

Why women are the real lone stars

SCOTTISH women fare better at living alone than men, a study suggests.

Researchers at the University of Edinburgh found that men living on their own are more likely to experience financial and health difficulties – as well as disadvantages in the housing market – compared with women.

In a two-year study, academics examined differences in the standards of living of more than 140 men and women aged 25-44.

They found that men living on their own are more likely to feel socially isolated, earn a low income and experience poor health.

Twenty-nine per cent of the men earned less than £10,000 a year, compared with 21 per cent of the women, according to the Scottish Household Survey.

A higher proportion of women living alone were educated to degree level, had professional jobs and owned their property.

Half of the women interviewed and a third of the men interviewed were in a relationship.

Professor Lynn Jamieson, who led the research, said: 'With the predicted increase in the proportion of one-person households, there are implications for a range of social provision such as income support, pensions, health and housing.'