

Housing Information Group – update paper May 2019

A full list of our most recent publications can be found on our [Upcoming pages](#).

1. Housing statistics

Recent publications

- Rough Sleeper Count 2018 annual release on 5 February 2019
- Assistance for Housing Improvement, 2017-18 annual release on 7 February 2019
- Mortgage and Landlord Possession Actions, October to December 2018 (Headline) on 15 February 2019
- Social Housing Vacancies, Lettings and Arrears, 2017-18 annual release on 6 March 2019
- New House Building, October to December 2018 (Headline) on 7 March 2019
- Homelessness, October to December 2018 (Headline) on 21 March 2019
- Help to Buy-Wales, 2018-19 annual release on 25 April 2019

Upcoming publications

- Private Sector Rents 2018 annual release on 22 May 2019
- New House Building, 2018-19 annual release on 6 June 2019
- Social Housing Sales 2018-19 annual release on 11 July 2019
- Help to Buy Wales April to June 2019 headline on 24 July 2019
- Homelessness, 2018-19 annual release on 25 July 2019

All releases are available from the [statistics and research website](#).

Homelessness

The [GSS Harmonisation Team](#) maintains and develops a range of fully approved harmonised principles and standards for administrative data. The harmonisation team has been looking at the feasibility of a harmonised definition of homelessness across the UK and the [initial report of findings](#) was published on Thursday 28 February 2019.

On 25 February, ONS published information on '[Deaths of homeless people in England and Wales, 2013-2017 - LA level data](#)'.

The latest [quarterly headline statistics](#) for statutory homelessness in Wales was published on 21 March, with accompanying StatsWales tables. A number of changes/improvements were made to the format and content which received positive feedback from policy colleagues. We are working towards publishing the next full annual statistical release on 25 July. We plan to include some improvements to the accessibility of the information within the release and enhancements to the information presented in the accompanying Quality Report in line with the recent OSR compliance check.

Individual homelessness

A project is currently being undertaken by Dr Ian Thomas (Wales Institute of Social and Economic Research) into the feasibility of introducing individual level data collection, reporting and analysis in relation to statutory homelessness in Wales. The project is part funded by Welsh Government and by the CaCHE. The initial report of findings is due to be published in Spring 2019.

Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group

The Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group (CGHSG) published a topic report focussing on the [private rental sector](#) on 18 January 2019. Further information including a [Conceptual Framework across the UK for housing and planning statistics](#) is available along with the group's current [work plan](#).

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.

Housing need

A statistical article covering '[Estimates of housing need in Wales at a national and regional level \(2018-based\)](#)' was published on 30 January 2019 with accompanying StatsWales tables. The statistical article presents 2018-based estimates of overall additional housing

need in Wales from 2018/19 to 2037/38. Estimates of housing need are key to future planning at a national and regional level and will be used to inform the National Development Framework (NDF) and housing policy development. A second article covering estimates of housing demand in terms of tenure (market/affordable) is planned for publication in June.

Help to Buy-Wales

The latest [annual release covering Help to Buy-Wales](#) was published 25 April 2019, with accompanying Stats Wales tables. Following discussions with policy colleagues, a number of changes were made to the format and coverage of the release including adding annual data (for the last 3 years) to the tables to allow for year on year comparisons and improved monitoring of the 5 year target.

Housing Conditions Evidence Programme

Since publishing the [headline results from the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey \(WHCS\) 2017-18](#), two further reports have now been published:

- [Assessment of elements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard \(WHQS\)](#)
- [Fuel poverty estimates for Wales \(headline results\) 2018](#)

A more detailed report on fuel poverty estimates will be available in the summer and further topic specific reports from the WHCS will follow throughout the year.

WHQS data has been added to the [results viewer on our webpages](#), which will be further expanded as more analysis is completed.

The non-disclosive set of the WHCS data will be available on the UK Data Archive soon, with more detailed data available direct from the WHCS team, under special licence.

Housing Stock Analytical Resource for Wales (HSAR)

After building a proof-of-concept version of HSAR in 2018, the autumn saw work being scaled back to focus on analysing the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey results. Work on HSAR has now resumed and we are working with Welsh Government's Administrative Data Research Unit to provide ONS with business cases for sharing relevant data under the Digital Economy Act. These datasets include HMRC, DWP and VOA data. Existing HSAR data will be migrated to the long-term hosting solution (a UK Secure e-Research Platform) in the coming months and we will be looking to add information about energy consumption, smart meters and prepayment meters and engaging with social housing providers with a view to accessing their stock management data.

2. Housing research

The following report has been published since the last update.

[Rent Policy Review: Emerging Findings](#)

The Review was conducted to determine whether the Welsh Government Rent Policy is fit for purpose and achieves its original objectives, particularly in the context of external developments.

The Emerging Findings report presents the findings to date from the research. Final verification and checking is required before the findings themselves can be considered final. The full and final Report is expected to be published in Summer 2019.

The following research projects are underway:

- An evaluation of homelessness services available to young people leaving the secure estate is currently 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.
- A review of the social housing rent policy in Wales is underway. This is exploring whether the current rent policy is fit for purpose and achieves its original objectives. The emerging findings were published on the Welsh Government website on 30th April 2019.
- A project exploring the issue of social housing evictions is underway. The project will seek to gather data on rates and reasons for evictions, as well as an understanding of the processes social landlords have put in place to support tenants in avoiding eviction.
- A Review of Priority Need in Wales is underway. This will review the current implementation of Priority Need, but also explore potential options for change. The impact of each option on local authorities, housing providers, the third sector and of course those accessing housing support will be assessed.

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

3. Planning

New edition of Planning Policy Wales

A new edition of [Planning Policy Wales](#), the Welsh Government's national planning policy, was published in December last year and is available from the links below. It is based on contributing to achieving the goals of the Well-being of Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015, focusing on place-making as a key element to deliver on the aspirations of the Act and drive both plan making and development management decisions.

National Development Framework

Work on the National Development Framework (NDF) is progressing following the consultation on the 'Issues, Options and Preferred Option' between 30 April and 23 July 2018. The draft NDF will be published for consultation in July 2019.

More details are available on the [NDF webpages](#).

Review of the delivery of housing through the planning system

The first stage of this review, a 'Call for Evidence', took place from 18 July to 10 October last year. The responses have now been analysed and consideration is being given to how the review is taken forward.

The review is 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 that they are deliverable;
- Monitoring arrangements and any associated actions must reinforce the plan-led approach to development management.

4. Welsh Government consultations

Housing statistics: open

There are currently no open consultations on Housing statistics

Housing and regeneration: recently closed

[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 closed on 19 December 2018 and all relative documents are available at the link above.

[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 closed on 14 December 2018 and all relative documents are available at the link above.

Planning: open

There are currently no open consultations on Planning.

Judith David

Knowledge and Analytical Services

2 May 2019