

Cost of Living Dashboard



Introduction

A local data and intelligence dashboard has been created to provide an evidence base for Sheffield's cost-of-living response. It is made up of three main sections:

Context - a combination of national and local data that illustrates some of the factors that have created the conditions for the crisis

Impacts - looks at areas that would be expected to be affected by the crisis, including homelessness, food poverty, SCC Rent Arrears and crime

Types of Support - considers the demand for support from the council and its partners, including data from Sheffield Citizens Advice and Household Support Fund

The dashboard has Sheffield-specific data where possible, with national datasets used where local data is not available.

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This section shows the overall issues the city is facing in terms of the cost-of-living crisis.

Prices and Wages - provides an overview of annual Consumer Price Index inflation rate changes, with additional detail on the cost of food. There is also a comparison of the wage growth alongside an index of inflation to illustrate the extent to which wages are keeping pace with rising prices.

Energy Costs - highlights the price increases experienced over time, the price cap changes and the impact of the Government's price cap intervention.

Housing Costs - gives a top-level view of housing costs for mortgage and rental rates over time.

Housing Conditions - focuses on Private Sector Housing. The data here comes from a survey carried out every five years and gives us an overall snapshot of fuel poverty and property disrepair across the city.

Benefit Claimants - provides context around some of the benefits information in the city to give a picture of the number of people accessing the welfare system. Included in this is Universal Credit (UC) and Pension Credit data. Note that benefit claimant data comes with significant caveats. For example:

- the increase in UC claimants will reflect both people newly entering the welfare system as well as people on legacy benefits (not shown on these charts) moving to UC.
- Pension Credit is useful for reflecting the level of financial need amongst older people in Sheffield, however it is likely that there are significant numbers of people who are eligible that do not claim what they are entitled to, due to a lack of awareness or perhaps the stigma associated with receiving welfare support.

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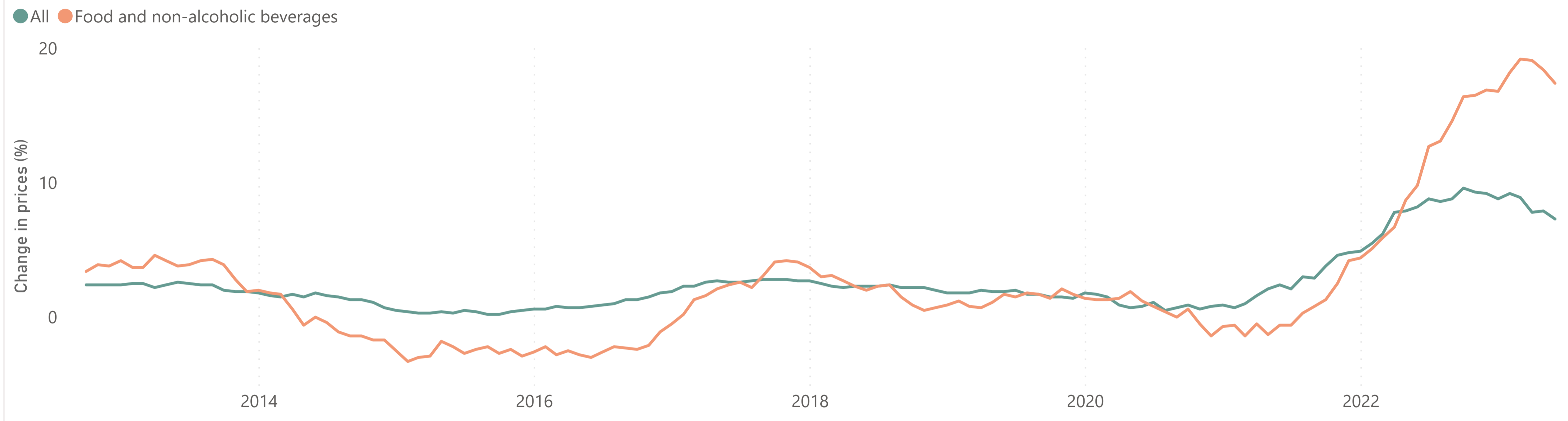
GENERAL COST OF...

CITIZENS ADVICE DATA

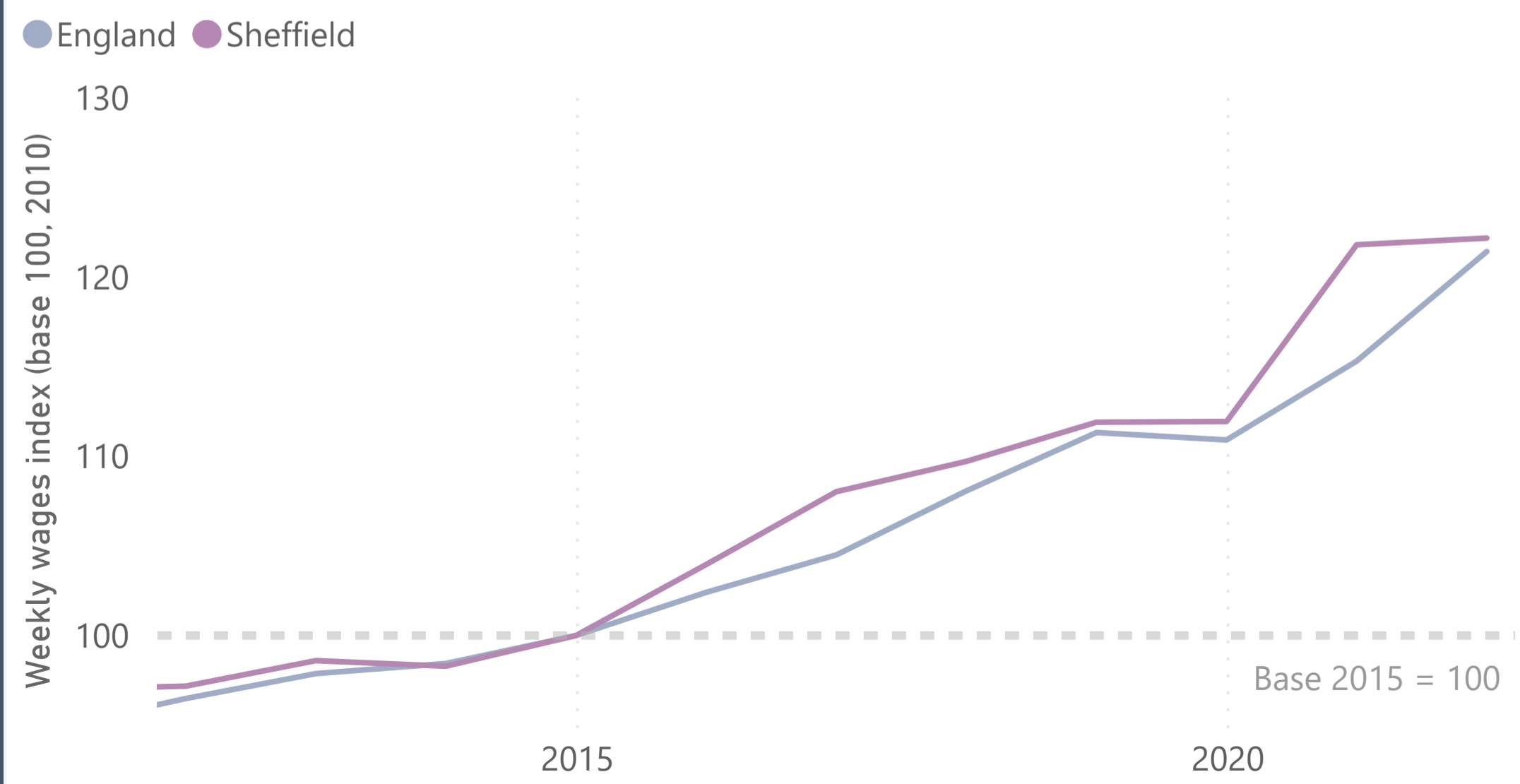
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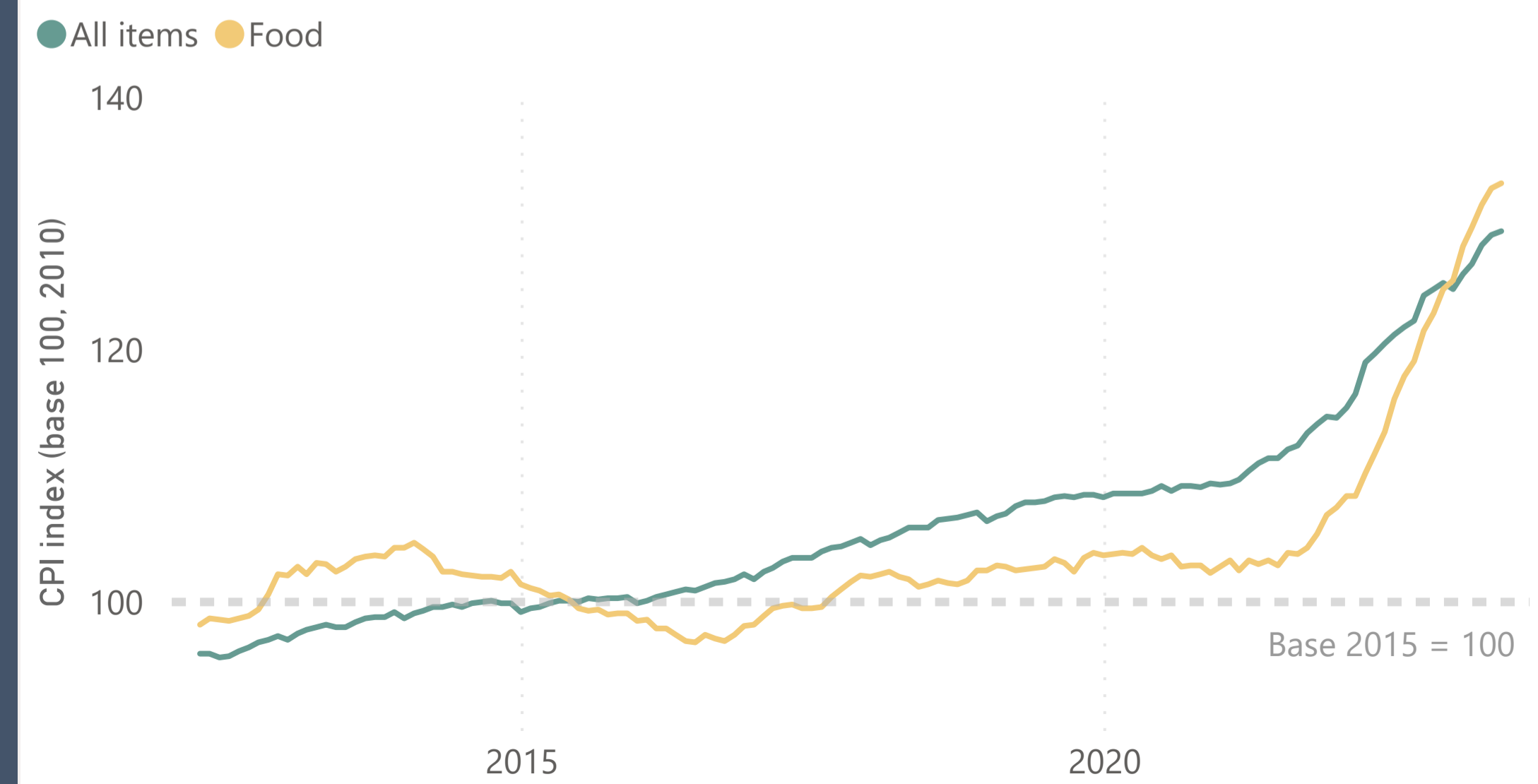
Annual CPIH inflation rates, UK



Weekly wages (gross) index, fulltime workers, base (100) 2015



Monthly CPI Index, base (100) 2015



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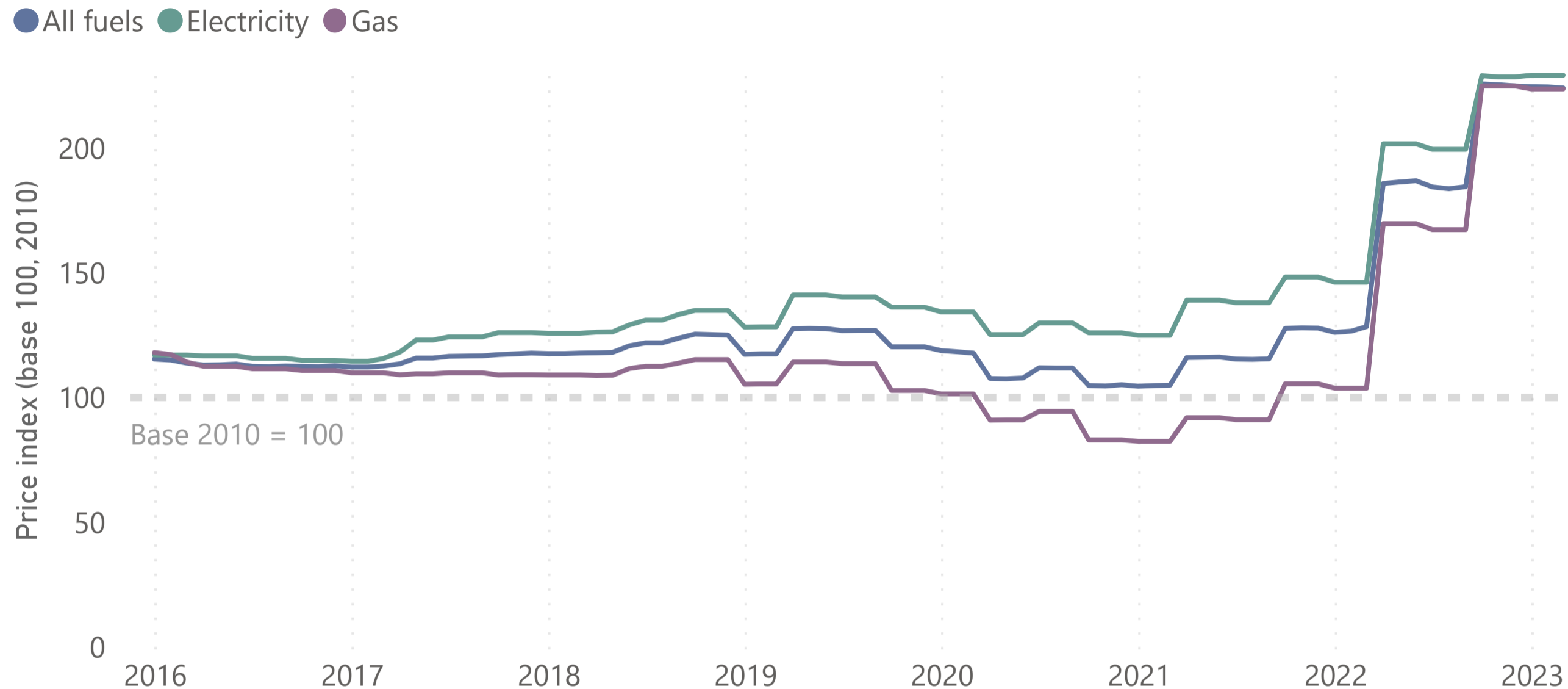
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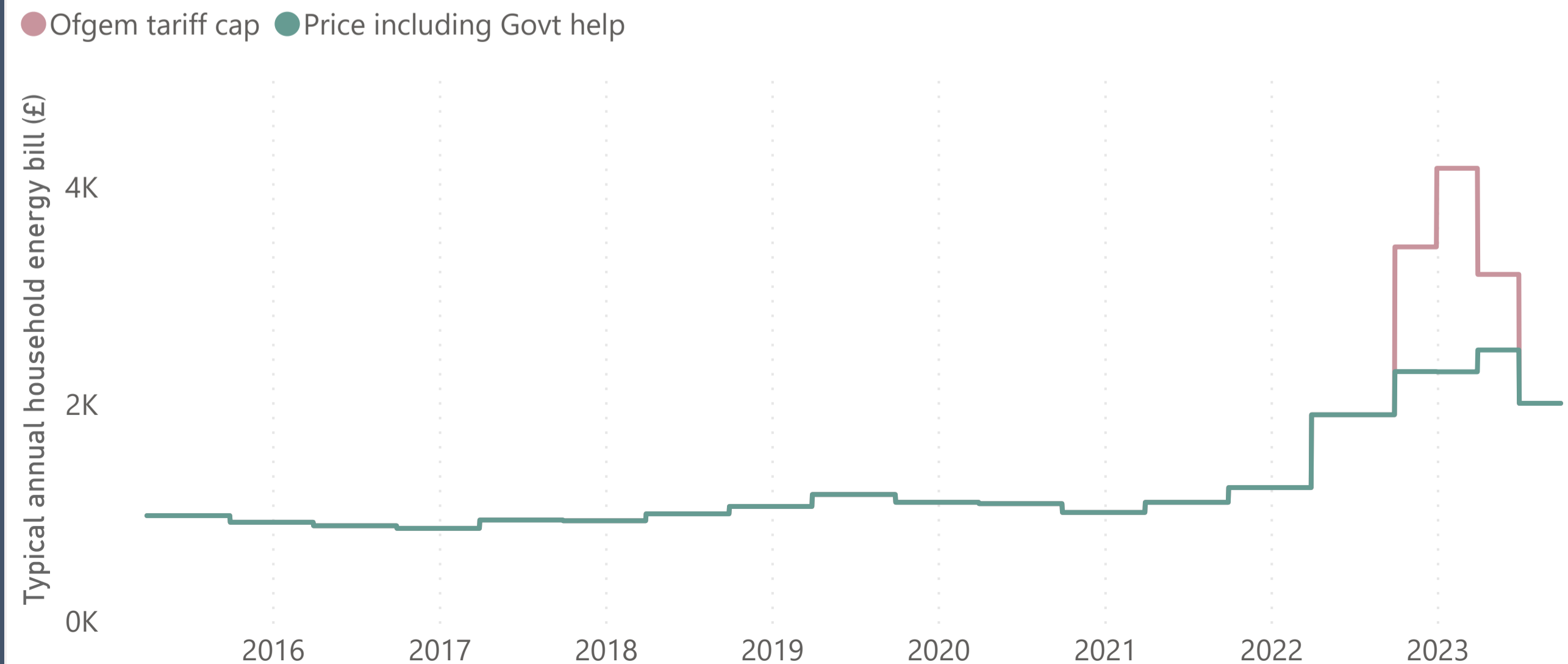
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Real (GDP adjusted) price indices for domestic fuels



Typical dual-fuel energy bill based on the default tariff cap level, Yorkshire



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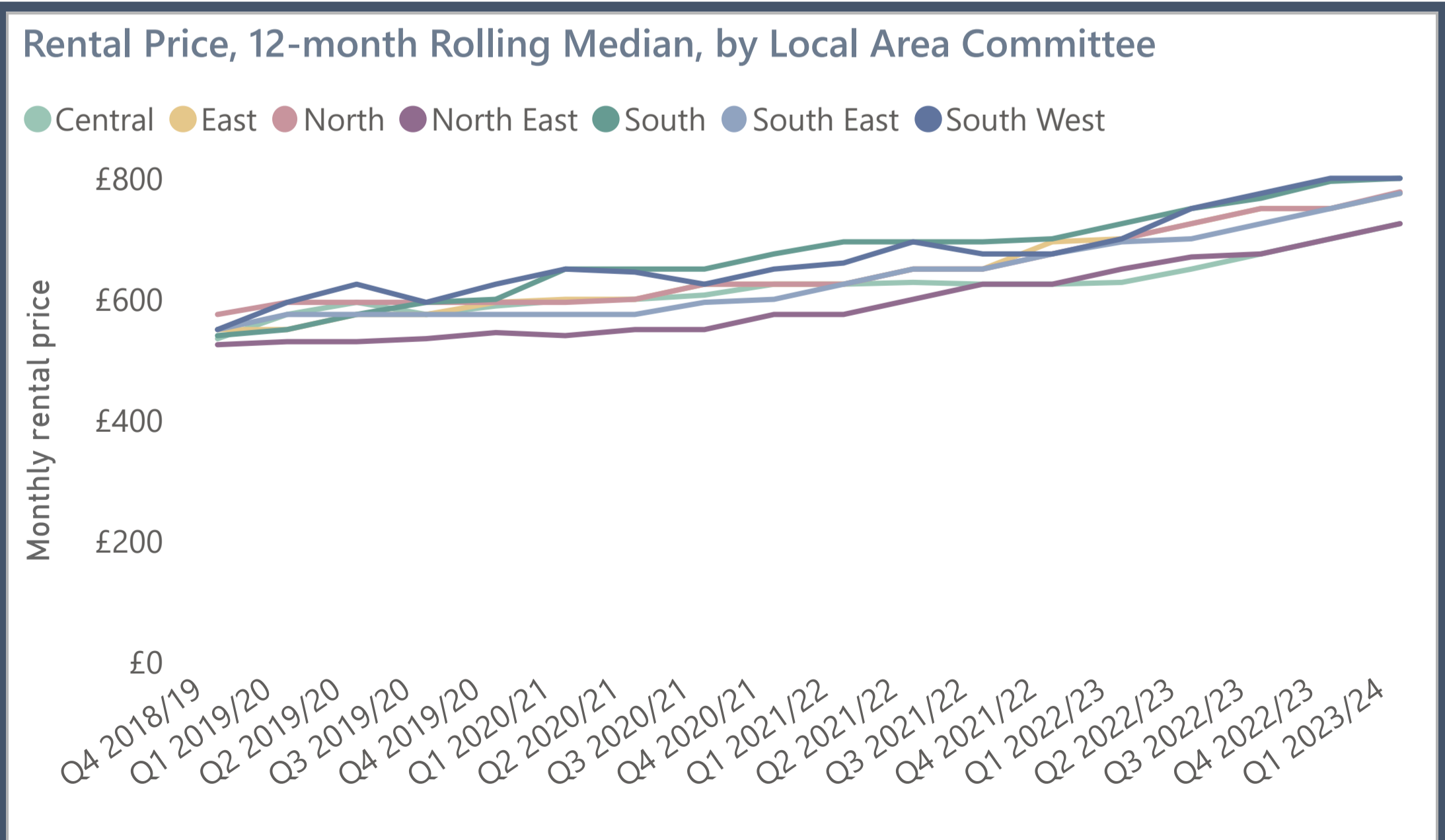
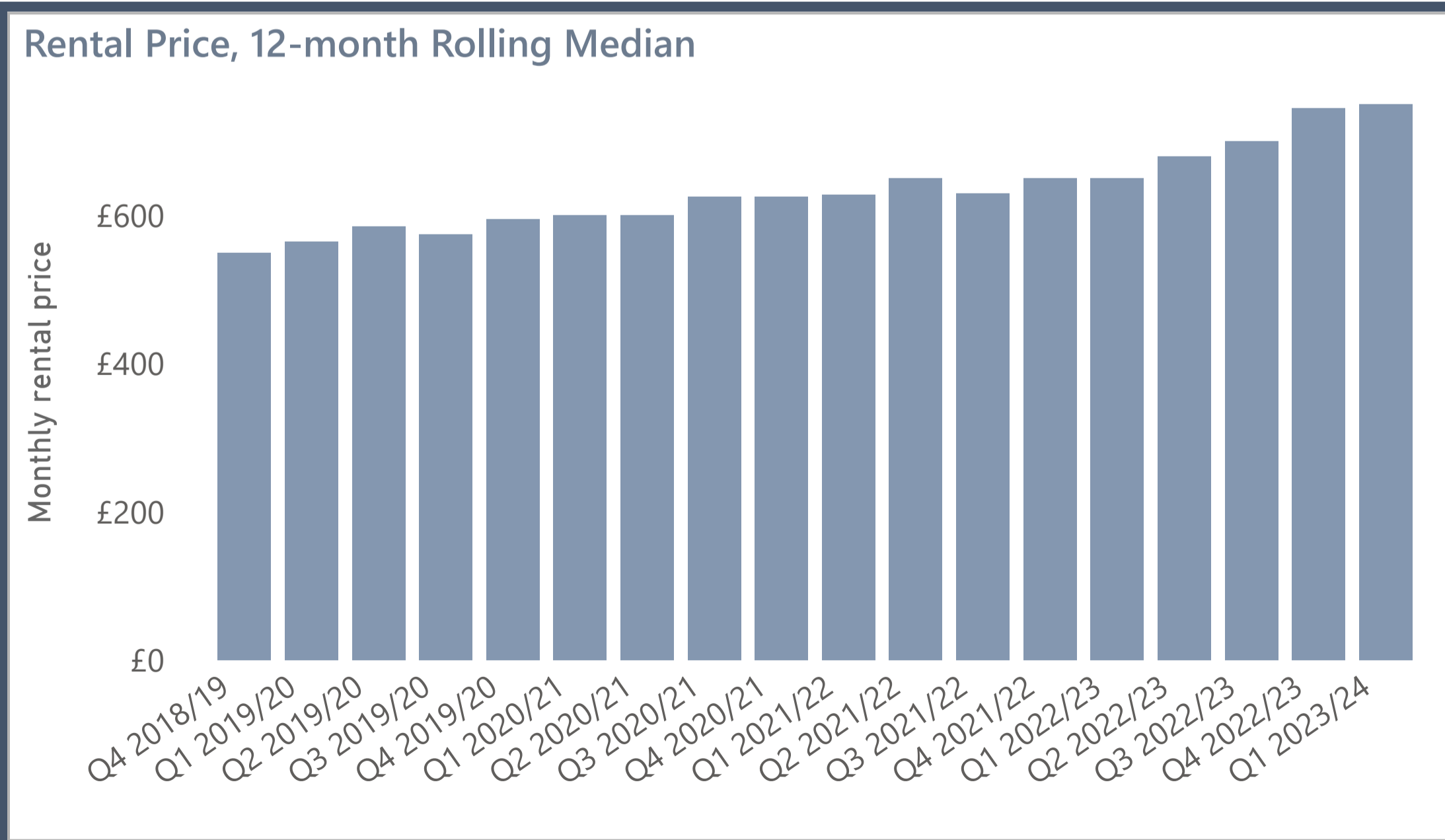
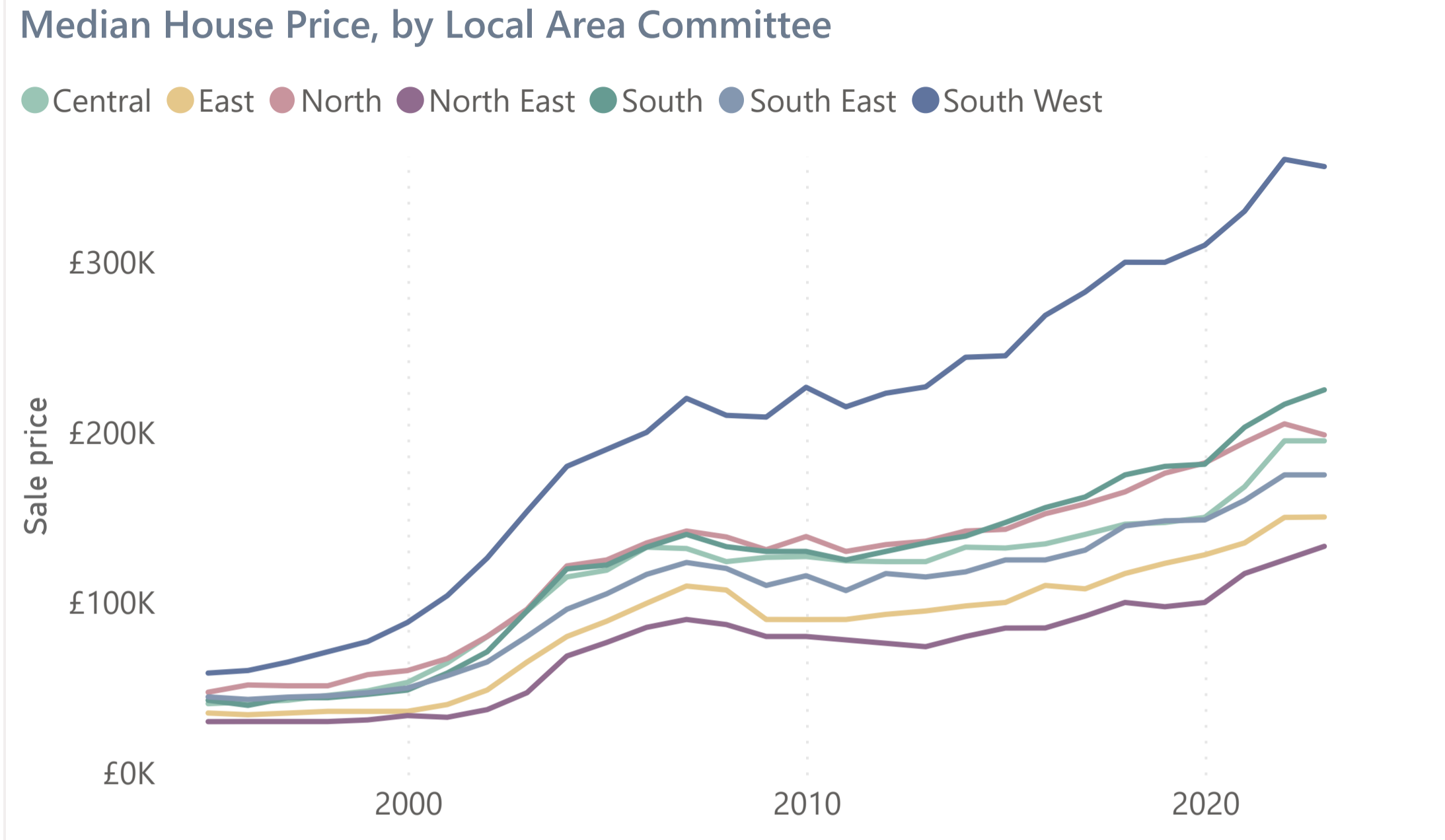
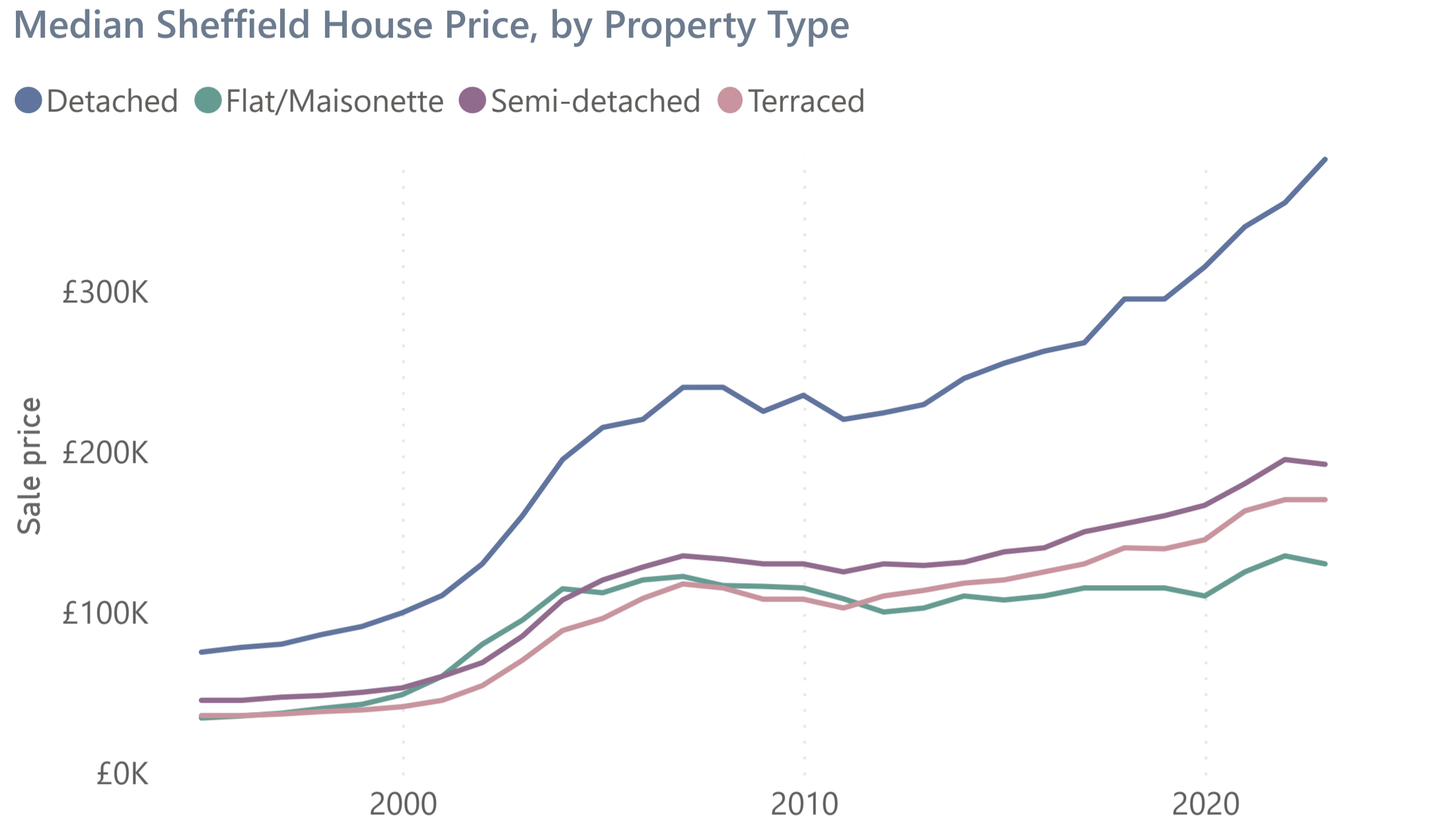
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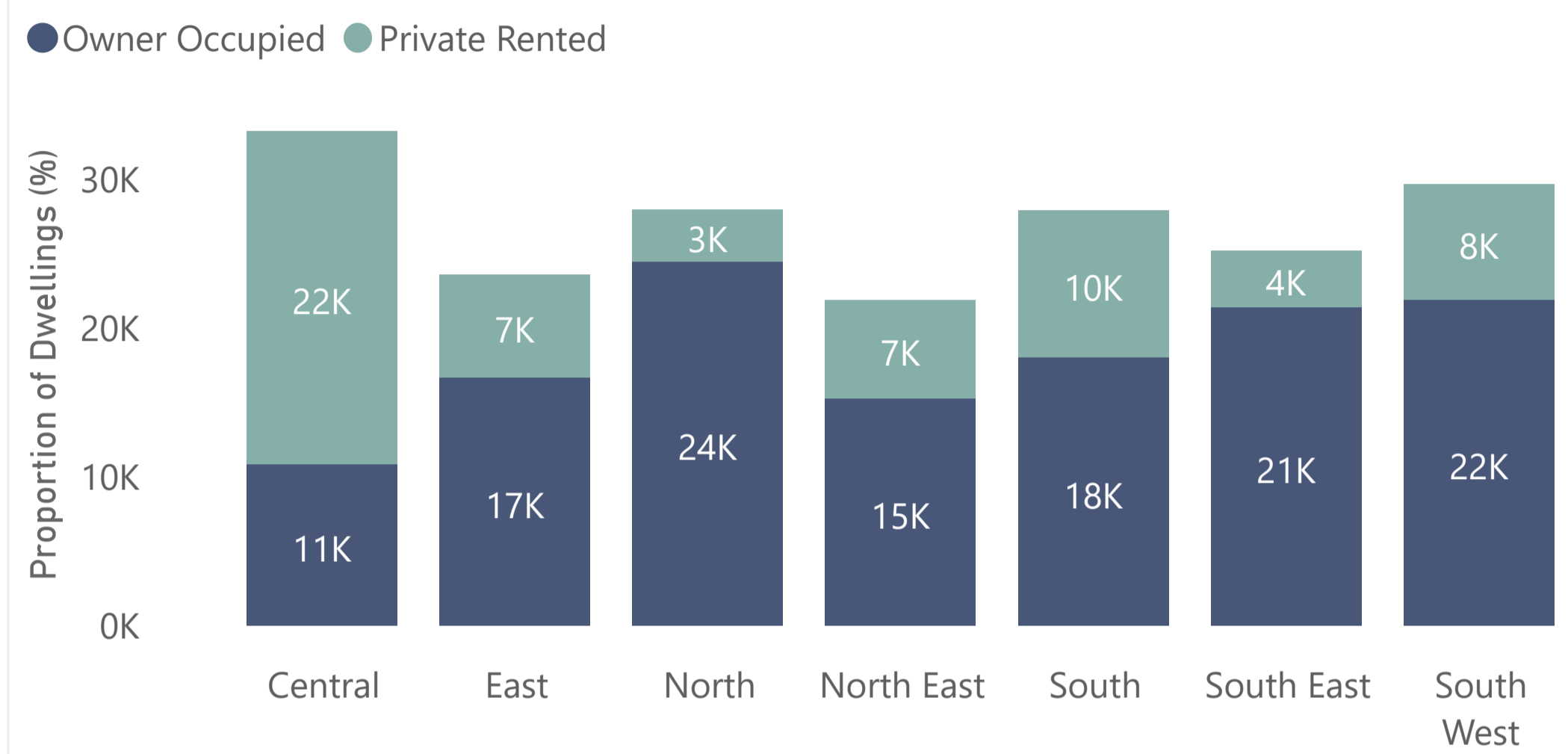
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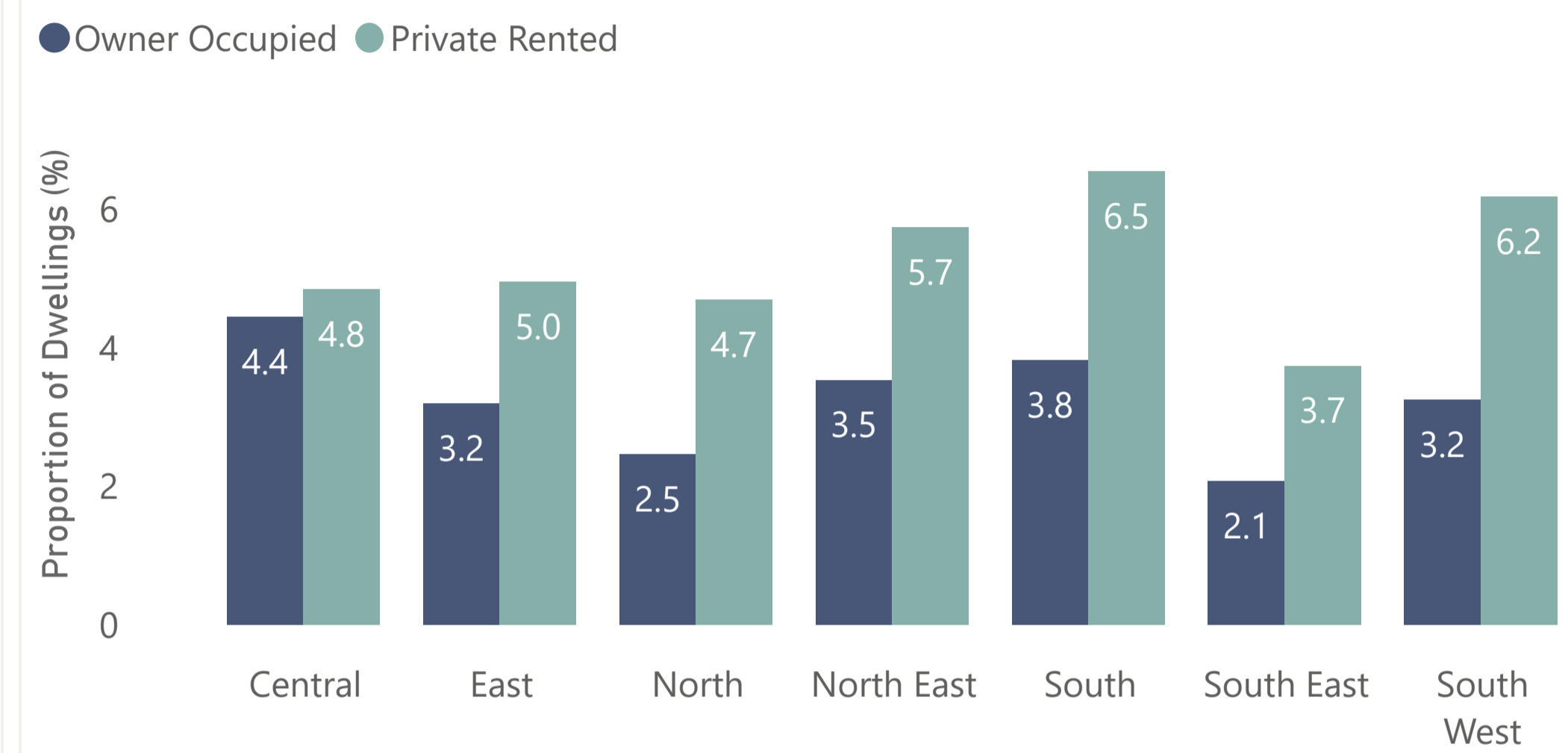
COST OF LIVING CONTEXT

Data from the BRE Private Sector Housing Stock Condition Database, 2022

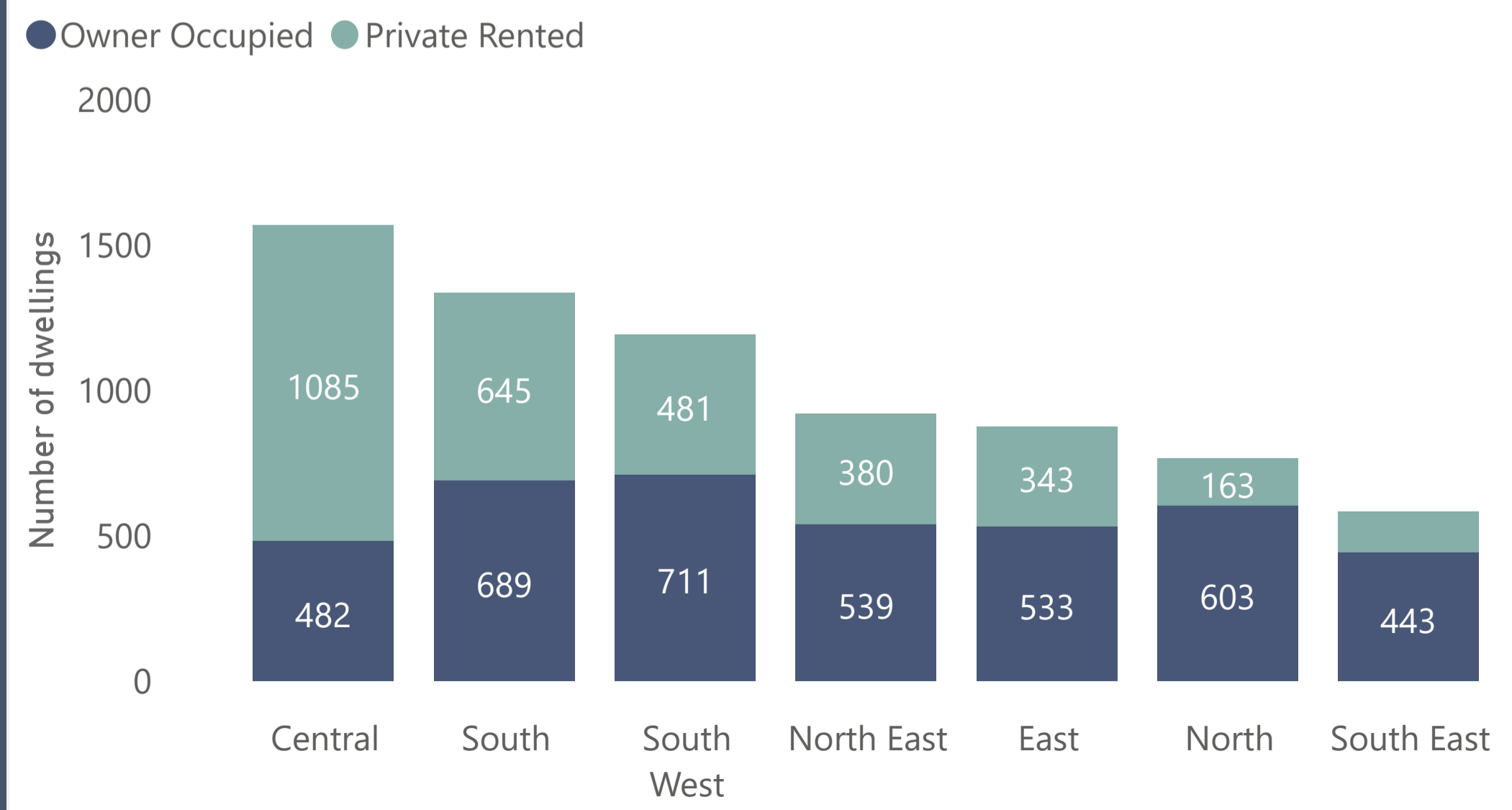
Number of Private Dwellings in Fuel Poverty, by Local Area Committee



Proportion of Private Dwellings in Fuel Poverty, by Local Area Committee



Number of Private Dwellings in Disrepair, by Local Area Committee



Proportion of Private Dwellings in Disrepair, by Local Area Committee



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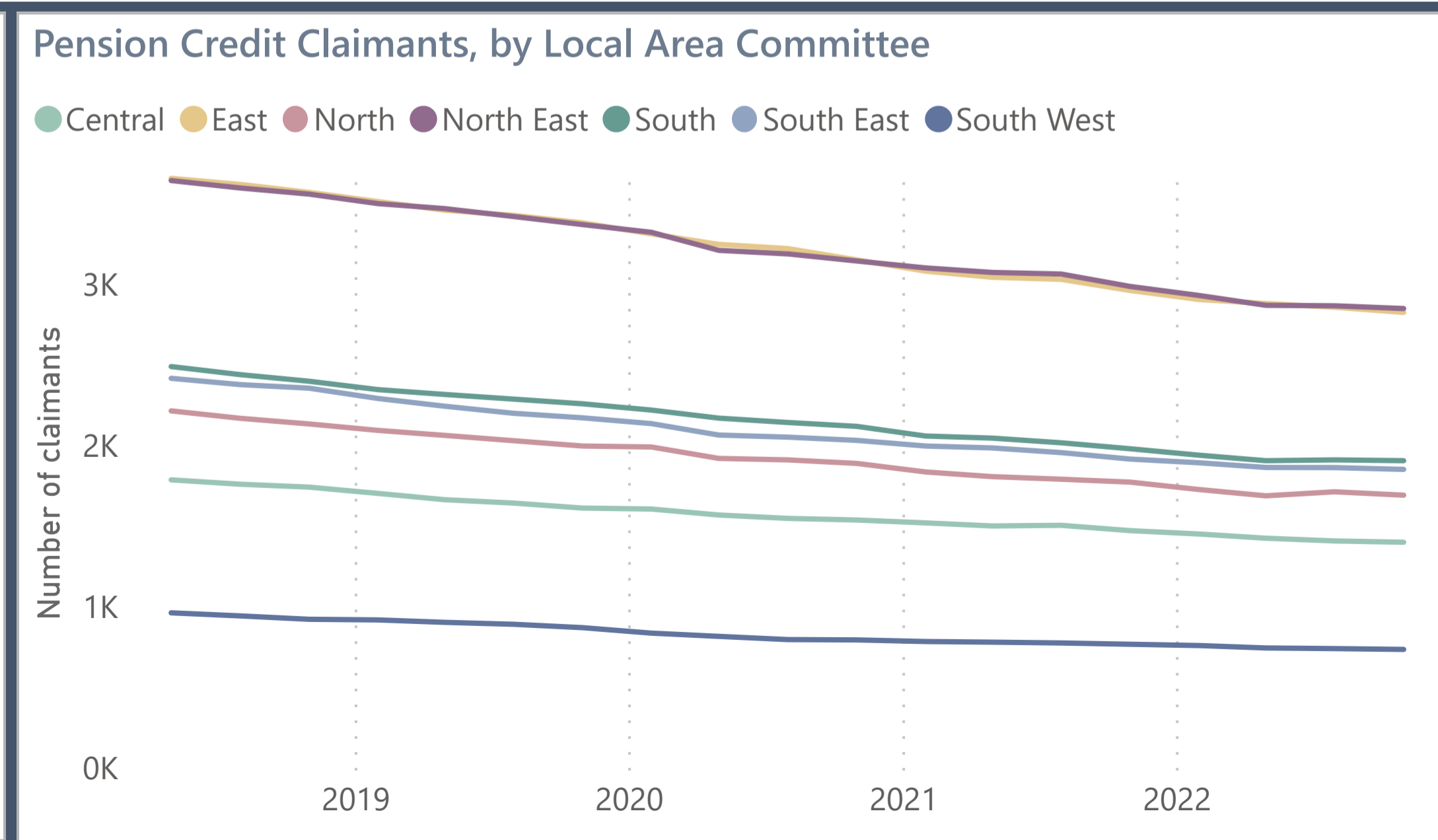
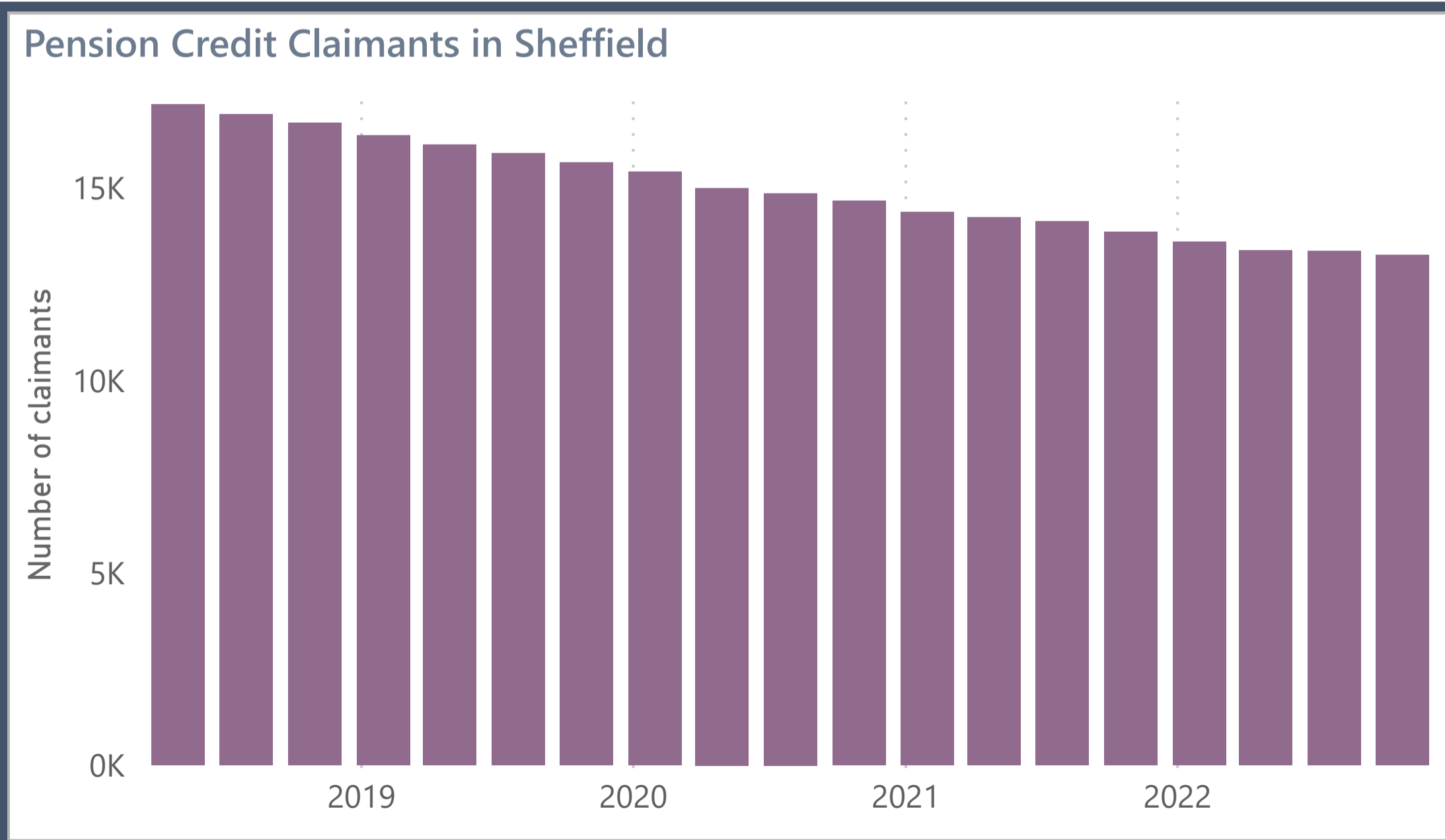
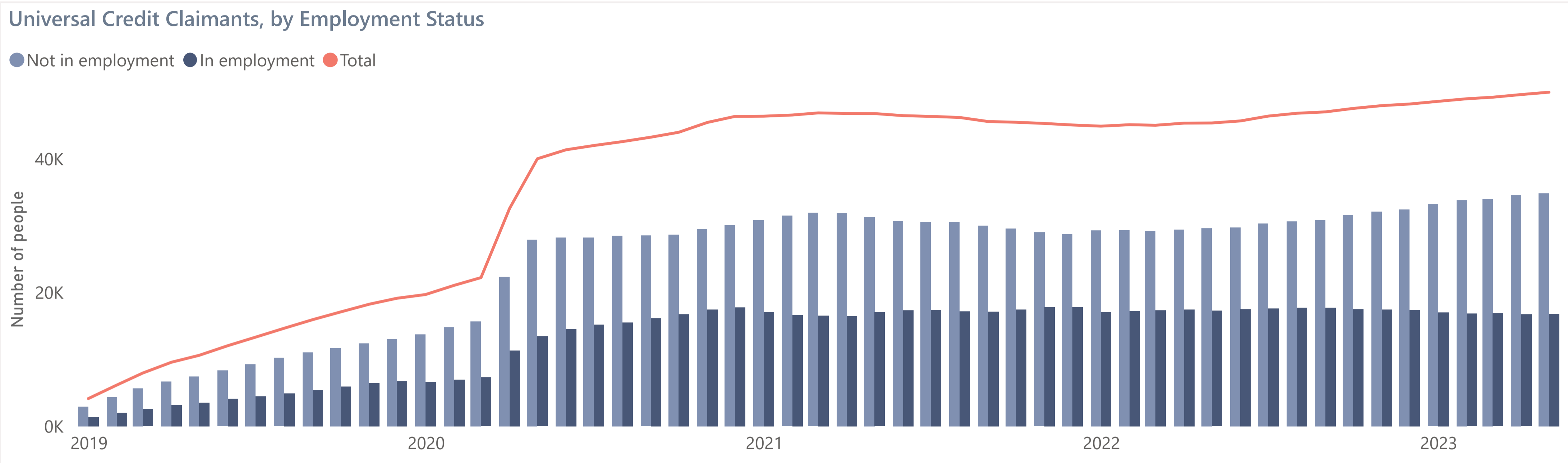
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This section is designed to give a picture of the likely impacts of the cost of living crisis within the city. Each tab looks at a different area of concern:

Homelessness - becoming homeless is a real risk of the cost-of-living crisis, especially for the most vulnerable in society. These metrics have been included to give a full understanding of the situation in our city. Here we look at the number of people presenting as homeless, including by household composition and by ethnicity. It should be noted that changes in homelessness can be impacted by a number of factors, not just this crisis.

Food Poverty - The cost of food is increasingly a stressor for residents during this crisis. The data within this area gives an overall picture of food insecurity using both national survey data and some limited data from local food banks. The city's food banks measure their parcels/clients differently, for this reason we have included Trussell Trust food banks as a larger source of consistent data. Broadly, this comprises over half the food banks open in the city but is not exclusive with many independent food banks providing a valuable service to residents in crisis.

SCC Rent Arrears – here we have detailed, up-to-date data looking at the latest information relating to Council Housing tenants who are in arrears on their rent. It should be noted that it only covers one type of tenure in the city. Rent arrears is likely to be similar for other social-rented tenants but much higher for private-rented tenants, whose rents are higher and whose landlords do not have the same levels of support that the Council can provide to its tenants.

Community & Crime - As the Cost-of-Living increases, there are concerns that this could also lead to an increase in levels of crime, particular acquisitive crime and domestic abuse. To highlight this, we have included relevant metrics, however, although crime statistics can reflect real trends, these are heavily dependent on attitudes and practices relating to reporting and recording particular offences.

Housing Evictions - An overview of eviction and possession data for mortgages, private landlords and council housing.

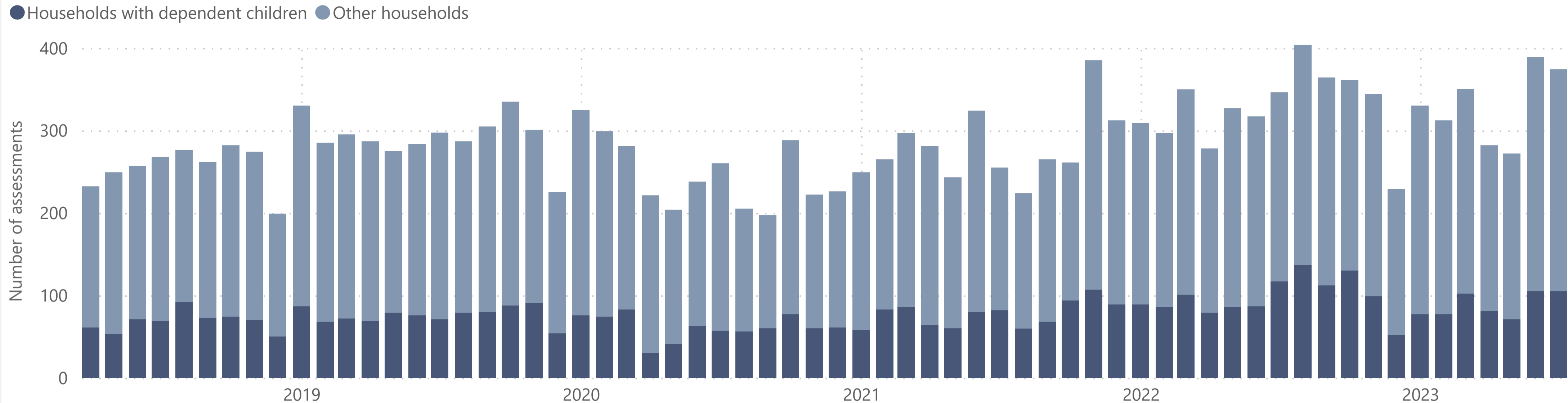
Businesses - As a city, Sheffield has a high proportion of small and medium-sized businesses, and increased costs are having an impact here too. The data looks at the number of new businesses opening against business closures.

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Number of homelessness assessments, by household composition



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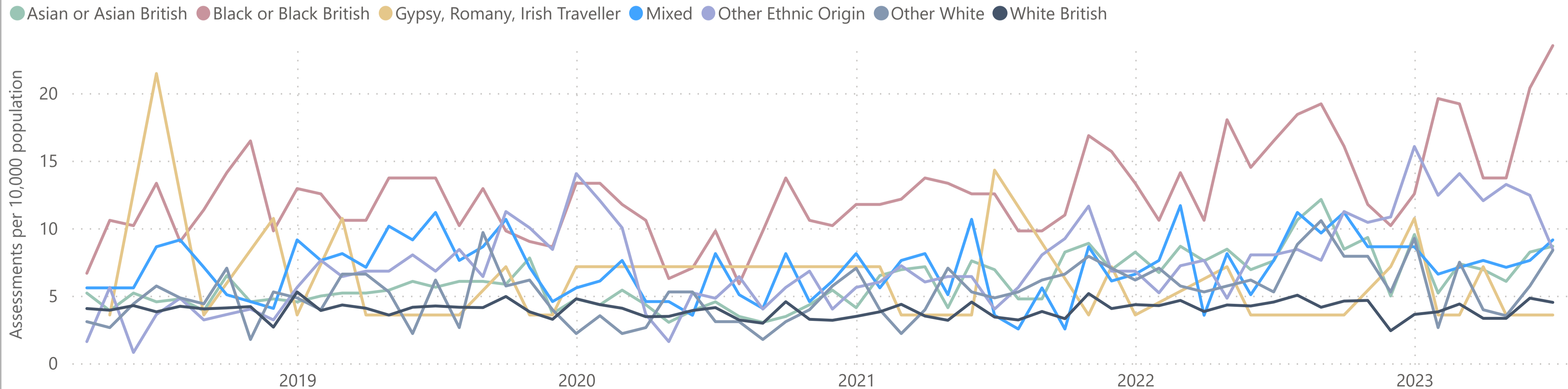
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Number of homelessness assessments per 10,000 population, by ethnicity



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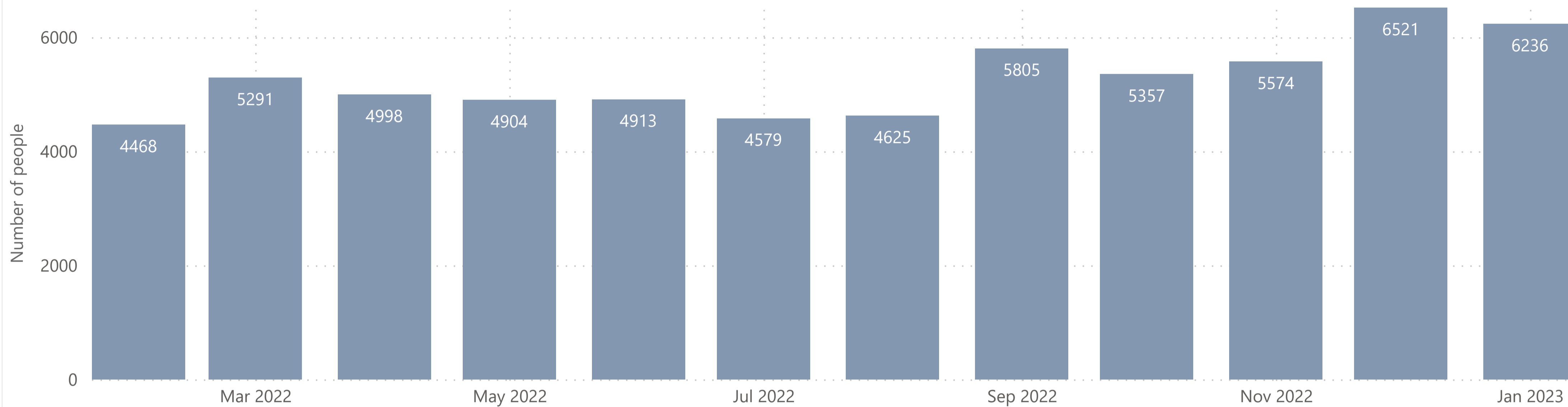
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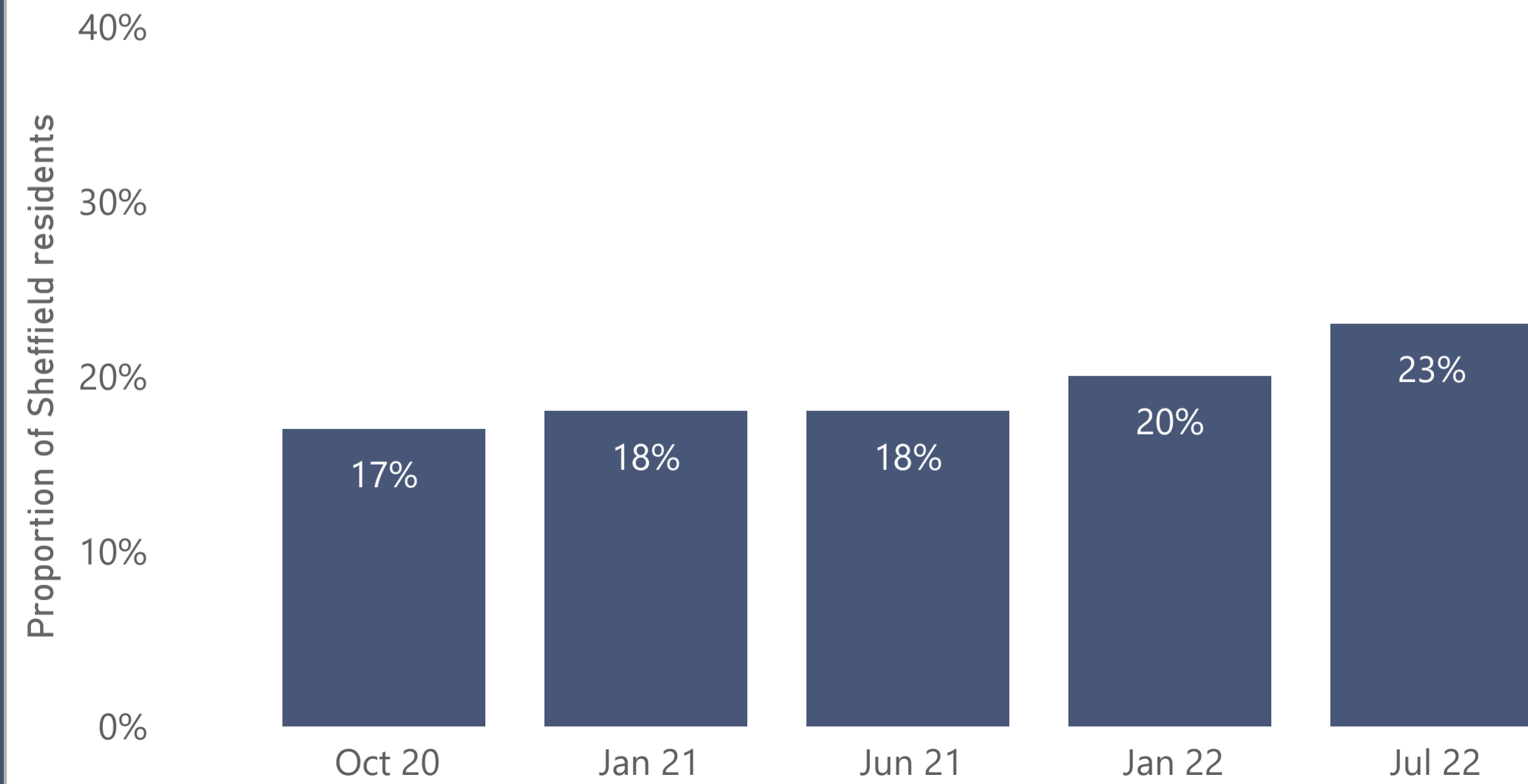
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Number of people supported with food parcels from Trussell Trust Food Banks



Estimated proportion of Sheffield residents who are food insecure (based on national survey data)



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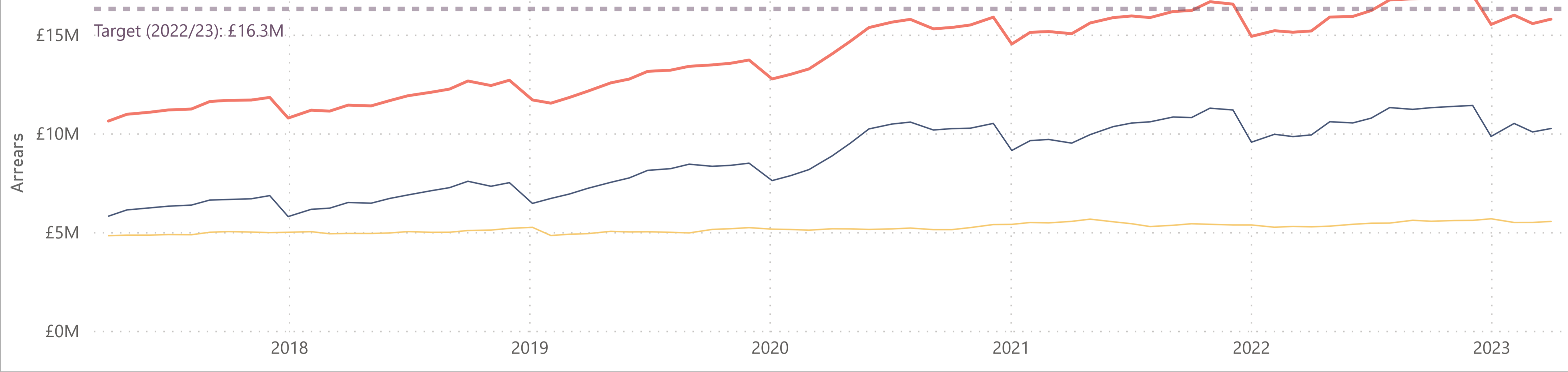
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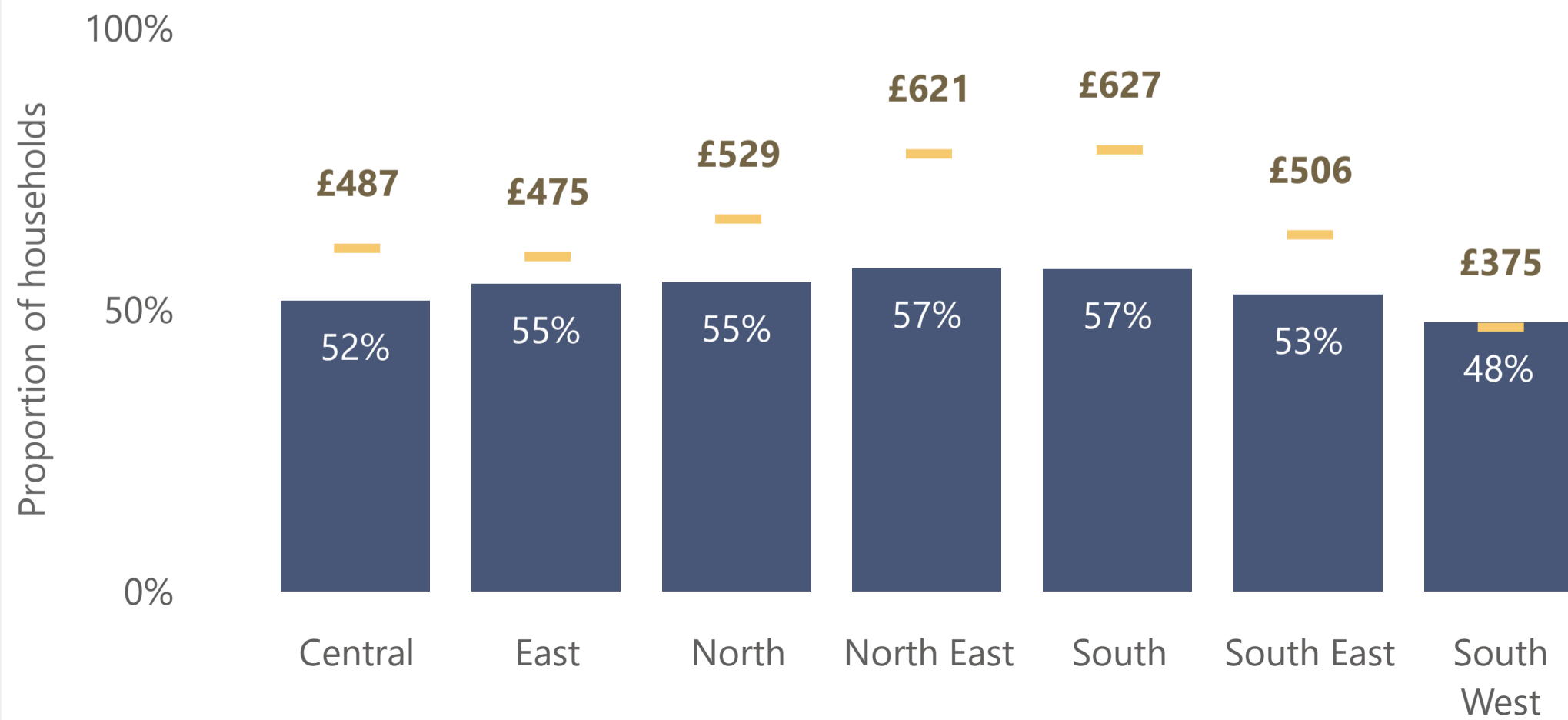
Rent arrears for council tenants

● Former tenants ● Current tenants ● Total



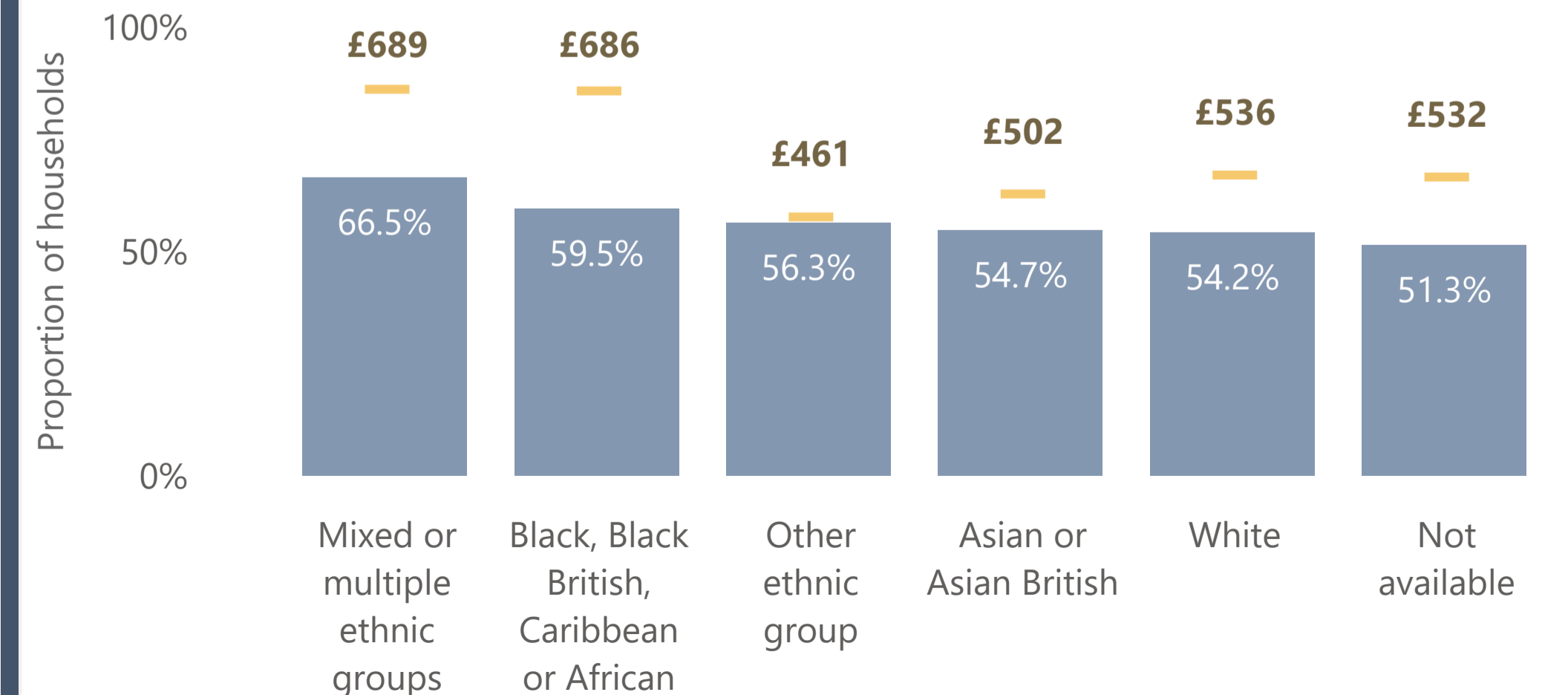
Average rent arrears per household in arrears as of Jun 23, by Local Area Committee

● % households in arrears — Average arrears per household in arrears



Average rent arrears per household in arrears as of Jun 23, by primary ethnic group

● % households in arrears — Average arrears per household in arrears



Homelessness

Food Poverty

SCC Rent Arrears

Community & Crime

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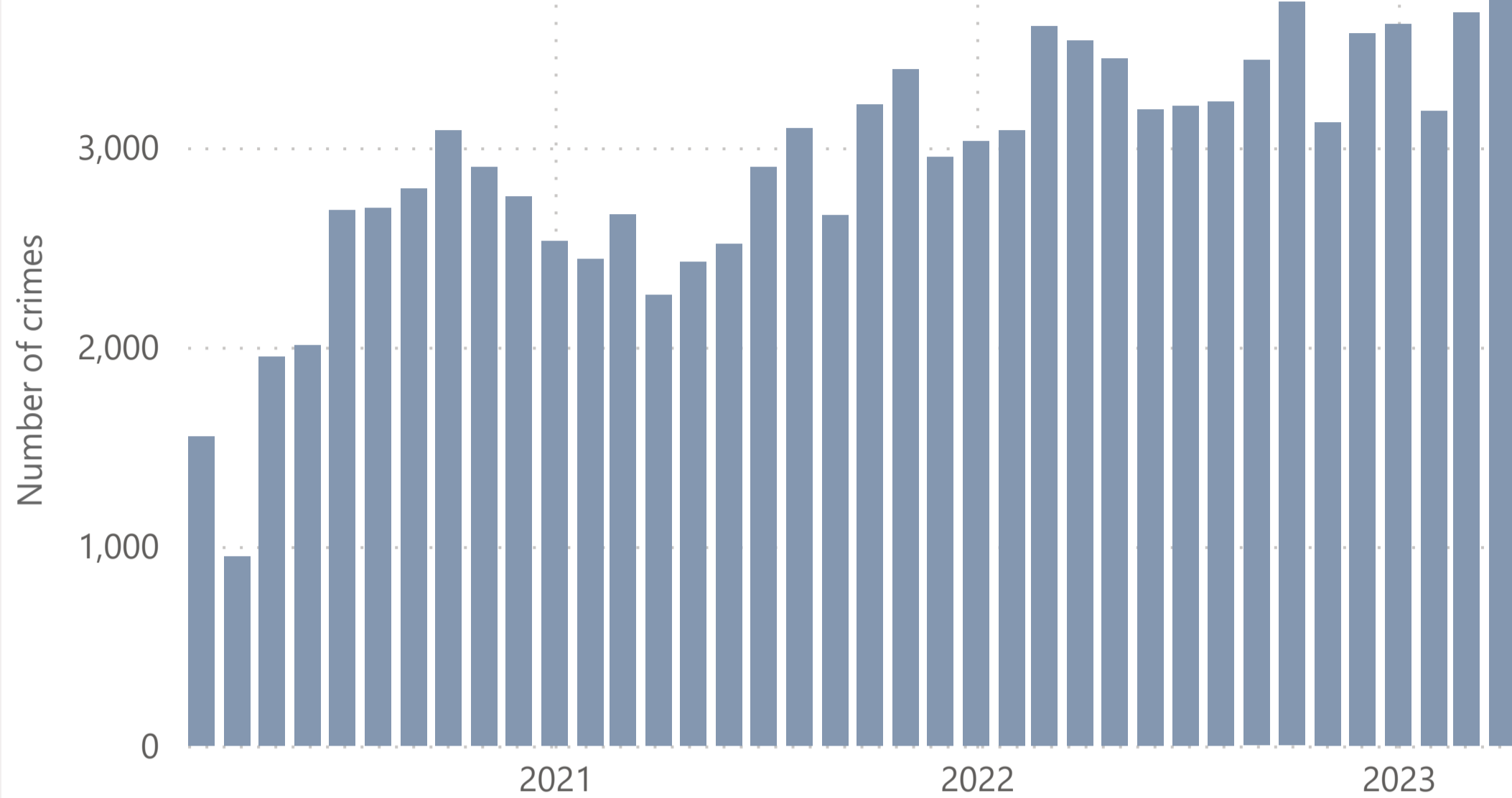
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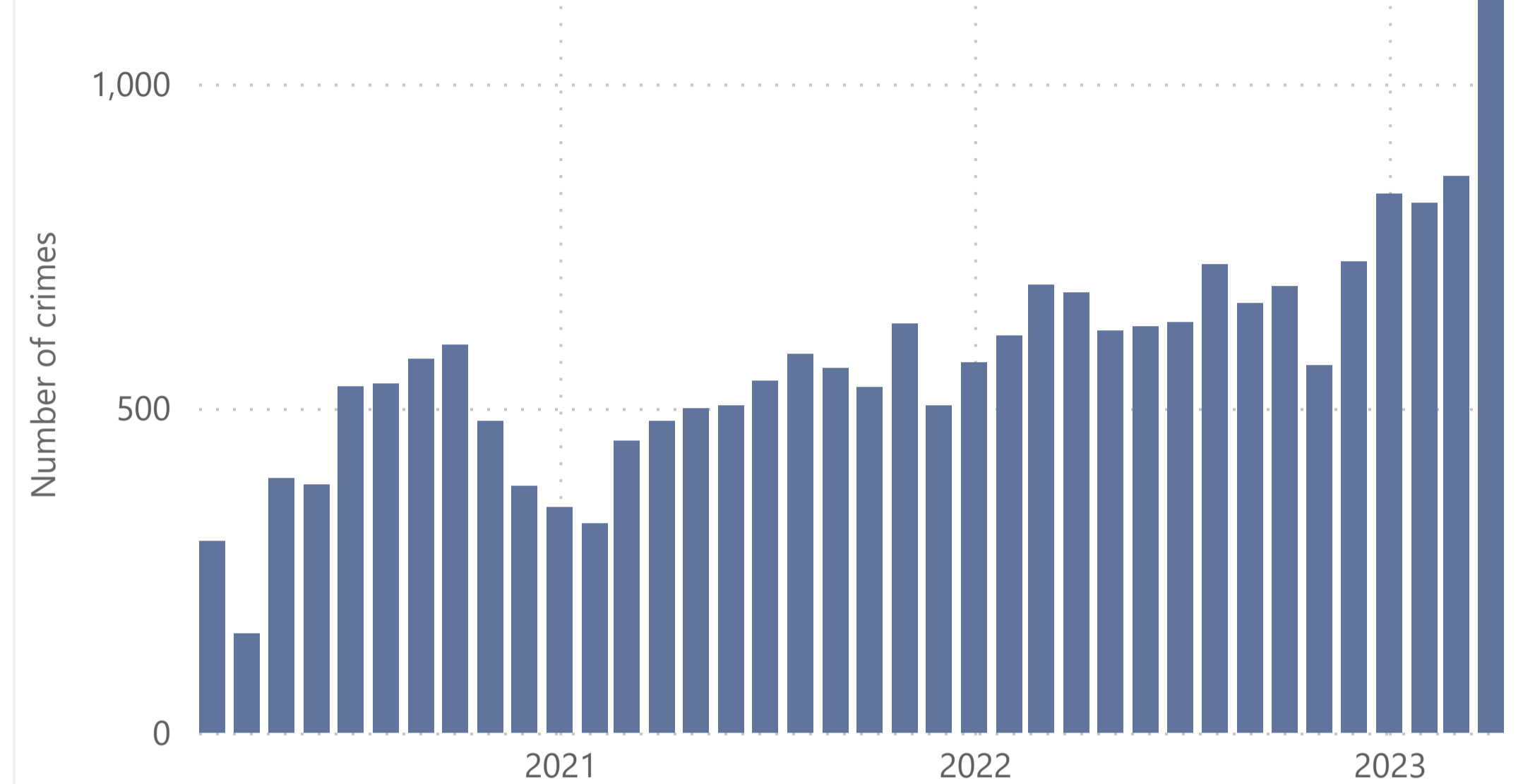
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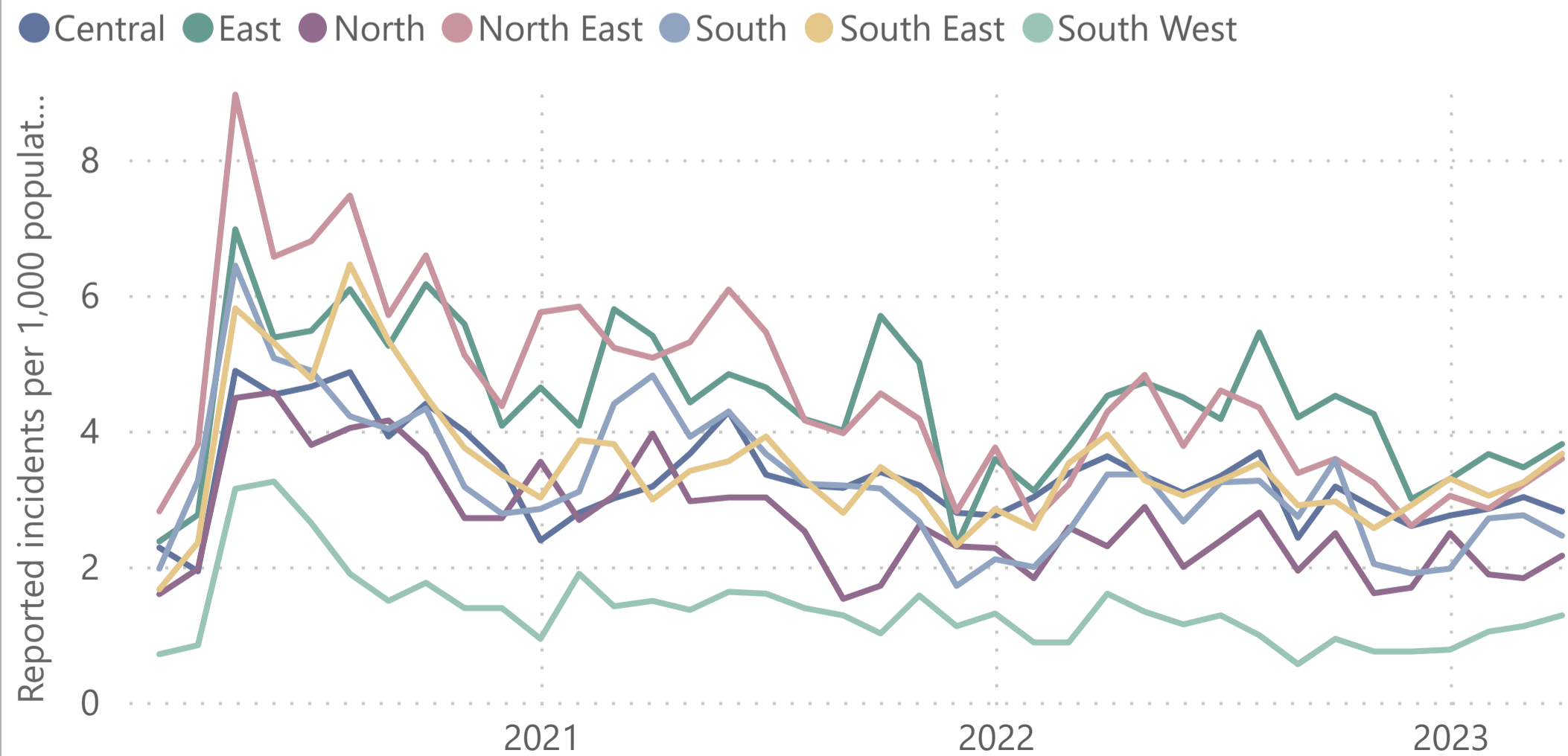
Reported acquisitive crimes in Sheffield



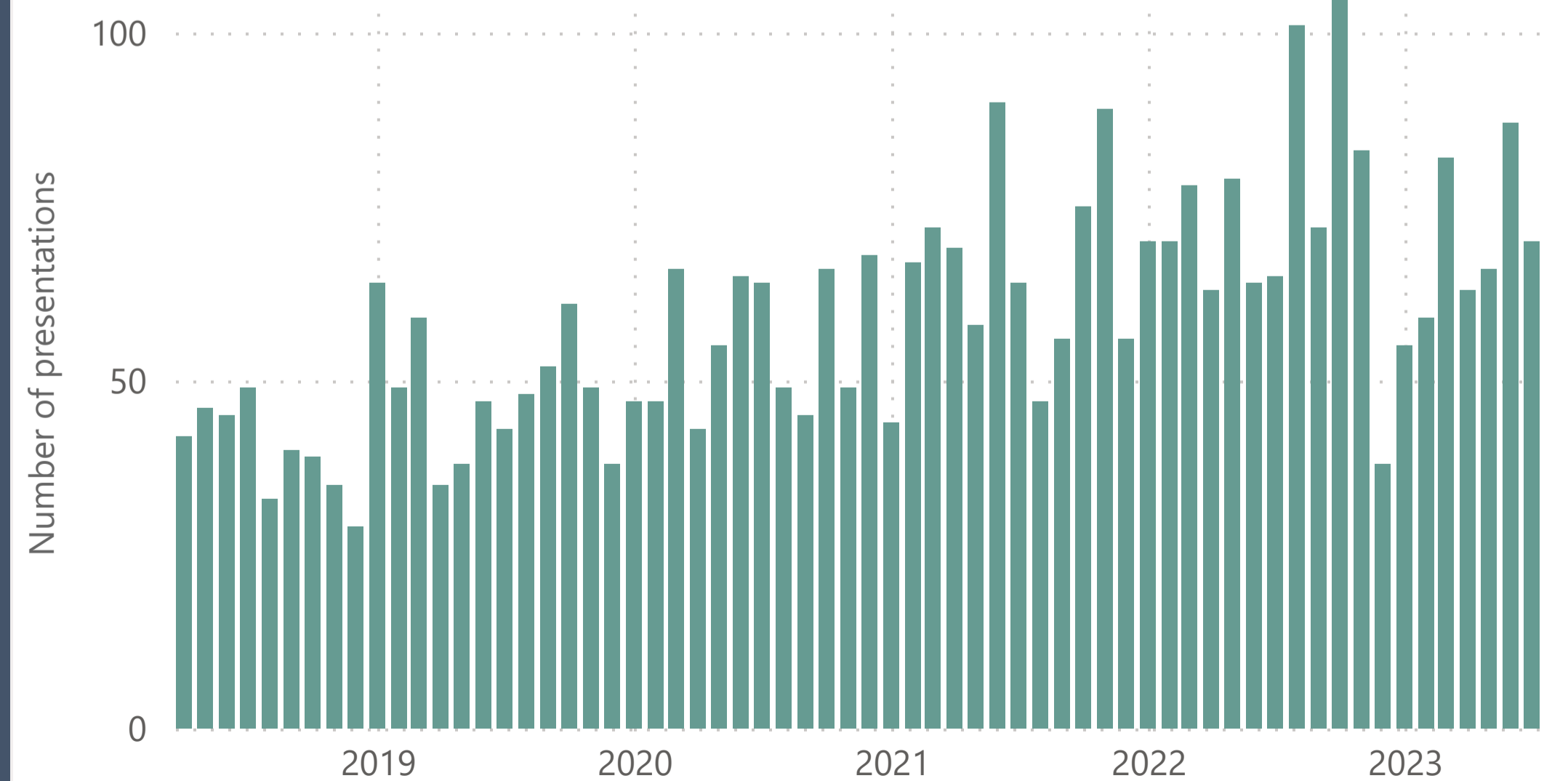
Reported instances of shoplifting in Sheffield



Reported instances of anti-social behaviour per 1,000 population, by Local Area Committee



Homelessness presentations where domestic abuse is settled home loss reason



Homelessness

Food Poverty

SCC Rent Arrears

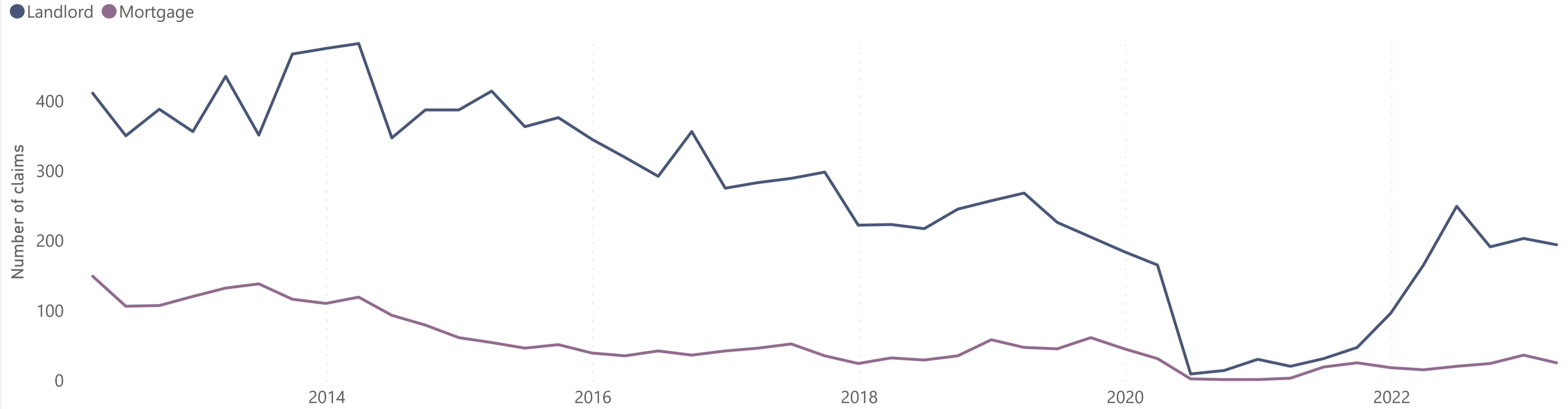
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Monthly mortgage and landlord possession claims



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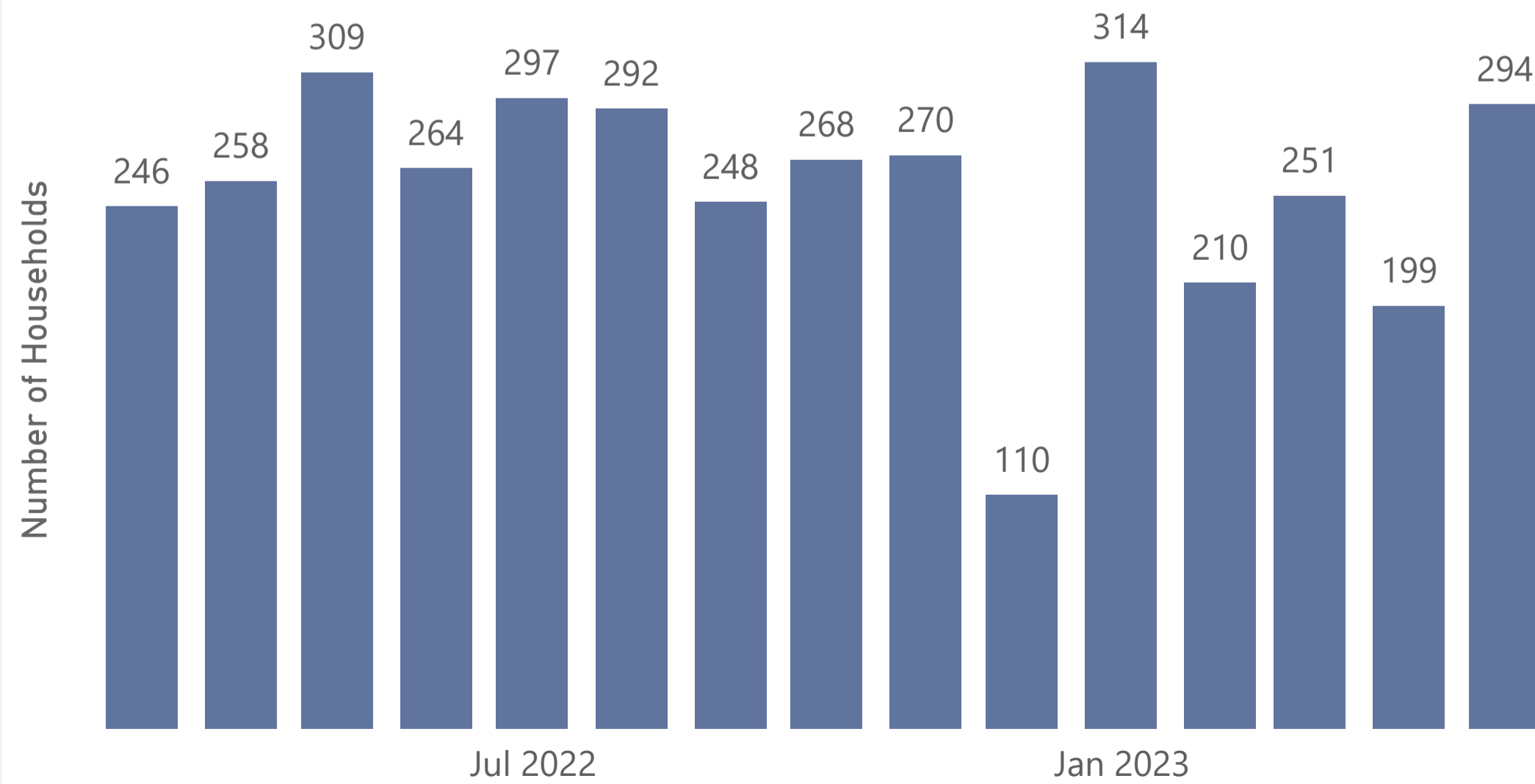
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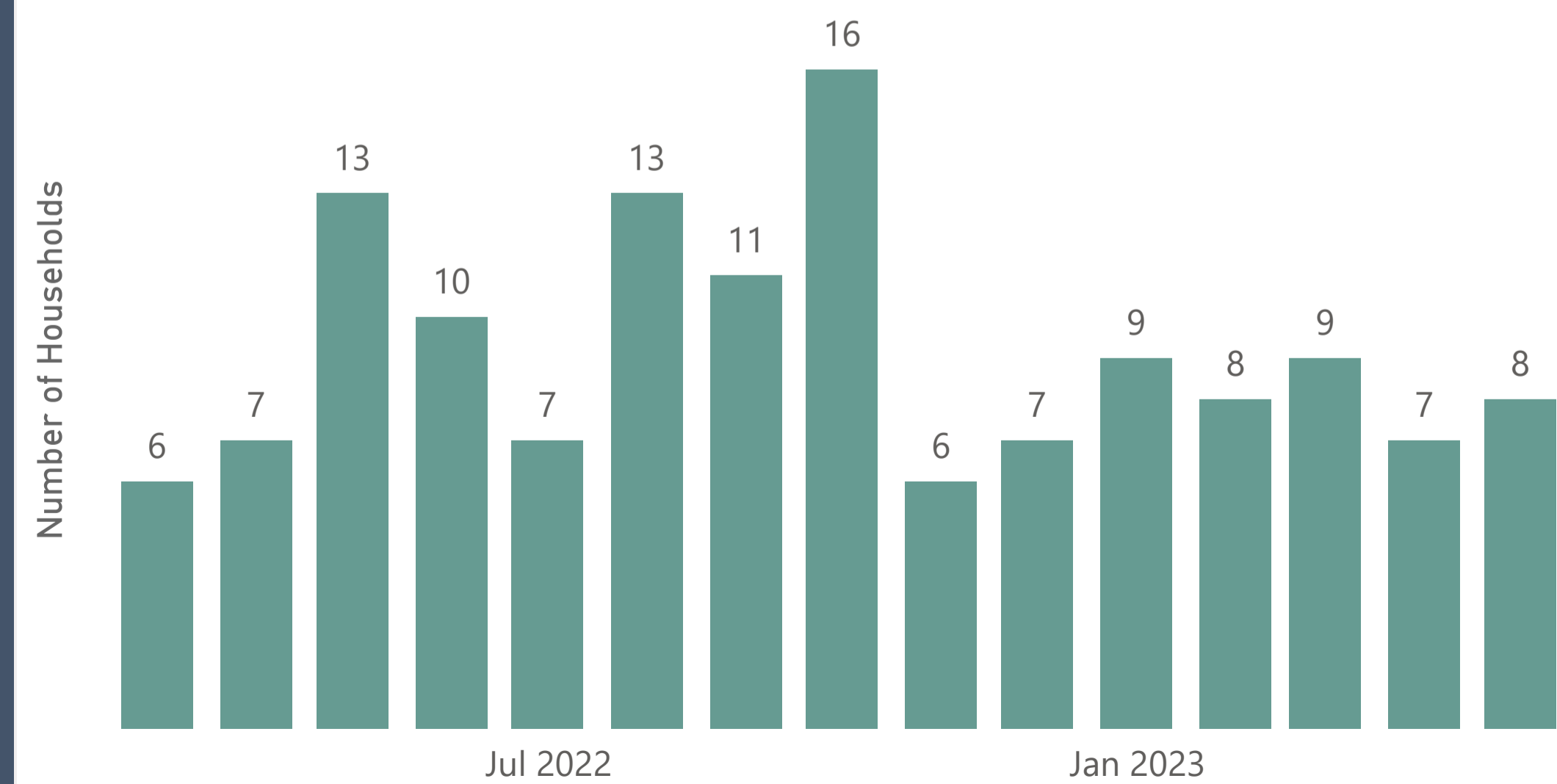
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Council Housing: Number of Notices Seeking Possession



Council Housing: Number of Evictions



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Housing Evictions

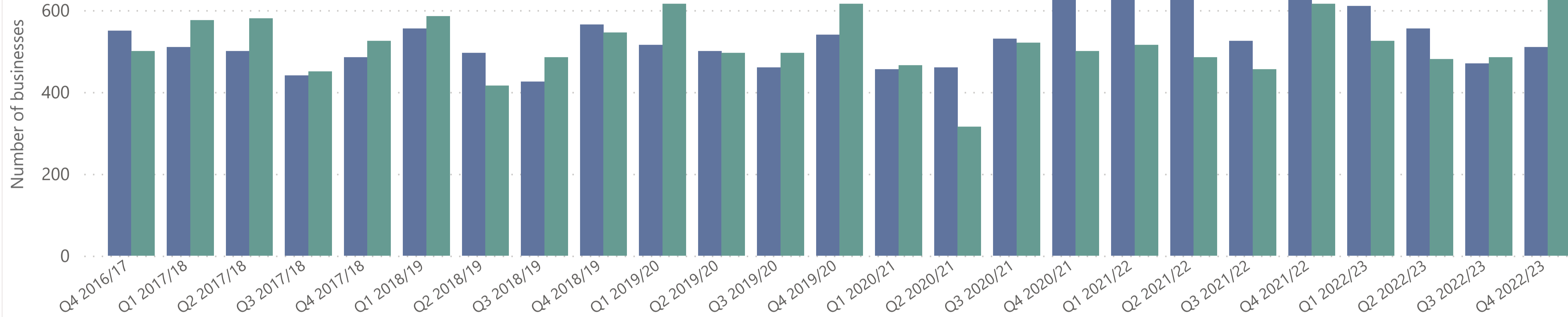
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Number Business Births and Deaths in Sheffield

● Births ● Deaths



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This section of the dashboard aims to give an understanding of the hardship and other forms of assistance available in the city for people in financial difficulty. It should be noted that this often cannot fully reflect the need for support as demand often outstrips supply, however, we can note some patterns that could help us understand the situation for different residents and to focus support most effectively.

General Cost of Living section has a series of the tabs that show the levels of interaction with websites and the SCC Community Support Helpline, as well as attempting to capture the use of 'Welcome Places' - a diverse network of organisations with different types of offers to suit their communities. We have included some information from SCC libraries as a proxy, however it can be difficult to unpick both trends after the pandemic and the differing uses of libraries. Locations for other types of Welcome Place's have been included via VAS data map link.

Citizens Advice Data section has locally available data from Citizens Advice Sheffield. Here it highlights the top issues people are seeking help with, and how this is playing out across the city. National Citizens Advice also have a useful data dashboard showing Cost of Living trends, much of which is reflected in Sheffield. Their dashboard can be found [here](#)

Council Hardship Schemes section provides information about financial support available from SCC, with a focus on the Household Support Fund , a DWP-funded scheme that provides support for essentials. Other types of support data included come from:

- Local Assistance Scheme crisis grants;
- Government-funded Energy Grants, administered by SCC;
- Council Tax Hardship Scheme and Discretionary Housing Payments, which help people with housing costs.

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Use of Council Services

NeighbourGood Postcard

Welcome Places Map

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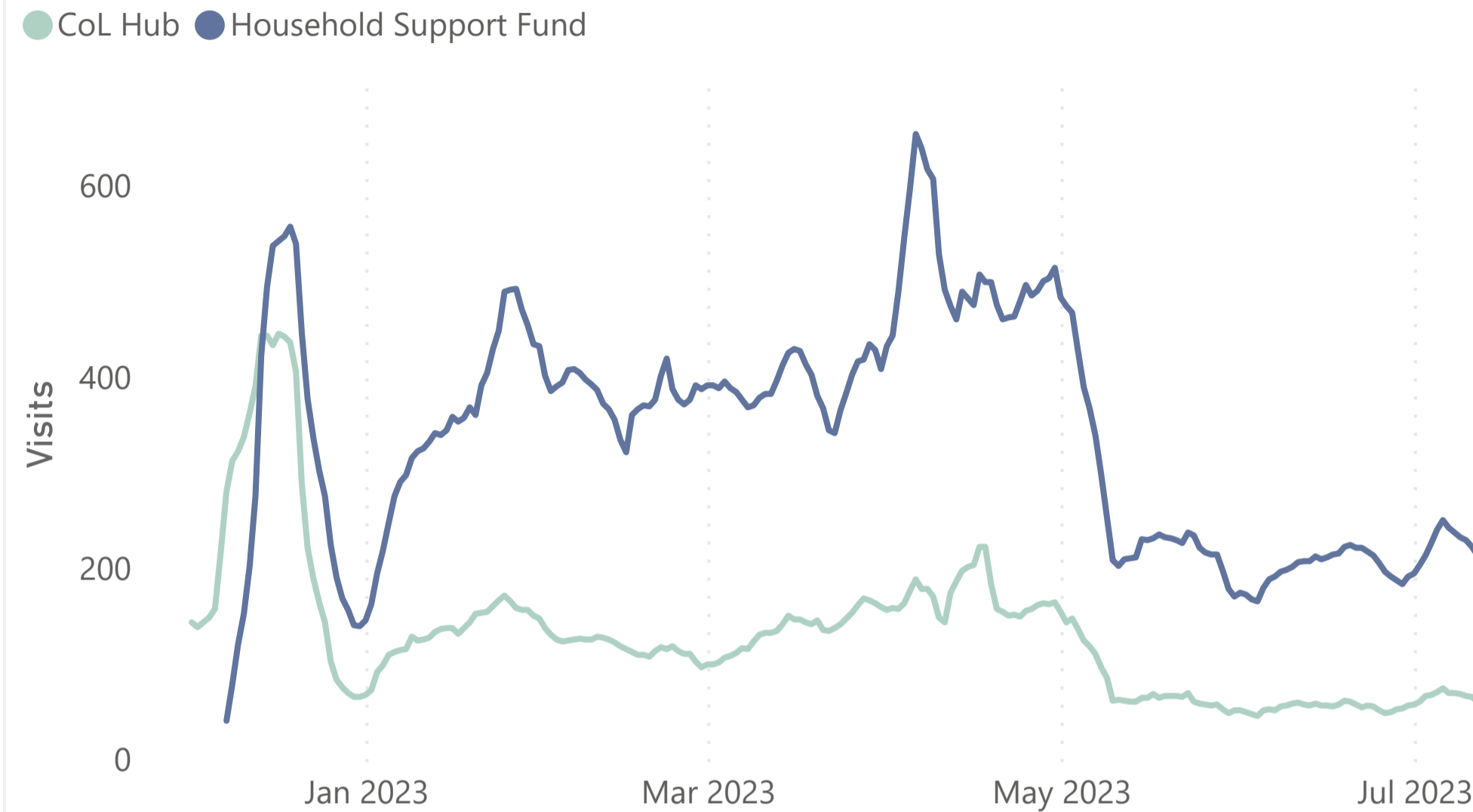
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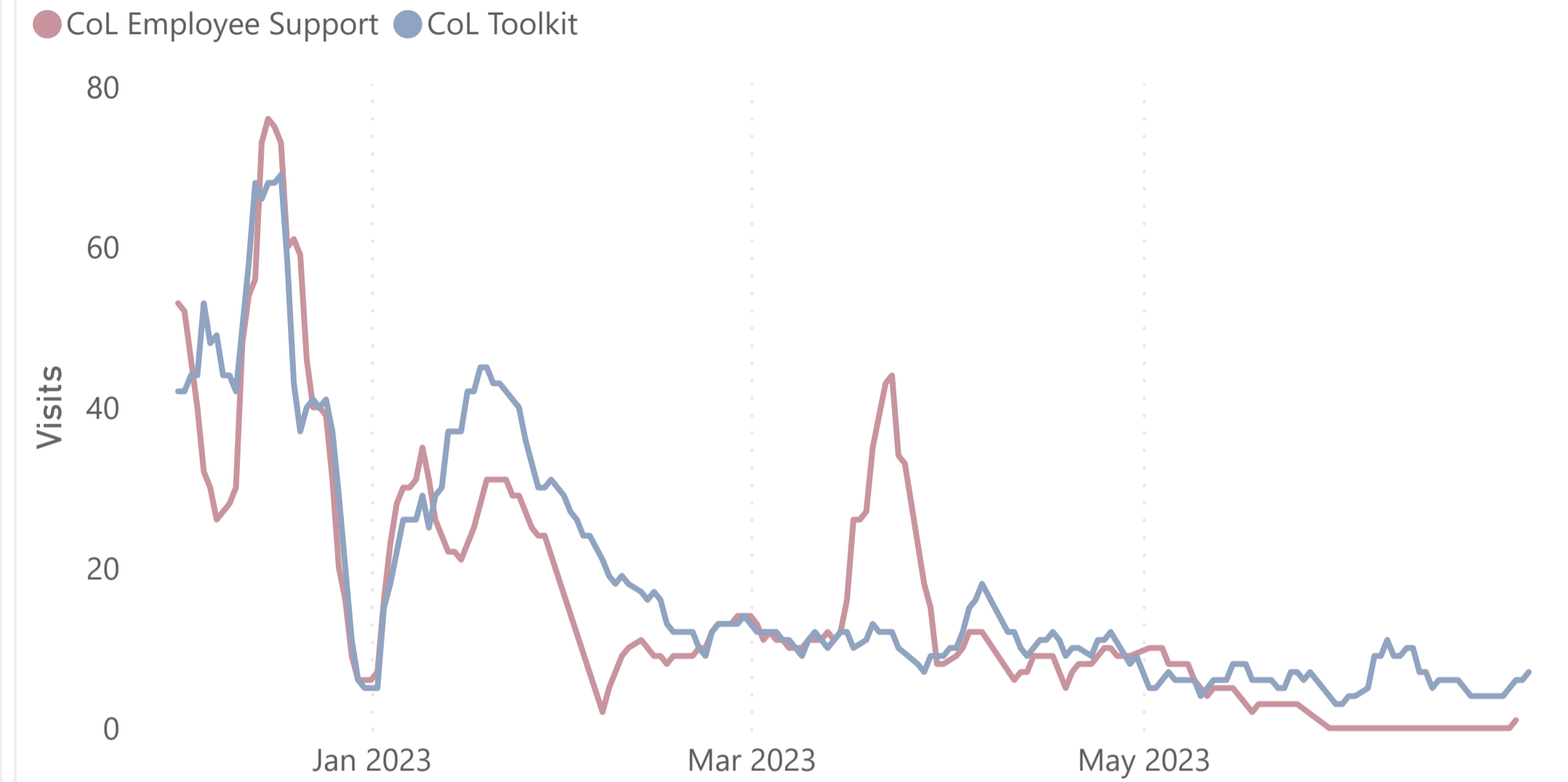
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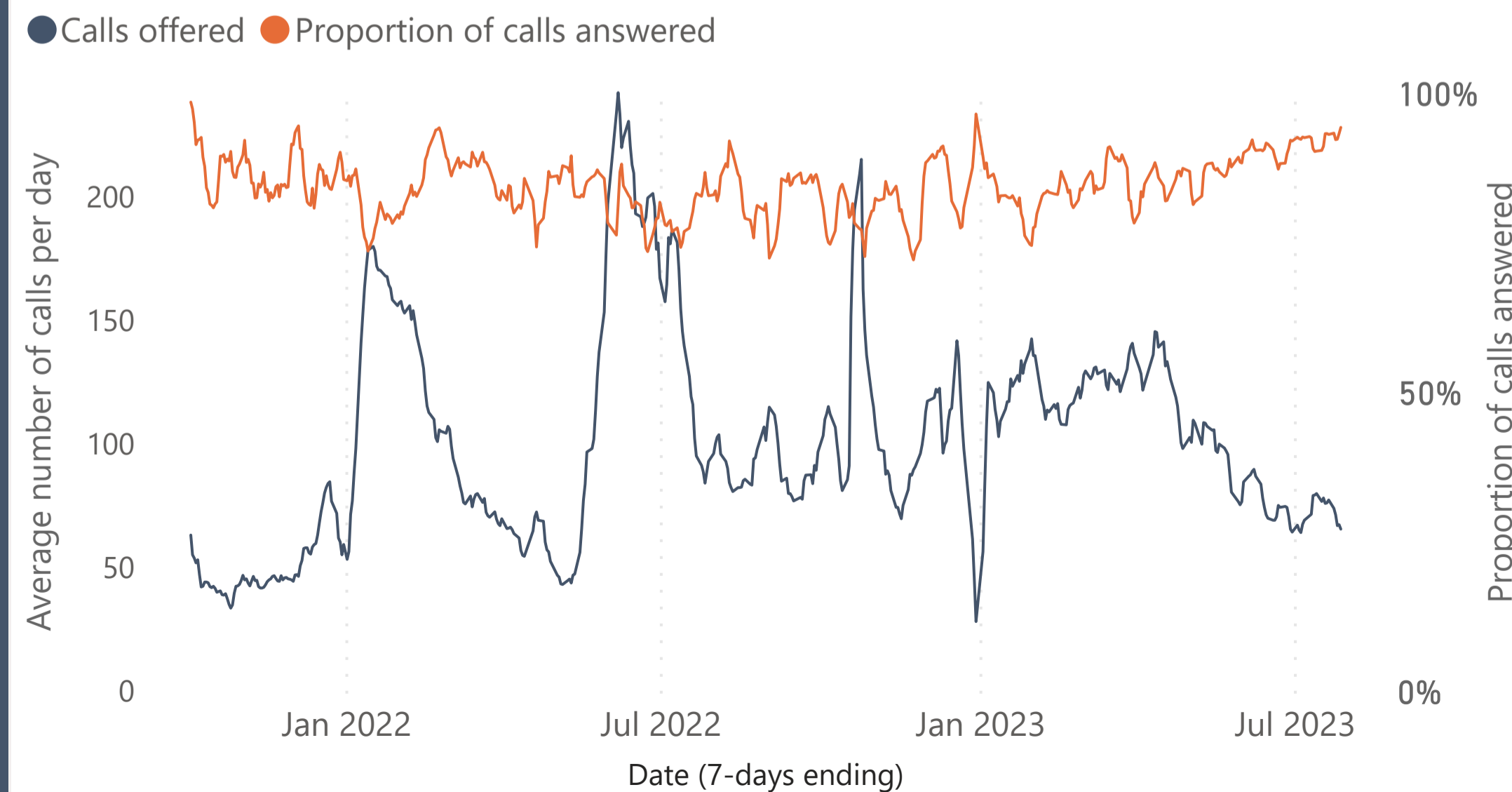
Visits to publicly available webpages - 7 day rolling average



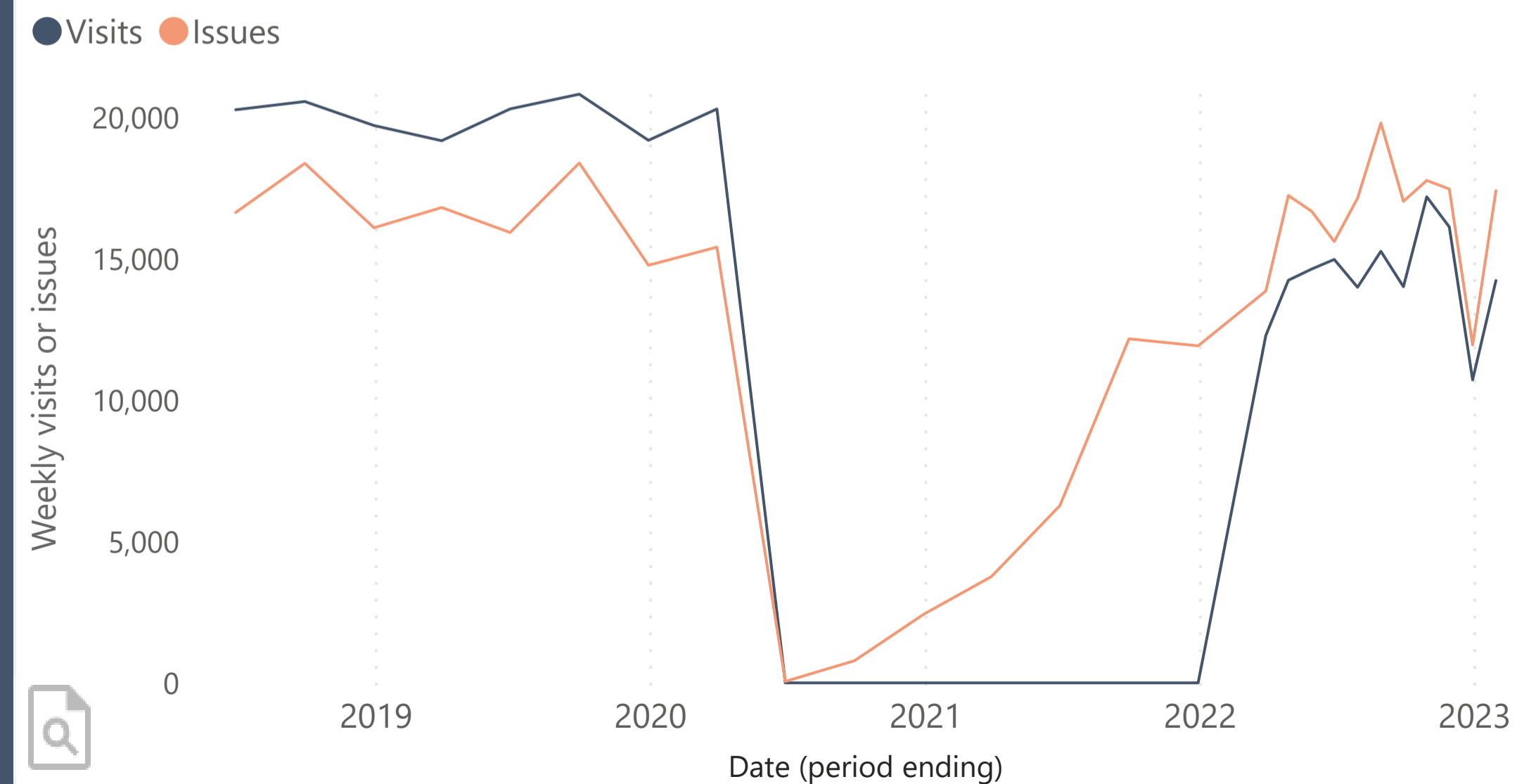
Visits to employee / front-line worker webpages - 7 day rolling average



Daily calls to Community Support Helpline - 7-day rolling average



Libraries: average number of visits and issues per week

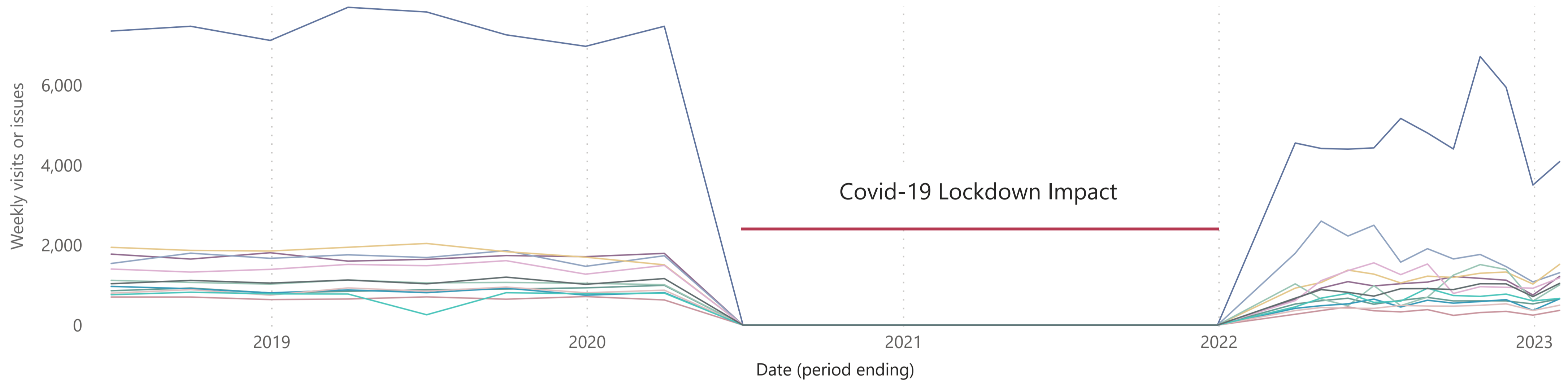




Sheffield City Council Libraries

Libraries: average number of visits per week

● Central ● Chapeltown ● Crystal Peaks ● Darnall ● Ecclesall ● Firth Park ● Highfield ● Hillsborough ● Manor ● Parson Cross ● Stocksbridge ● Woodseats



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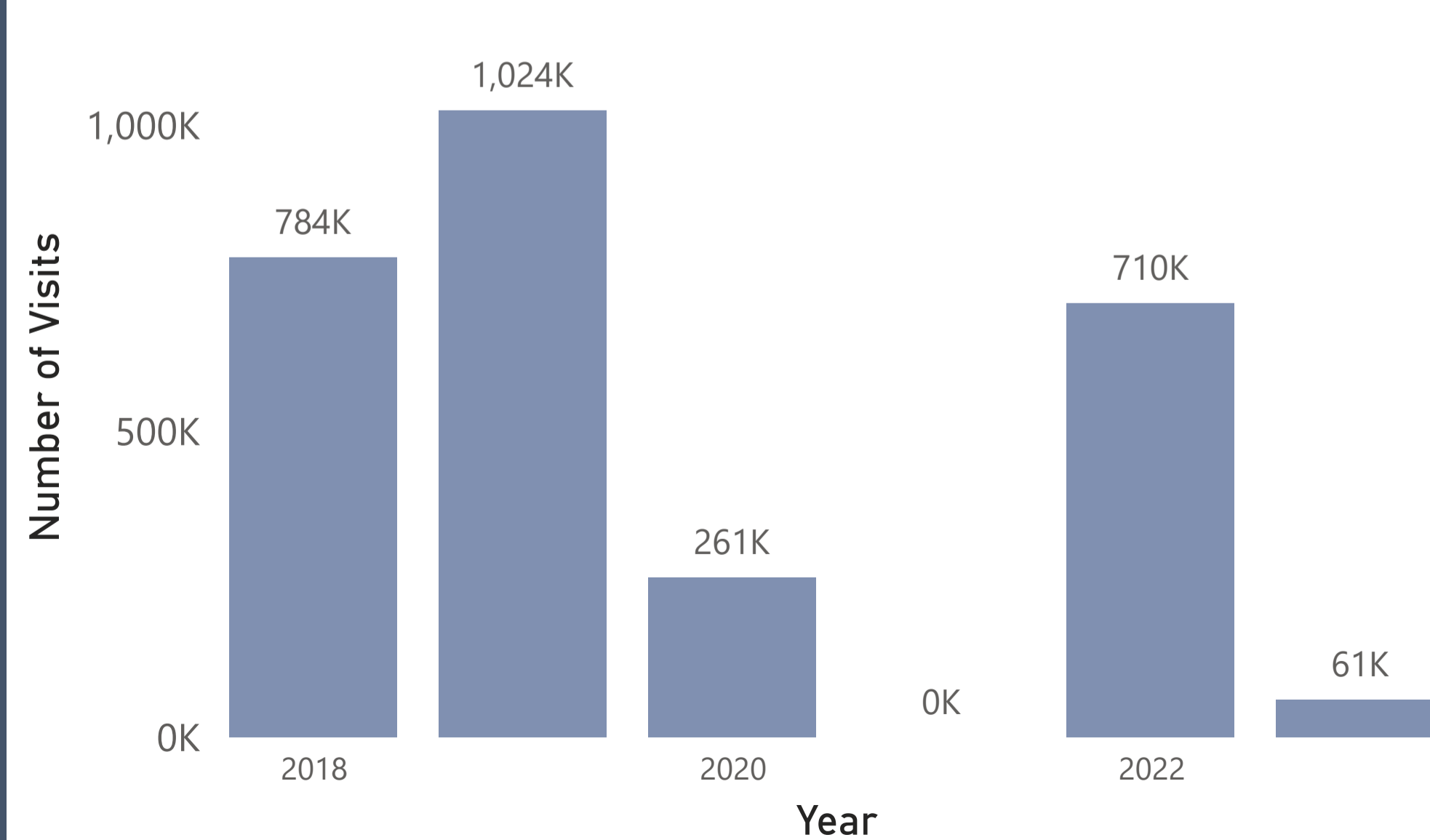
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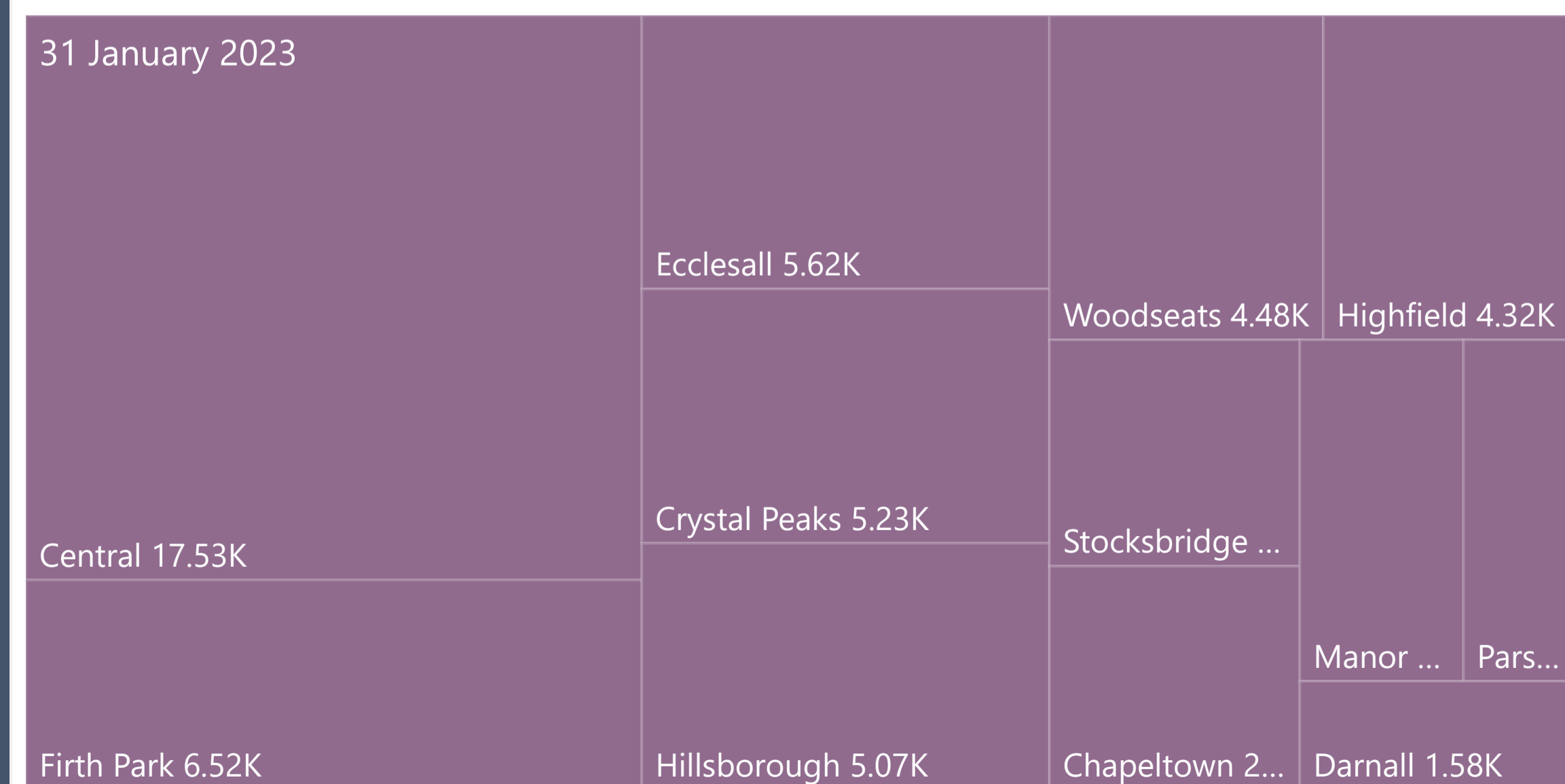
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Total Visits by Year



Libraries: Visits Year To Date



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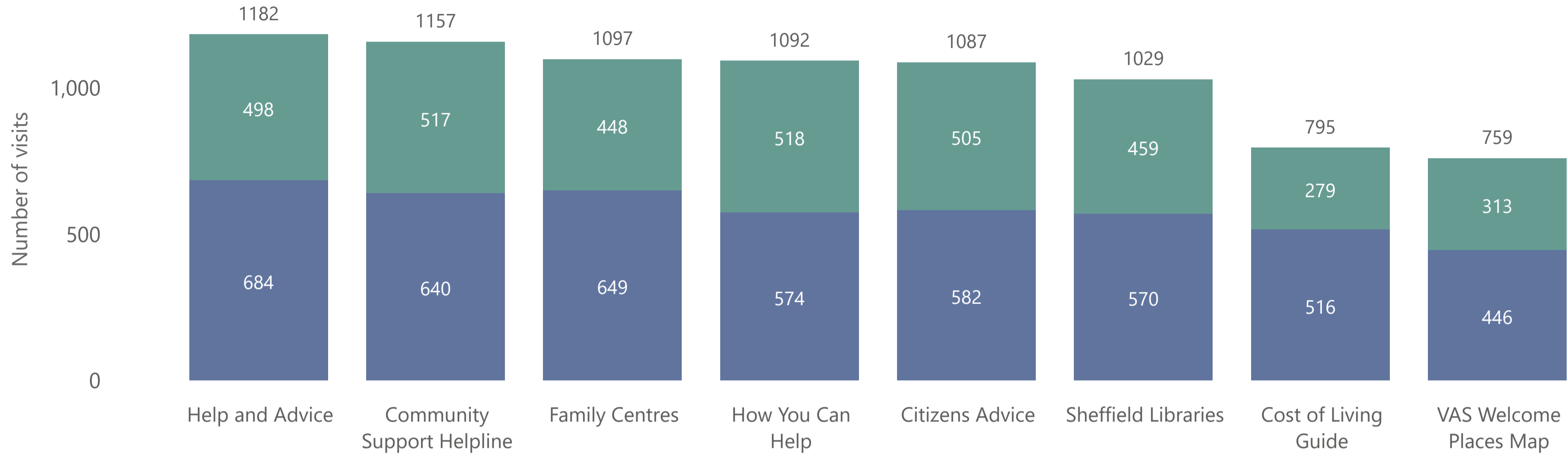
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NeighbourGood QR Scans

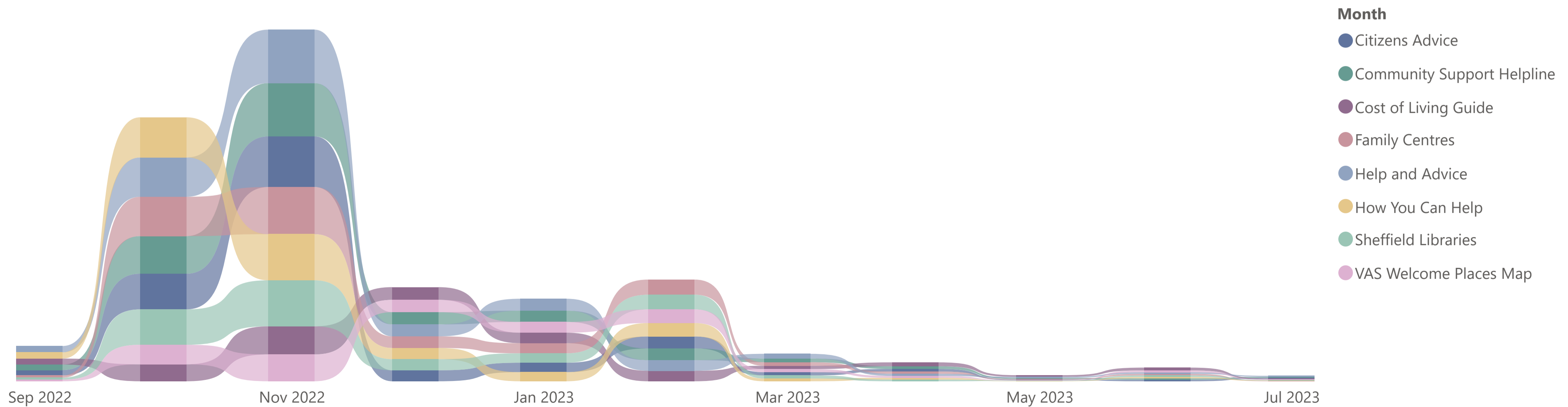
Visitor Type ● Unique Visitor ● Repeat Visitor



8,198
Total Visitors

4661
Unique Visitor

NeighbourGood scans by month



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Name:

African Voices Platform

Address:

1 Grove Road
Totley
Sheffield
S17 4dj

Services:

Information:

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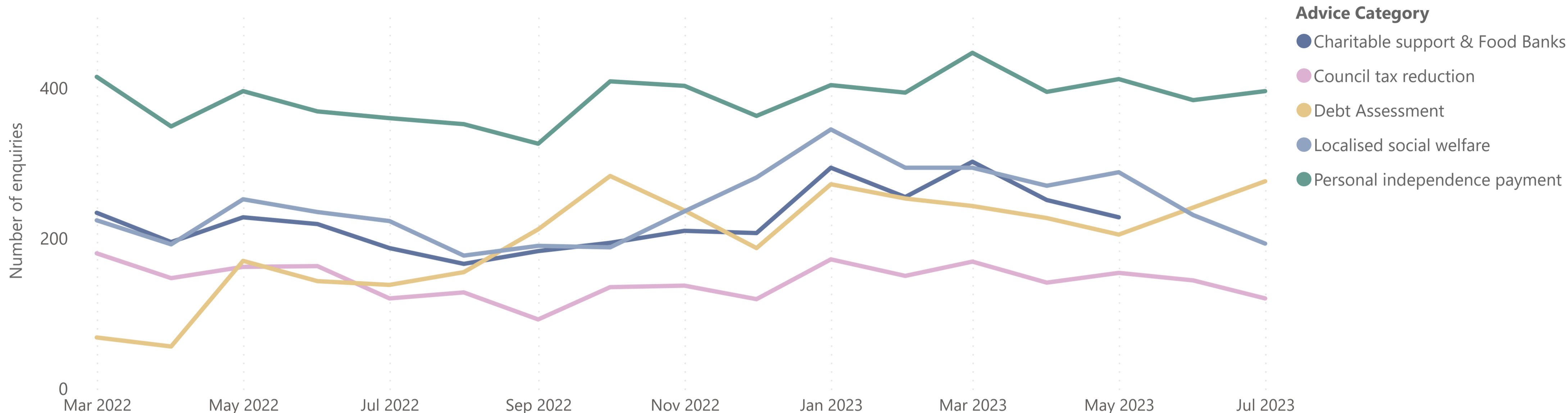
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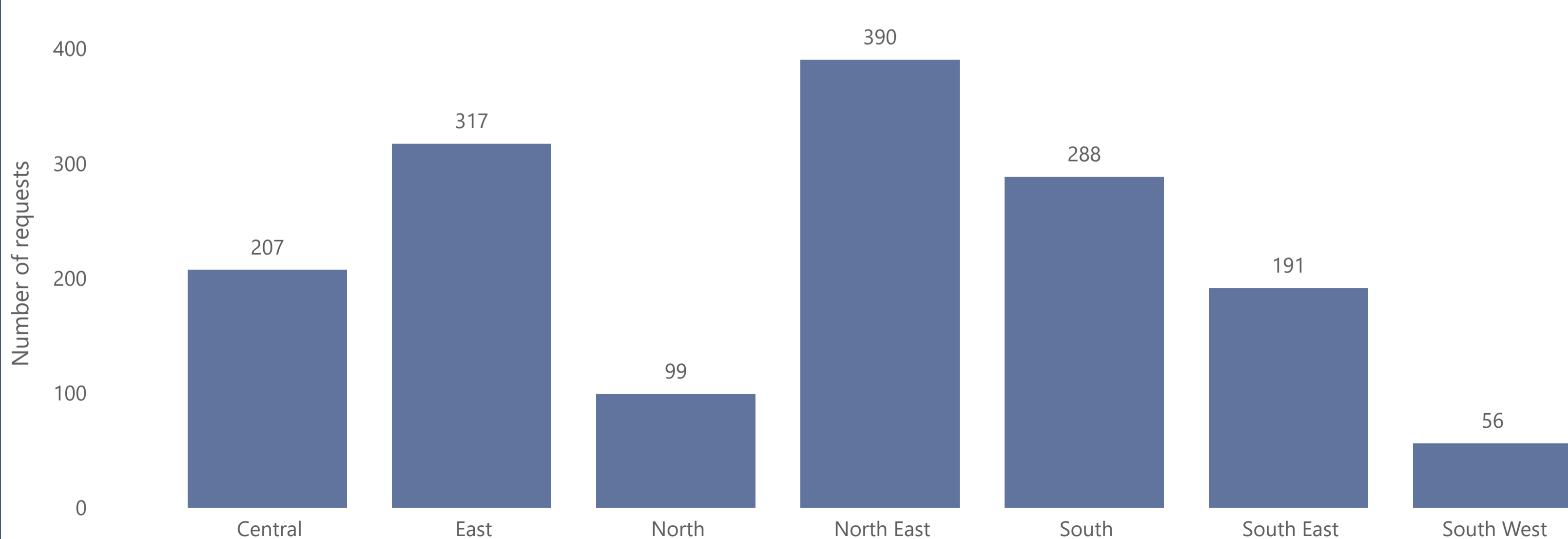
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Citizens Advice Sheffield, Top 5 Issues



Number of People Receiving Help from Citizens Advice in July 2023, by Local Area Committee



1548

Total people

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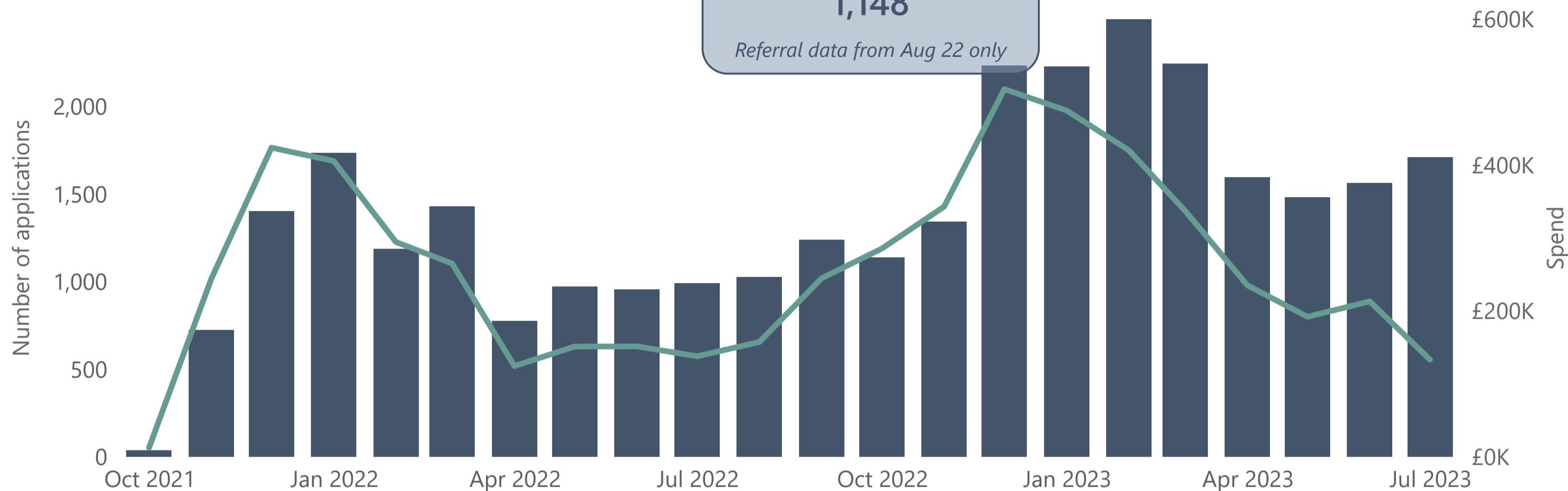
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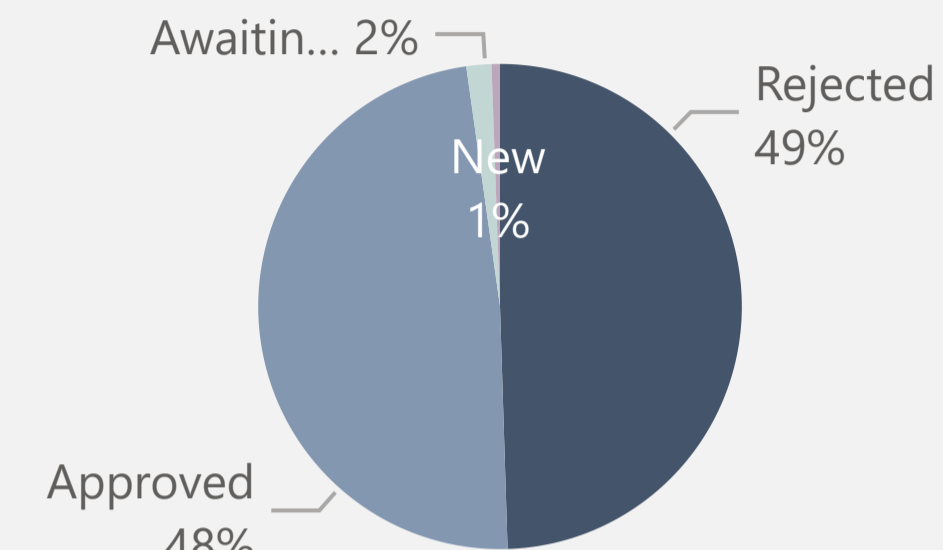
Household Support Fund applications and spend

● Applications — Spend



Total applications

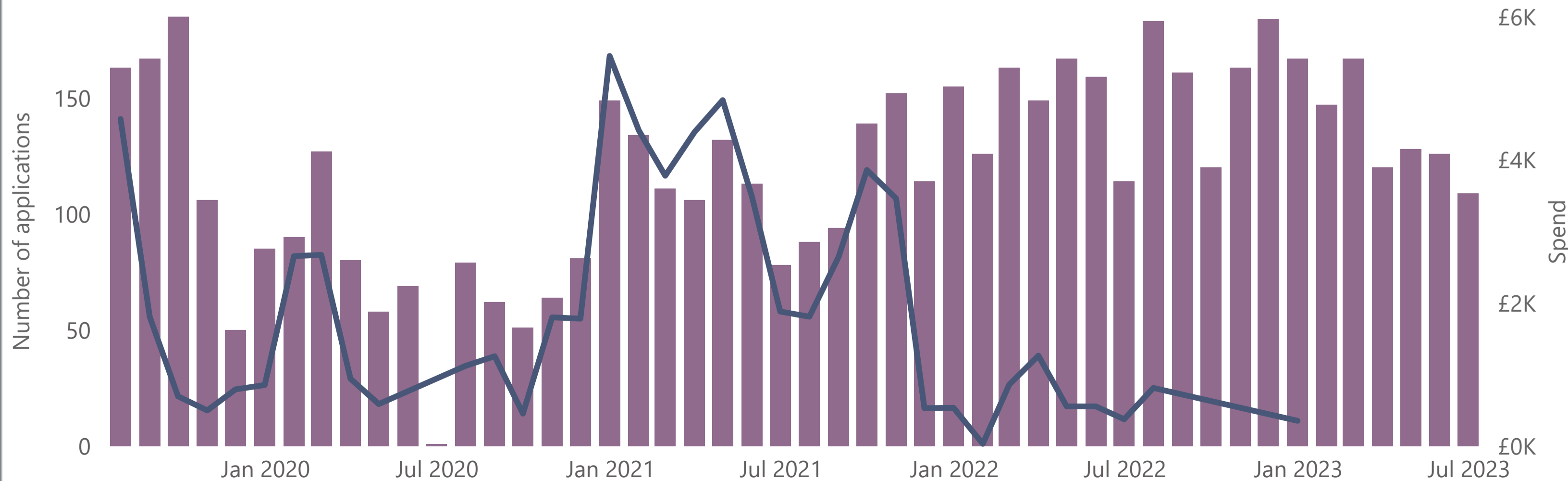
30,523



Total spend to date
£5,927,662

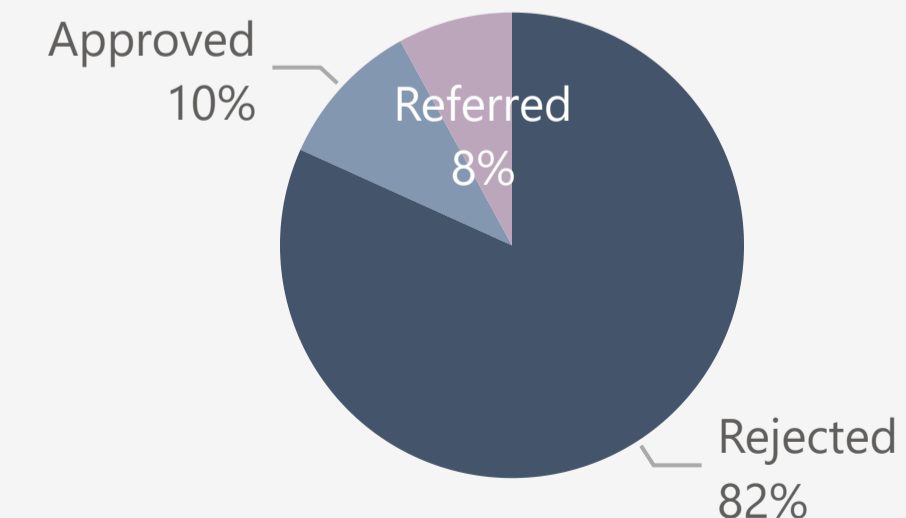
Local Assistance Scheme applications and spend

● Applications — Spend



Total applications

5,736



Total spend to date
£68,451

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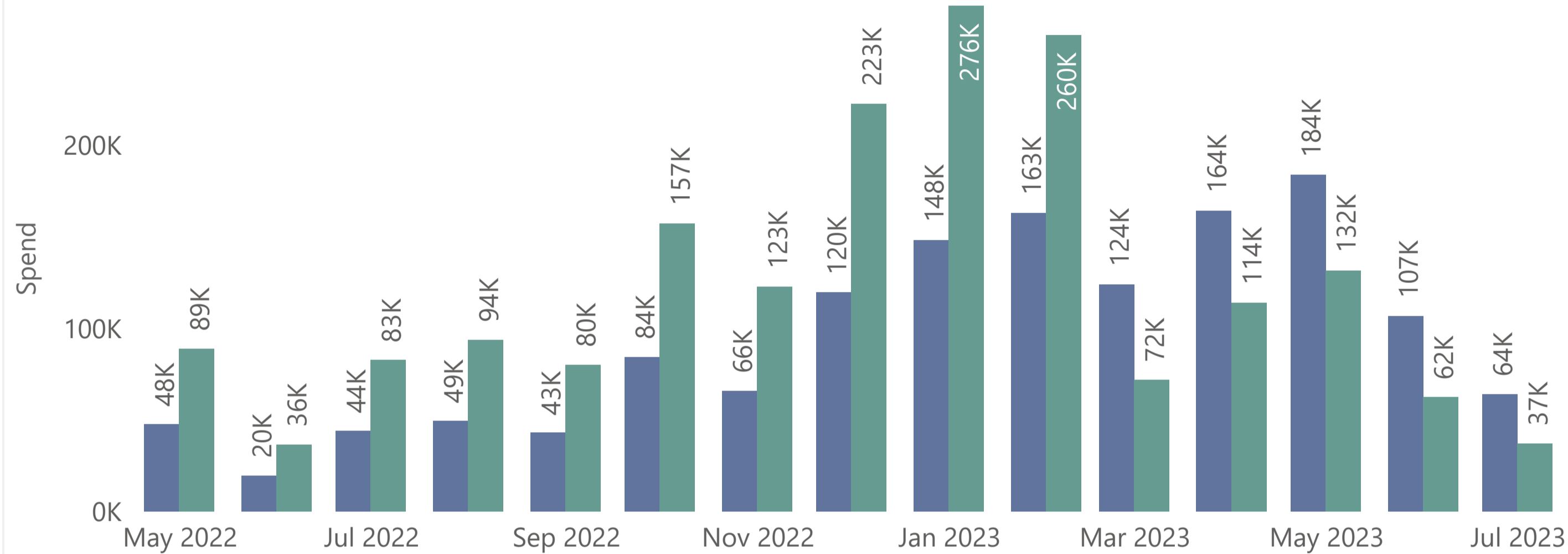
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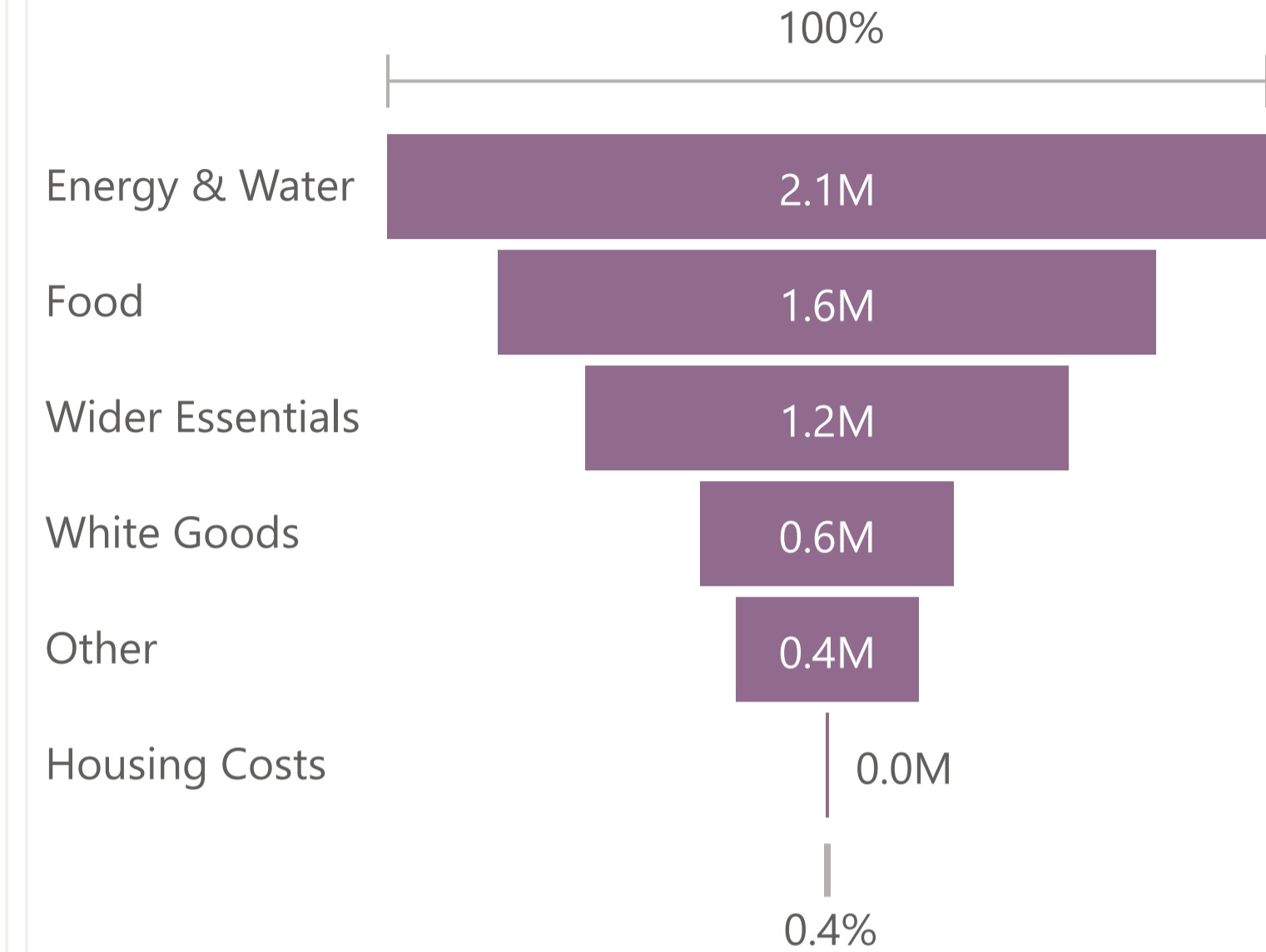
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Household Support Fund Spend on Food, Energy and Water

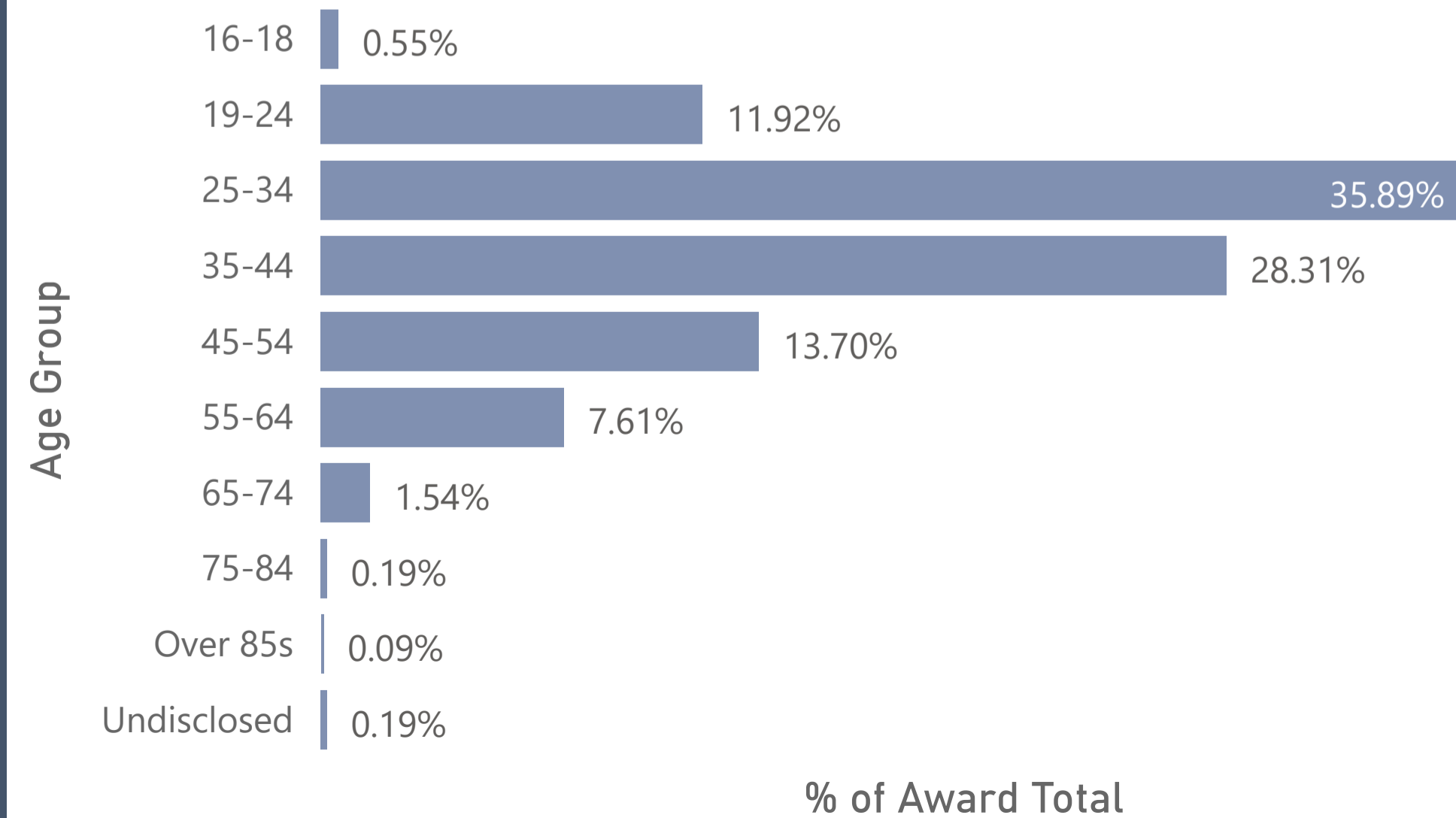
● Food ● Energy & Water



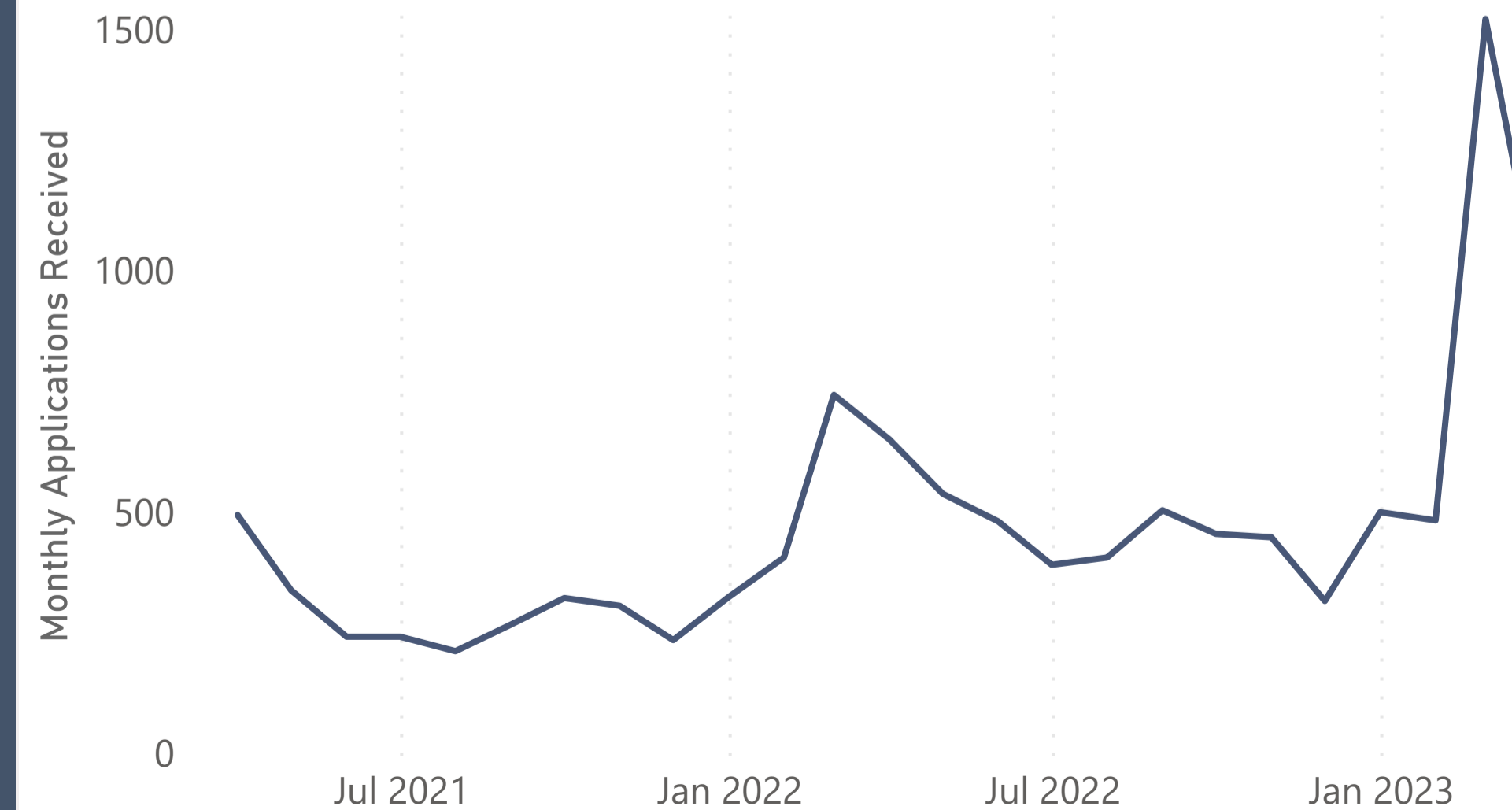
HSF Spend Categories



% of Award Total by Age Group



Council Tax Hardship Fund and Discretionary Housing Payment - Monthly Applications Received



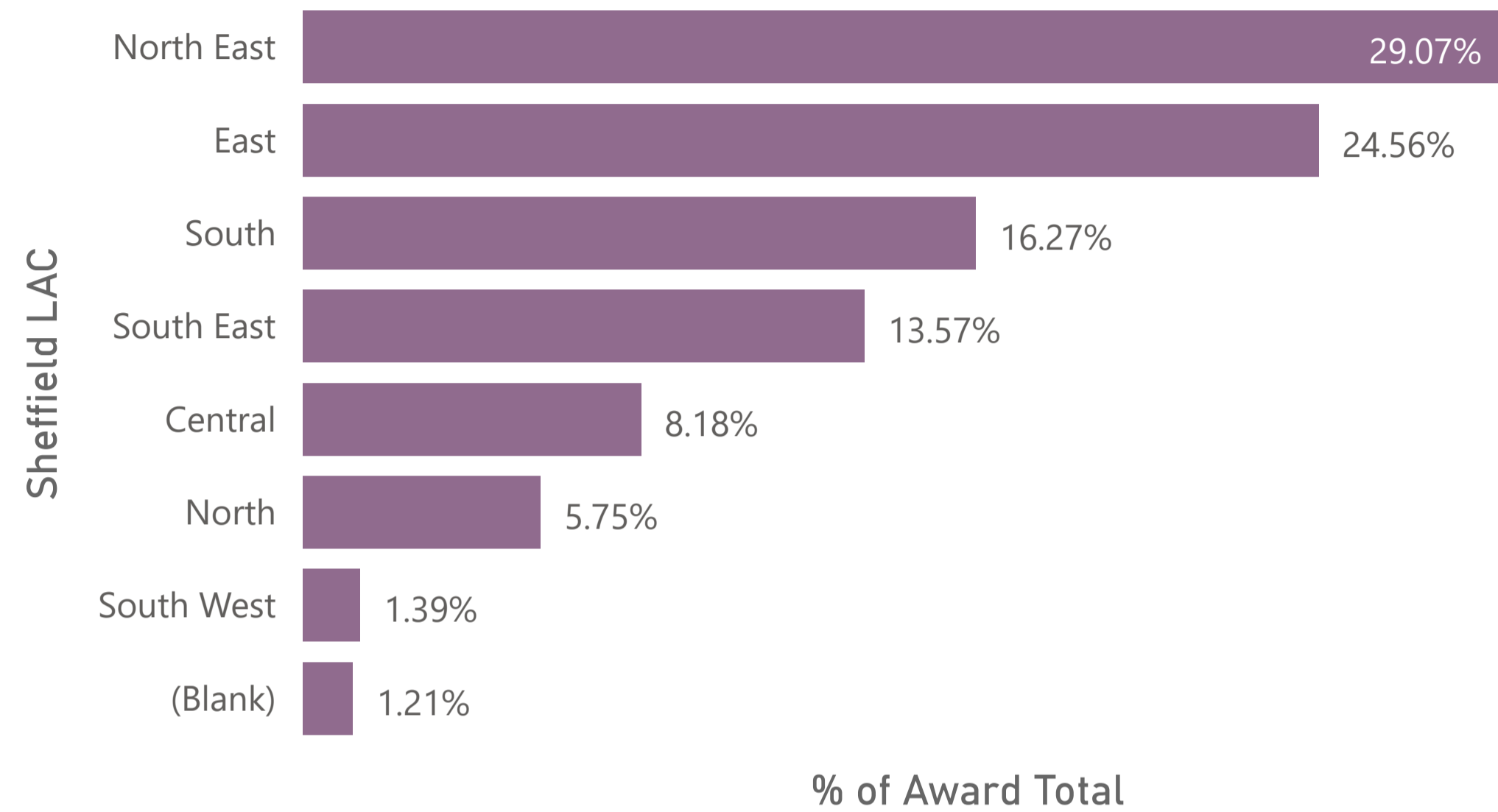


Household Support Cohort LAC Detail

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% Of Award Total by Sheffield LAC

Data from November 2022 to Present



£331

Average Award

16,825

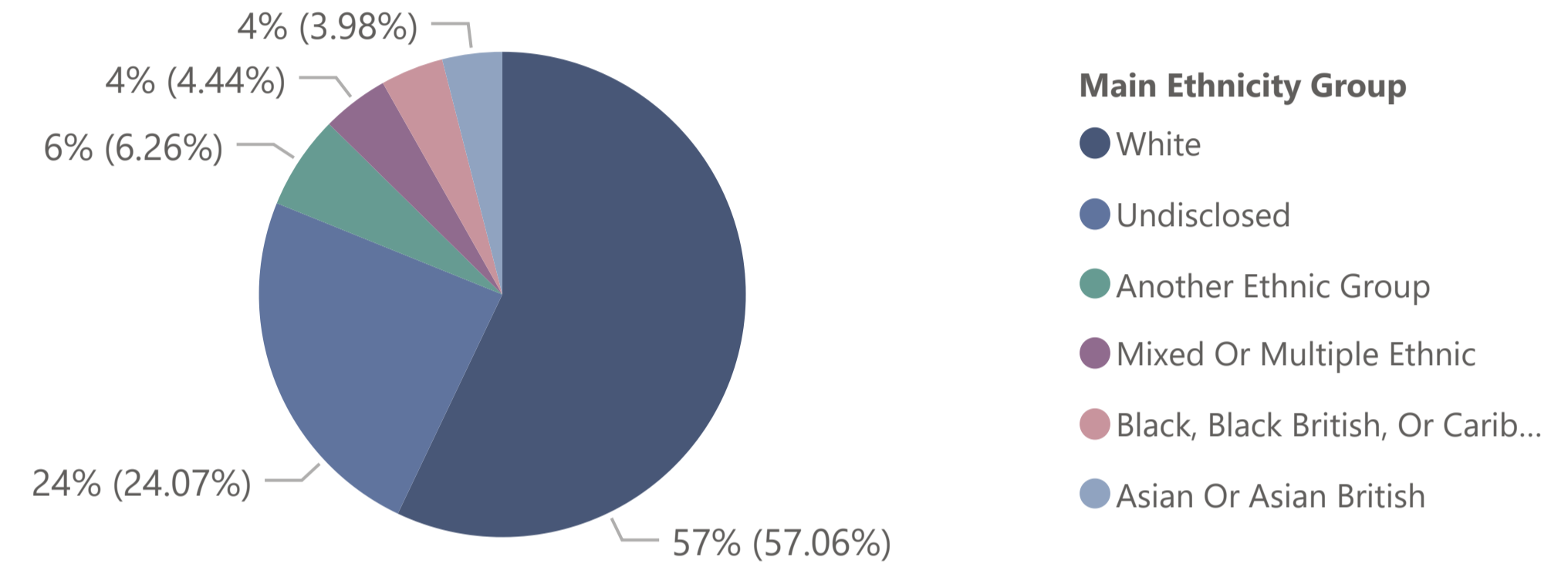
Number of Unique Applications

Age Band

All

IMPACTS

Ethnicity



GENERAL
COST OF...

TYPES OF SUPPORT

CITIZENS
ADVICE DATA

COUNCIL
HARDSHIP...

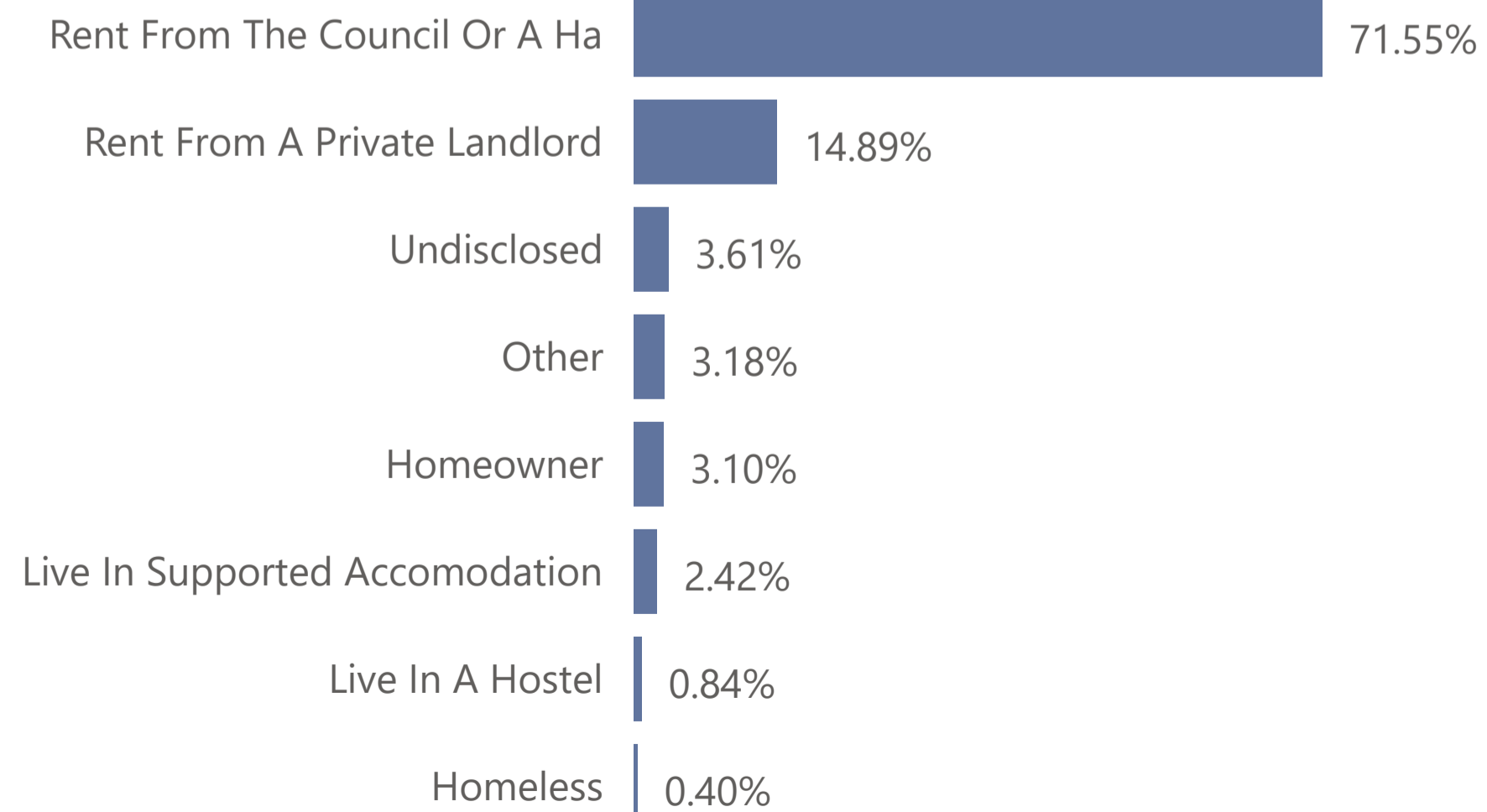
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74%

Universal Credit

Tenure

Tenure Type



64%

Families with Children

58%

Council Tax Support

20%

Disability

COST OF LIVING
CONTEXT

IMPACTS

GENERAL
COST OF...

TYPES OF SUPPORT

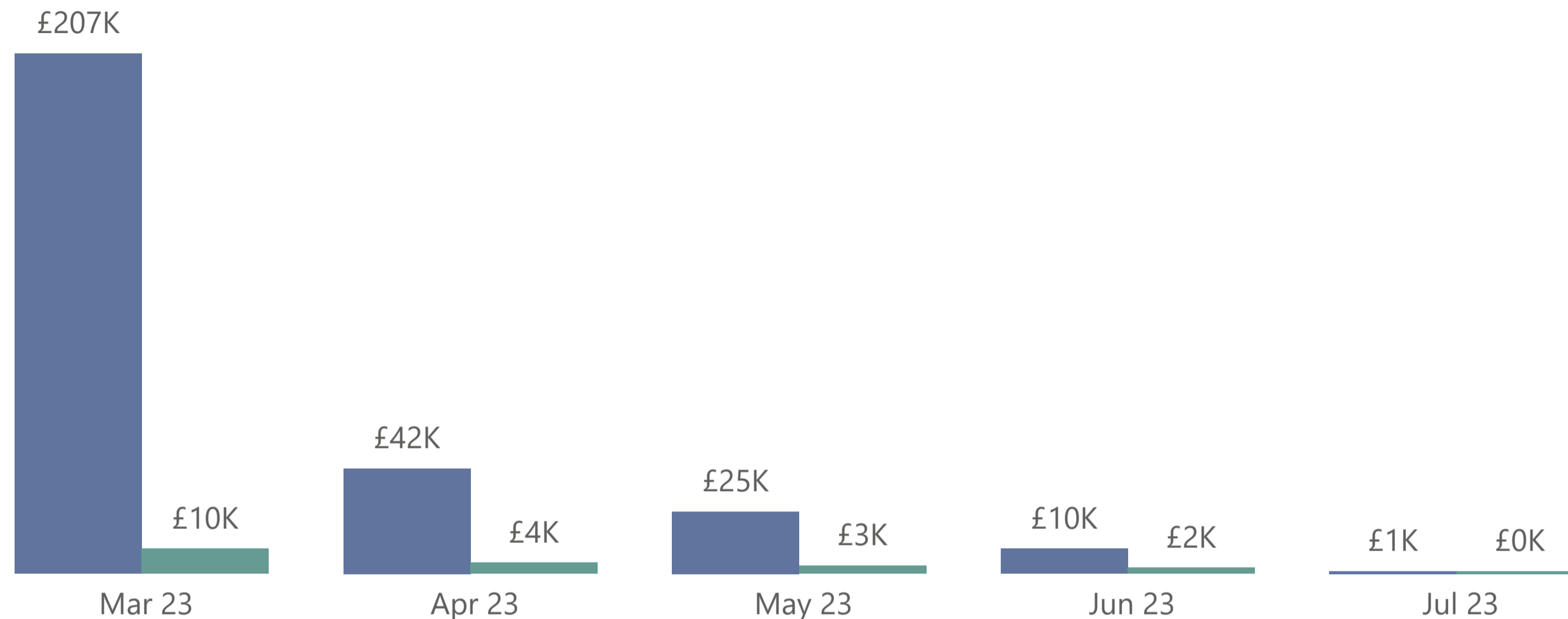
CITIZENS
ADVICE DATA

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Total Energy Grant Payments

Payment Type ● EBSS Alternative Fund ● EPG Alternative Fuel Payment



£305,200

Total Payments To Date

814

Approved Applications

The government is offering two schemes which provide funding to people who do not have a direct contract with an energy supplier and are therefore not eligible for the current Energy Bill Support Scheme.

Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding

The Energy Bills Support Scheme Alternative Funding (EBSS) provides eligible residences with a £400 discount on their energy bills. This includes, for example, care home residents or those living in properties with energy costs paid to a commercial landlord

Alternative Fuel Payments Scheme

The Alternative Fuel Payments Scheme offers a discount of £200 to those using alternative fuels such as biomass or heating oil.