



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Housing Conditions Evidence Programme: Stakeholder update, September 2019

It has been a while since the last stakeholder update in January. That's not to say we haven't been hard at work since then.

Extension of the programme

We told you last time that we had received confirmation of 2 further years of funding, taking us to the end of March 2021. The purpose of this is to maximise the analysis we can carry out on the WHCS data, continue to develop and use HSAR and conduct an options appraisal for the future of the Programme. Work on the analysis of the WHCS data has been progressing well as has the continued development of HSAR, see below. Before the end of this year we intend to produce and submit to Ministers a detailed options appraisal and business case for the continuation of the Programme. We have already spoken to a number on internal stakeholders to inform this work and will be contacting externals over the coming months. If you have anything you wish to feed into this process please do [contact us](#).

Welsh Housing Conditions Survey (WHCS)

In April we published an [Assessment of Elements of the Welsh Housing Quality Standard for all tenures based on the 2017-18 WHCS data](#).

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 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. Last month we published detailed analysis of the [2018 Fuel Poverty estimates for Wales](#). We had hoped to publish the Energy Efficiency of Dwellings report at the same time, but staffing changes and a long term absence within the team have meant we had to delay this to the end of October.

Further publications

Over the coming months we intend to publish the following reports, as set out in our [Publication Plan](#):

- Energy Efficiency of Dwellings (inc. heating and energy measures etc.).
Announced for 23 October 2019
- Housing Stock and household characteristics and condition (following on from the Headline results published last December)
- Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS).
- Aids and Adaptations.

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 - Wales 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 focus of creating our 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.

Staffing update

Over the last 6 months there have been many staff changes within the team. Thank you to those who have been part of the team and have moved on (Elinor who is on maternity leave and Jenny and Gareth who have both moved to other posts). Abi Woodham, who previously worked in the team, joined us again in April as the Welsh Housing Conditions Survey Lead. Abi is supported by Laura Andrews. Josh Dixon joined us in June to take over HSAR.

Use of Welsh House Conditions Survey data to support analysis

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 Minister for Housing and Local Government will now consider the report's recommendations and

detailed actions and will respond in the autumn. Welsh Housing Condition Survey data was used by the Welsh School of Architecture in providing evidence for the Advisory Group¹.

Making a Difference: Housing and Health A case for Investment 2019

The report "[Making a Difference: Housing and Health A case for Investment 2019](#)", published in June, by Public Health Wales, Community Housing Cymru and BRE drew of an analysis of the cost of poor housing in Wales which made use of the latest Welsh Housing Condition Survey.

Fuel poverty consultation

The Welsh Government intends to begin a public consultation on the draft tackling poverty plan in October, with the finalised plan being published in February 2020. We will circulate a link to the consultation once it is published.

Contact us

Further information is available on the [Programme's webpages](#) or by contacting stats.housingconditions@gov.wales.

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Email: stats.housingconditions@gov.wales

¹ [Decarbonisation of Welsh Homes: Stage 2 report](#)