

# Housing Information Group – Update Paper October 2018

All publications can be found on the [Statistics and Research website](#).

## 1. Housing statistics

### Recent publications

- Social Housing Sales, 2017-18 – annual release -12 July 2018.
- Help to Buy-Wales, April to June 2018 – (Headline) -25 July 2018
- Homelessness in Wales 2017-18 – annual release – 26 July 2018
- Social Landlord Housing Stock and Rents 2017-18- annual release – 8 August 2018
- Mortgage and Landlord Possession Actions April to June 2018 \_(Headline) - August 2018
- New House Building, April to June 2018 – (Headline) 13 September 2018.
- Homelessness in Wales 2017-18, April to June 2018 – (Headline) – 27 September 2018
- Welsh Housing Quality Standard as at 31 March 2018 – annual release – 4 October 2018
- Affordable Housing Provision in Wales, 2017-18 – annual release – 18 October 2018

### Upcoming publications

- Help to Buy Wales July to September 2018 – (Headline) – 25 October 2018
- Mortgage and Landlord Possession Actions, July to September 2018 – (Headline) – 9 November 2018
- New House Building, July - September 2018 – (Headline) – 6 December 2018
- Homelessness, July - September 2018 – (Headline) – 13 December 2018
- Housing Demolitions, 2017-18 – (Headline) – 18 December 2018
- Housing Hazards and Licenses, 2017-18 – annual release – 18 December 2018
- Help to Buy Wales October to December 2018 – (Headline) – 24 January 2019

### Homelessness

The annual National Rough Sleeper count will take place in early November 2018 with results to be published on 5 February 2019.

## **Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group (CGHSG)**

In November 2017, the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) published a report covering their strategic review of the public value of statistics on Housing and Planning in the UK. Following on from this, a cross-government housing statistics group was established to take forward recommendations made in this report. The group last met on 10 September 2018 and a [blog covering the work of the group](#) was published on the Government Statistical Service website on 26 September 2018.

In August, a new [UK GSS Housing and Planning Statistics Webpage](#) went live. The page includes links to both an Overview and a Guide to Housing and Planning Statistics.

A [CGHSG action plan](#) has been published which will be updated periodically. The first topic report produced collaboratively by the group and covering the private rental sector will be published in December 2018.

## **Welsh Index of Multiple deprivation (WIMD)**

The [Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation](#) identifies the most deprived small areas in Wales, and will be updated in 2019 (last done in 2014). A consultation will be published in late October 2018 on proposed indicators for WIMD 2019, following work with a range of experts and users of the data to develop our proposals including what to measure in the housing domain.

## **Well-being of Wales**

On 20 September 2018 we successfully published the [Well-being of Wales report 2017-18](#), this was the second statutory report. Following feedback from our [user survey](#) we have kept the format similar to the first year. However, we have chosen to have a focus on one area, with the theme being children's well-being this year, and have added more content on children's well-being, using new data that are available.

Alongside the main report we have published a [summary document](#) and [set of slides](#), drawing on the key findings around children's well-being included in the goal narratives.

We will continue to update the indicator pages as new data becomes available.

## **Welsh Housing Conditions Survey 2017-18 (WHCS)**

After a successful nine months of fieldwork, 2,552 property inspections were achieved by the end of April, more than the desired 2,500. In March, we conducted a user survey to gather views on the topics, priorities and format of our outputs and a summary of this work is now available on our web page: [Welsh Housing Conditions Survey 2017-18 – Output Options](#). This, together with discussions with policy colleagues, has informed our plans for dissemination and the Statistical First Release will be published in November, with as many headline analyses as possible in the time available. Detailed topic specific reports will then follow from Q1 2019. Updated fuel poverty estimates will also be available early 2019.

## **Housing Stock Analytical Resource for Wales (HSAR)**

An initial proof of concept version of HSAR has been built and the first demonstration statistics recently extracted. This internal test version includes Energy Performance Certificates (EPC), Rent

Smart Wales, Land Registry and Rent Officers data as well as data from Powys local authority and Trivallis, one of Wales' largest registered social landlords. The focus of the coming months will be to continue with data cleansing and linking work, develop a long term hosting solution for HSAR and complete a GDPR privacy impact assessment, which will help inform how data might be shared externally. A HSAR progress report will be published in September.

## **Estimates of Housing Need and Demand**

Estimates of future additional housing need are based on estimates of newly arising need and existing unmet need. The latest estimates of future housing need in Wales were produced by the late Alan Holmans and were published by the Public Policy Institute for Wales (PPIW) in October 2015. The Holmans' figures are based on household projections which are now out of date and do not reflect the latest trends in terms of population and households.

There is a need within the Welsh Government, and more widely, for more up-to-date estimates of future housing need (including for the National Development Framework and housing policy decision making). Various approaches to determining housing need are currently being considered, including the Scottish Housing Need and Demand Assessment tool. An external technical stakeholder group has recently been set up to input to these discussions – the group includes experts from local authorities and the WLGA.

## **2. Housing research**

### **The following reports were published in the last six months**

- [Evaluation of Rent Smart Wales: implementation and delivery](#)

This evaluation obtained the views of the licensing authority, local authorities, private landlords, lettings agents and tenants on the implementation of the new legislation. The final report offers insight into the implementation and delivery of Rent Smart Wales to date.

- [Evaluation of homelessness services to adults in the secure estate](#)

The evaluation assesses how changes to legislative duties towards those leaving custody have been implemented by local authorities, prisons and probation providers both in prison and in the community. It also undertakes an initial assessment of the impact of these changes on ex-offenders and identifies good practice and areas for improvement.

- [Supporting People data linking study: year two progress report](#)

The aim of this four year study is to use administrative data to explore the impact of the Supporting People programme on the public service use of those who access support. This report provides updates on data collection and progress towards the substantive analysis.

- [Evaluation of Homelessness Legislation \(Part 2 of the Housing Act \(Wales\) 2014\)](#)

The aim of this evaluation is to understand how the legislation has been implemented and what the experience has been of those seeking help under the new law.

The following research projects are also underway:

- A review of the social housing rent policy in Wales is also underway. This is exploring whether the current rent policy is fit for purpose and achieves its original objectives.
- The evaluation of Rent Smart Wales is exploring how the scheme has been implemented and the impact it has had to date on landlords, letting agents and tenants. A range of key groups and stakeholders participated in the research, including landlords, letting agents and tenants.
- The Supporting People Data Linking Project is using administrative data to explore the impact of the Supporting People programme on public service use, with the next progress report due to be published in in Summer 2018.
- An evaluation of homelessness services available to young people leaving the secure estate is also underway. It will attempt to understand the early impacts of legislation on young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness as they approach their release.
- An evaluation of the changes made to homelessness legislation under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 is due to be published in Summer 2018. The aim of this evaluation is to understand how the legislation has been implemented and what the experience has been of those seeking help under the new law.
- A review of the social housing rent policy in Wales is also underway. This is exploring whether the current rent studies with landlords; interviews with stakeholders; focus groups with tenants; and a modelling exercise to look at rent affordability and options for the rent matrix. The final report will be published in Autumn 2018

All housing research reports are available from the [Statistics and Research website](#).

### **3. Planning**

#### **New edition of Planning Policy Wales**

The revised edition of Planning Policy Wales (PPW), which issued for public consultation from 12 February to 18 May 2018, is currently being finalised and it is anticipated that it will be published by the end of the year.

#### **National Development Framework**

Consultation on the 'Issues, Options and Preferred Option' for the scale, role and ambition for the first National Development Framework (NDF) took place from 30 April to 23 July 2018. The responses have been analysed and work is now starting on preparing a full draft NDF for consultation. The revised figures on housing need and demand (see item 6 on the Agenda) will form an important part of the evidence base for the housing content of the NDF.

The key stages ahead in the preparation of the NDF are:

- Consultation on full draft NDF – identifying national projects and policies and providing direction for regional planning - July 2019
- National Assembly for Wales scrutiny of the NDF – April 2020
- Publication of NDF – September 2020.

[Further information on the NDF, including a short animation and a link to sign up to the NDF newsletter.](#)

## **‘Call for evidence’ on the delivery of housing through the planning system**

On 18 July 2018 the Cabinet Secretary for Energy, Planning and Rural Affairs published a [Written Statement issuing a ‘call for evidence’](#) as the initial stage of the wider review of the delivery of housing through the planning system which she had announced on 10 May. The review was launched in response to the current housing land supply position and directly related to the under delivery of Local Development Plan (LDP) housing requirements. The ‘call for evidence’ and the wider review are based on the following overarching principles:

- Planning decisions must be based on an up-to-date development plan – the plan-led approach to development management
- Housing requirements should be based on evidence and all sites identified to meet the requirement must demonstrate they are deliverable
- Monitoring arrangements and any associated actions must reinforce the plan-led approach to development management

The ‘call for evidence’ closed on 10 October and the responses will now be analysed and taken into account regarding how the wider review is taken forward.

The Written Statement (which also announced the dis-application of paragraph 6.2 of Technical Advice Note 1, Joint Housing Land Availability Studies, for the duration of the review) is available from our website.

## **4. Welsh Government Consultations**

### **Housing Statistics**

#### **Open**

There are currently no open consultations on Housing statistics

### **Housing and Regeneration**

#### **Open**

[Housing adaptations service standards](#). A consultation on service standards for the delivery of housing adaptations. These standards are designed to improve consistency of delivery. They will apply to service providers and occupational therapists. The consultation closes on 19 December 2018.

[Implementing changes to the park home commission rate](#). This consultation seeks views on how we put in place the decision to lower park home commission rates. The consultation closes on 14 December 2018.

#### **Recently closed**

[Renting Homes \(Wales\) Act 2016 – Regulations relating to Supplementary Provisions](#). This consultation seeks views on two sets of draft Regulations being made under section 23 of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016. The consultation closed on 14 October 2018 and [all relative documents are available online](#).

## **Planning**

### **Open**

There are currently no open consultations on Planning.

Judith David

Knowledge and Analytical Services

October 2018