SPSO decision report



Case: 200904505, Fife Housing Register

Sector: local government

Subject: applications, allocations, transfers and exchanges

Outcome: upheld, action taken by body to remedy, no recommendations

Summary

Mr C wanted to move house and applied to Fife Housing Register (FHR). He was allocated a certain number of housing points based on his circumstances, but when he appealed about the number of points awarded, these were reduced. complained to us that FHR removed medical points from his housing application and disregarded information from medical experts in support of his case. investigation found that there was an error in the initial handling of Mr C's housing application and we upheld the complaint. Because of the mistake he had wrongly been given two awards of points for the same housing need. One of these awards entitled him to more points than the other. FHR confirmed that Mr C was only due one award of points for that housing need and withdrew the higher award of points. When Mr C appealed, FHR re-examined his application and, although they confirmed that he was only entitled to one award of points, they decided that it should be the higher of the two he was originally awarded. Our investigation found that the outcome of the appeal had corrected the situation, in accordance with the pointing scheme, and that medical information had been taken into account along with housing need. Although Mr C still felt he should have a higher allocation of points, we took the view that FHR had sorted out their original mistake and had made sure that he now had no more and no fewer points than he was entitled to. As FHR also explained that they had learned from Mr C's case and had taken remedial action to improve their processes, we did not make any recommendations.