

## Welsh Government Housing Statistics and Research Update (December 2020)

### Welsh Government Housing Research

The following research projects are underway:

- A research project into the **Sale and Use of Leaseholds in Wales** is underway. The project will identify and explore leaseholders' experiences of purchasing and living in a leasehold property.
- A **Spending Analysis of Aids and Adaptations in Wales** is currently underway. The aim of the project is to understand if and how the current system of adaptations reflects need, provides a quality service to users and value for money for tax payers.
- An **Evaluation of the Private Rented Sector (PRS) Leasing Scheme Pathfinder** has just begun. The aim of the evaluation is to understand how the scheme is operating in the Pathfinder local authorities, including the views of landlords and tenants.
- A **survey of Tenant's views and experiences of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS)** is currently underway. The aim of the survey is to understand tenant's views of the current Standard in order to inform development of a new iteration of the WHQS.

All housing research reports can be found at:

[gov.wales/research](http://gov.wales/research)

### Housing Conditions Evidence Programme

The final publications for the 2017-18 survey have been delayed as a result of the team helping with Covid-19 statistics. All of the analysis that has been published so far can be found on our [webpages](#) and the fuel poverty [webpages](#). A report on accessibility of the dwelling stock will be published when resource allows. After that we will be publishing a slide pack on dwelling stock and household characteristics and starting analysis on our last planned report for the 2017-18 survey: the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).

The team are continuing to feed in to relevant phases of the work of ONS' Cross Government housing statistics group and the Administrative Data census work.

We are working with the Welsh Housing Quality Standard (WHQS) Team to provide data from the survey and analytical support on their work to develop the post 2020 WHQS. Similarly we are working with the Innovative Models & Housing Decarbonisation Team on

the development and delivery of a programme of action to decarbonise all Welsh homes by 2050.

Initial discussions with policy about widening the range of statistics relating to fuel poverty produced by WG (influenced by BEIS reporting) are taking place, so if anyone has any suggestions please do [get in touch](#).

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. We plan to deposit the WHCS data on SAIL to allow researchers access to anonymised data under special licence.

We had originally proposed, subject to Ministerial agreement, that the next WHCS should be conducted in 2021-22 to coincide with the census, the final year of the current National Survey for Wales contract and bring us in line with the NIHCS cycle to provide a UK picture of housing conditions. Covid-19 has had an impact on these proposals as resources have been redirected to focus on statistics, modelling and analysis relating to the COVID-19 response and changes have been introduced to the National Survey model in response to the pandemic. As a result, there will not be a WHCS in 2021-22. We are working with our Programme Board and policy colleagues to establish a plan for the coming years to ensure the Housing Conditions Evidence Programme provides robust, efficient and timely evidence, meeting the needs of both internal and external users.

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

The existing HSAR data has been migrated to the Welsh Government's UK Secure eResearch Platform (UKSeRP) which is now live and starting to be used by wider stats teams too. This means that Welsh Government will be able to grant access to Welsh Government datasets for researchers through this platform.

We are working with Welsh Government's Administrative Data Research Unit (ADRU) to provide ONS with business cases for sharing relevant data under the Digital Economy Act, such as Council Tax information. We are also exploring accessing other data sources under the Digital Economy Act such as BEIS energy consumption data.

If anyone has any suggestions for pieces of analysis which would be useful demonstration projects, or is interested in getting access to data for their own projects please do get in touch.

## **Housing Statistics**

As the demand increased for statistics and data to measure the impact of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we had to change our data gathering and release practices, focusing efforts on priority analysis and statistics. Our [statement](#) explains this further and, in line with

[guidance from the Office for Statistics Regulation](#), decisions have been made to cancel or postpone some publications.

## Recent Publications

All releases are available from [gov.wales/research](https://gov.wales/research)

### Dwelling stock estimates

On 17 September, we published '[Dwelling stock estimates: as at 31 March 2020](#)'. Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, some housing data collections which feed into these estimates were cancelled. These components have been estimated. This means that there is greater uncertainty surrounding the dwelling stock estimates for March 2020. Please see release for full details.

### Household estimates

On 29 September, we published statistics on the [estimated number of households in Wales](#) (mid-2019).

### Help to Buy

On 30 September, we published [annual Help to Buy statistics for April 2019 to March 2020](#).

On 22 October, we published [quarterly Help to Buy statistics](#) for April-June 2020 and July-September 2020.

### Statutory homelessness statistics (annual) and new interactive dashboard

On 5 November, we published [statutory homelessness statistics for 2019-20](#). These statistics were delayed from initial 30 July publication date due to incomplete data provision and the quality assurance process.

Later in November, we published a [new interactive dashboard for statutory homelessness statistics](#).

### New monthly management information on homelessness accommodation provision and rough sleeping

On 5 November and 10 December, we published our 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions of [monthly management information](#) on rough sleeping and provision of accommodation for the homeless. This management information has not undergone the same level of quality assurance as official statistics.

We will continue publishing this management information on a monthly basis in future.

We welcome feedback on the content and presentation of any of these statistics and management information to [stats.housing@gov.wales](mailto:stats.housing@gov.wales).

## Upcoming publications

Here is an update on planned publications for the early part of 2021. Please note that this is subject to change.

Title	Publication date	Comment
Statutory Homelessness: April-June 2020 & July-September 2020		These statistics were previously announced for publication in December 2020. We were unable to go ahead with this plan.  We will instead collect the quarterly breakdown for 2020-21 after March 2021 and alongside the annual collection for 2020-21 data.  These statistics would be published in summer 2021.
Housing demolitions, 2019-20  Housing hazards and licenses, 2019-20		Publication of these outputs was previously announced for 17 December 2020. The decision is to not collect or publish for 2019-20.
Help to Buy, October to December 2020	21 January 2021	As planned.
Rough Sleeper count, November 2020	4 February 2021 (previously announced)	To ease the burden on local authorities and as we have begun publishing monthly management information on homelessness and rough sleeping, the annual rough sleeper count for November 2020 is suspended. <a href="#">Decision report</a>
Assistance for housing improvement, 2019-20	11 February 2021 (previously announced)	We will not collect or publish for 2019-20.
Social housing vacancies, lettings and arrears, 2019-20	4 March 2021 (previously announced)	We will not collect or publish for 2019-20.
Affordable Housing Provision 2019-20	By March 2021	Data collection is underway.

### Next Housing Information Group (HIG) meeting

The next meeting will focus on the 2021 Census. This meeting will take place via Microsoft Teams at **1:45-4pm on 28 January 2021**. It will provide an opportunity to discuss the requirements for outputs from the 2021 Census relating to housing. An agenda will follow shortly.

### Queries

If you have any queries on the above, or would like statistical advice on using housing data (including for example in the absence of data), please contact:

[stats.housing@gov.wales](mailto:stats.housing@gov.wales).