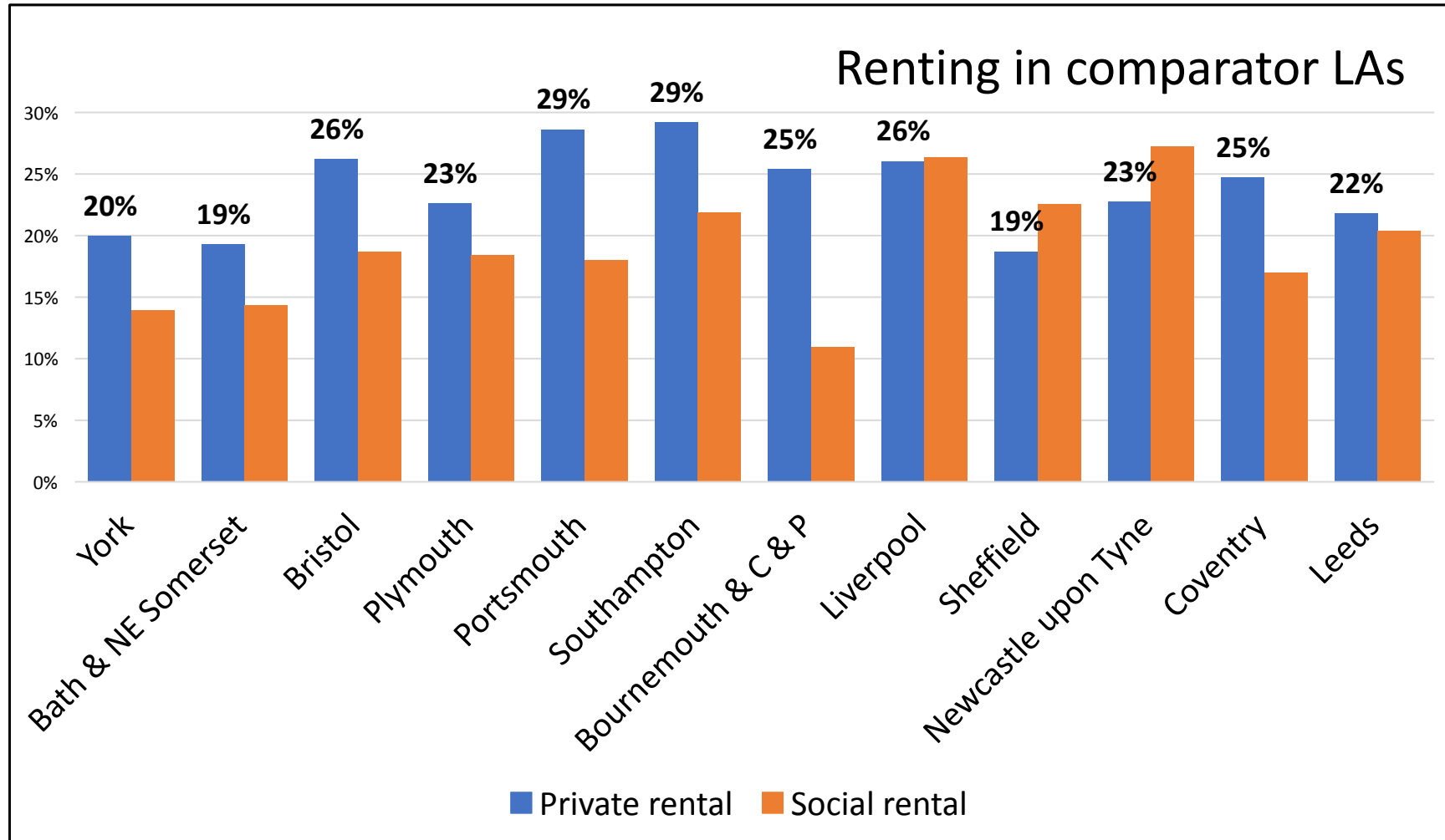
Council contact landlord about repairs

Landlord threatens to issue a Section 21

National level - Section 21s

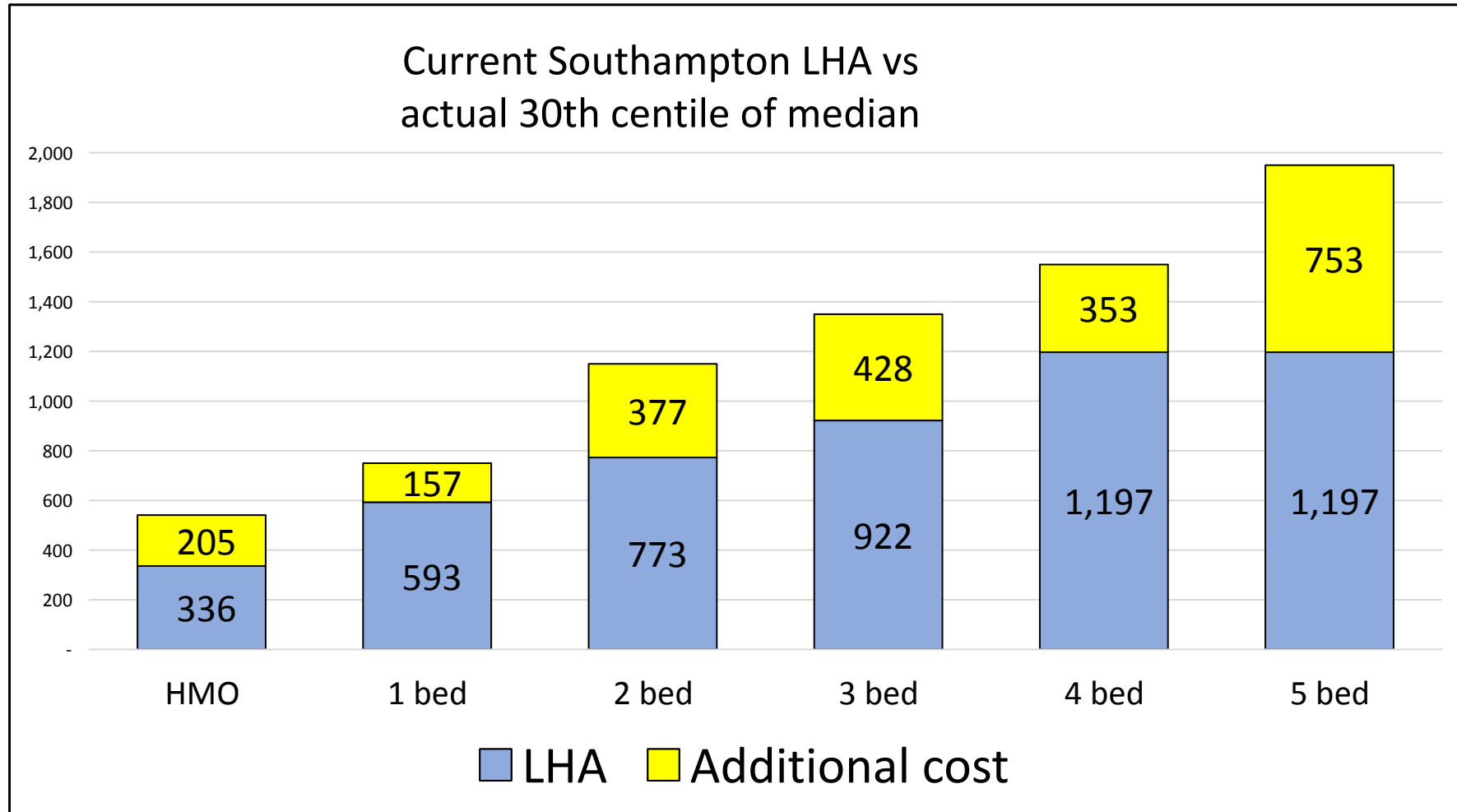


Affordability and competition



Data from ONS – Census 2021

Affordability



Case Study - Jade

Pregnant single mum. Child with special needs

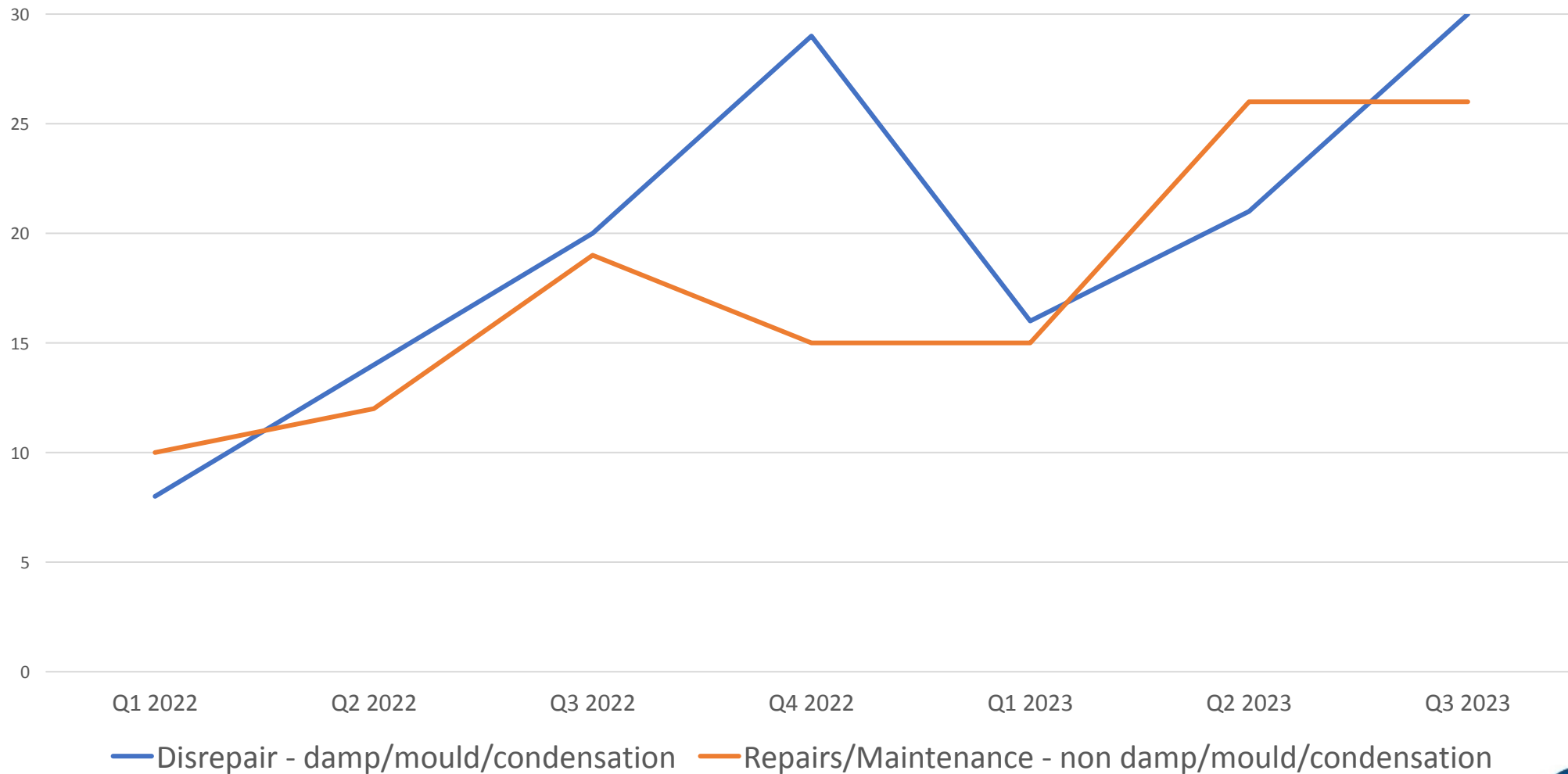
Struggles to retain a job due to child's needs

On UC. Has cheap housing within LHA

Bedroom ceiling collapsed – landlord won't repair

Jade putting up with situation because flat is cheap

Disrepair



Case study - Nicola

Nicola has serious health issues

Boiler has broken

Landlord refuses to fix it

Access

Deposits and guarantors – sometimes asking for 6 months rent in advance, or a guarantor.

Case study – Tracey

Letting agents are not choosing people on benefits to get the accommodation.

Case study - Joseph

Sanctions and Rent Arrears

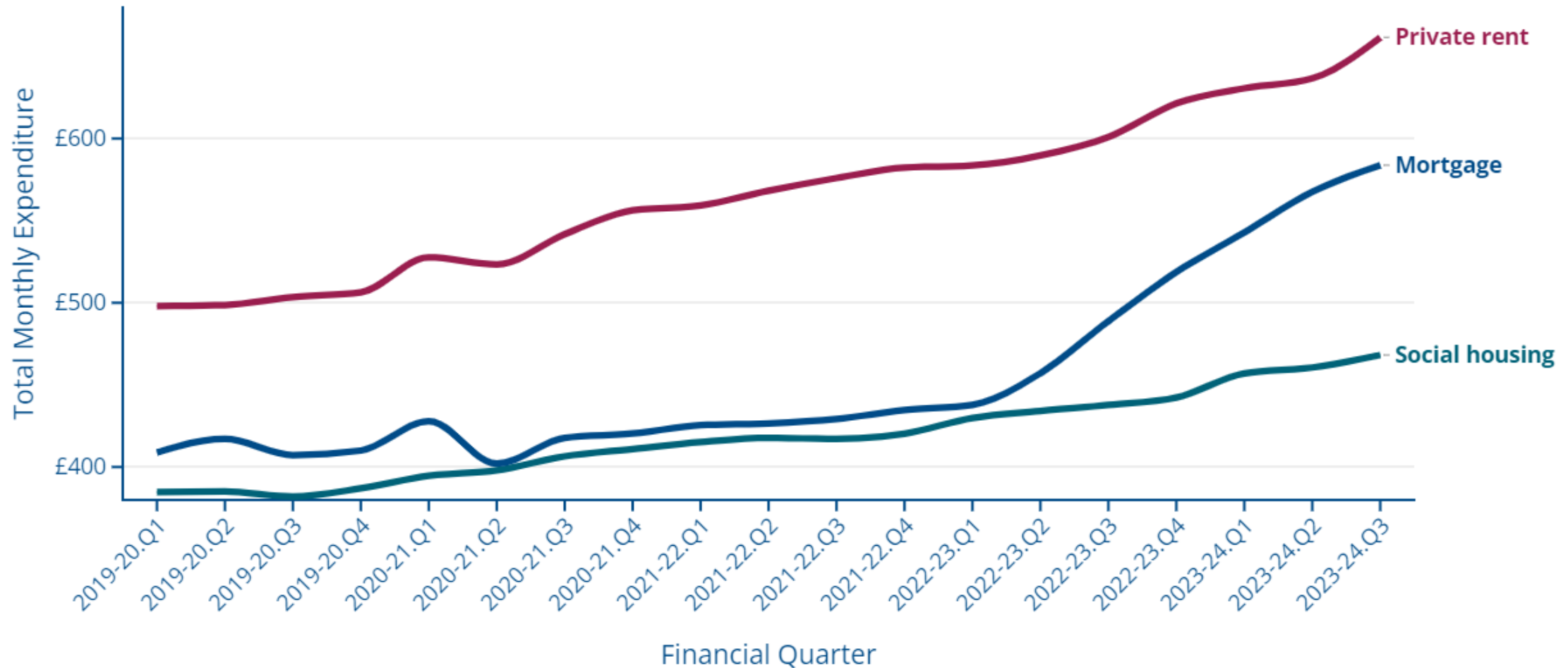
Benefit sanctions often push people into rent arrears or debt.

Case study - Jan

Essential costs are driving the people we help into negative budgets

Average monthly expenditure for the people we've helped with debt advice each Financial Quarter.

All essential costs **Housing** Gas and electricity Childcare Groceries



Thank you for listening

Any questions?