

Housing Information Group – update paper September 2019

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

1. Housing statistics

Recent publications

- New House building 2018-19 annual release – 6 June 2019
- Social Housing Sales 2018-19 annual release - 11 July 2019
- Help to Buy Wales April to June 2019 headline - 24 July 2019
- Homelessness, 2018-19 annual release - 25 July 2019
- Social Landlord Housing Stock and Rents 2018-19 (annual release) – 8 August 2019
- Fuel Poverty estimates for Wales, 2018 – 29 August 2019
- New House Building, April to June 2019 – (Headline) 12 September 2019.
- Homelessness, April to June 2019 (headline) – 26 September 2019

Upcoming publications

- Welsh Housing quality Standard, 2018-19 (annual release) – 3 October 2019
- Affordable Housing provision, 2018-19 (annual release) – 17 October 2019
- Help to Buy-Wales, July to September 2019 (headline) -24 October 2019
- New House Building, July to September 2019 – (Headline) – 5 December 2019
- Homelessness, July to September 2019 (headline) – 12 December 2019
- Housing Demolitions 2018-19 (annual headline) – 18 December 2019
- Housing Hazards and Licenses 2018-19 – 18 December 2019

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

Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group

The Cross-Government Housing Statistics Group (CGHSG) has published its new [2019-20 work plan](#).

On 17 September, ONS published 4 cross-UK government products relating to homelessness and rough sleeper statistics. These publications form part of a cross-government project to improve the coherence of statistics produced on homelessness across the UK. ([Previous work](#) found that developing a consistent definition of homelessness is not feasible in the short term and better guidance on current statistics is therefore needed for data users).

- [UK Homelessness: 2005 to 2018](#)

An analytical article focusing on homelessness, which brings together existing government data sources from across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland to assess UK comparability and coherence.

- [Interactive tool for homelessness](#) (beta version)

An interactive tool that allows users to explore how homelessness is defined across the four UK countries and explore an applicant's process through the four UK countries' homelessness systems.

- [Improving homelessness and rough sleeping statistics across the UK](#)

This article describes initiatives across the Government Statistical Service (GSS) to improve statistics on homelessness and rough sleeping in the UK, up to and including Census 2021.

- [The emerging picture of UK homelessness and rough sleeping](#)

A National Statistical blog which brings together the publications and how they interlink.

Feedback is sought on these products – please send comments to gsshelp@statistics.gov.uk.

Homelessness

A project is currently being undertaken by Dr Ian Thomas (Cardiff University) 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 before the end of the year.

Estimates of Housing Need and Demand

In January 2019, the Welsh Government published a statistical article on Estimates of Housing Need in Wales at a national and regional level (2018 based).

On 5 June, the Welsh Government published a second statistical article splitting the estimates of housing need into two housing tenures:

- Market housing (owner occupier and private rented sector)
- Affordable housing (intermediate and social rents).

The figures presented in this article are an estimate of the need for additional housing units by tenure given a set of assumptions. The tenure split has only been produced for the first 5 years of estimates (2018/19 to 2022/23).

Housing Conditions Evidence Programme

Housing Conditions Evidence Programme

In May we published the [2018 Headline Fuel Poverty estimates for Wales](#). The purpose of this report was to get the headline figures into the public domain and in use as soon as possible, given that the previous full estimates were published in 2010 and were based on the Living in Wales Property Survey 2008. At the end of August we published detailed analysis of the [2018 Fuel Poverty estimates for Wales](#). On 26 September we are due to publish the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (Energy Efficiency of Dwellings) April 2017-March 2018 report and associated [tables](#). The results from these reports will be discussed at the next meeting.

Work to make the non-disclosive set of WHCS data available on the UK Data Archive is ongoing, 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. Existing HSAR data will be migrated to the long-term hosting solution (a UK Secure e-Research Platform) in the coming months, an agreement is in place with Swansea University for this platform and there will be a large focus of creating our own governance structures surrounding this. We will be looking to add information about energy consumption, smart meters and prepayment meters from BEIS and engaging with social housing providers with a view to accessing their stock management data.

2. Housing research

The following reports have been published since the last update.

[Understanding Social Evictions in Wales](#)

The research explores the current rates of social housing evictions, reasons for the evictions, and the support provided to prevent the evictions across Wales.

[Rent Policy Review: Final report](#)

The report offers insight into whether Rent Policy is fit for purpose and achieves its original objectives. Particularly in the context of external developments.

[Evaluation of homelessness services to young people in the secure estate](#)

The research assessed how changes to legislative duties towards those leaving custody had been implemented and the initial impact of these changes.

The following research projects are underway:

- 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 those accessing housing support will be assessed.
- Research into the use of Leaseholds is underway. The research will identify and explore leaseholders experiences of purchasing and living in a leasehold property; and inform understanding of how leaseholds have been implemented and used in practice.
- Research to understand Learning Disability Housing Support is underway. The research will aim to understand how this support is structured across Wales, what are the reasons for differences across local authorities, and what changes have there been over time to funding levels.
- Work to develop options for a funding formula for the Housing Support Grant is underway. This project includes reviewing current funding formulas to understand strengths and weaknesses; understand the key considerations for developing formulas from the perspectives of local authority services providers and stakeholders; and develop options for a new funding allocation formula with stakeholders.

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

Decarbonisation of Homes in Wales

Last year Ministers commissioned the Independent Decarbonisation of Homes in Wales Advisory Group to look at how to reduce carbon emissions in Welsh homes by 2050. Chaired by Christopher Jofeh, Arup's former global buildings retrofit leader, the Group has explored the evidence on how to create the necessary conditions for success.

The report, '[Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World](#)', was published in July and recognises the political, economic and social challenges of making homes greener and more energy efficient. The Housing Minister will now consider the report's recommendations and detailed actions and will respond in the autumn.

3. Planning

National Development Framework (NDF)

The draft NDF was published for [consultation](#) on 7 August, with a closing date of 1 November 2019.

The draft NDF includes policy on housing, including specifically on affordable housing, and on a regional basis (North Wales, Mid & West Wales and South East Wales). These policies are based on the estimates of housing need which were published by the Welsh Government earlier this year (see above).

More details about the NDF 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. Consideration is currently being given to the next steps, based on achieving 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

[Draft National Development Framework](#)

Consultation on our new development plan which will set the direction for development in Wales from 2020 to 2040. It addresses national priorities through the planning system, including:

- sustaining and developing a vibrant economy;
- decarbonisation;
- developing resilient ecosystems;
- improving the health and well-being of our communities.

Fuel Poverty: coming soon

The Welsh Government intends to begin a public consultation on the draft tackling fuel poverty plan in October, with the finalised plan being published in February 2020.

Knowledge and Analytical Services

September 2019