

Cross Government Housing and Planning Statistics Work Programme for 2019/20¹: Updated 06 March 2020.

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
Improving Coherence			
Further prioritisation of topics on which to provide insight across the four countries of the UK, using existing data.	Ongoing	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	Complete. Homelessness, affordable housing and housing conditions were identified as the initial topics for analysis (see next action). For 2020 we have identified housing affordability and housebuilding as the next priority topics following user feedback / consultations (see user engagement section of workplan).
Publish cross UK articles. Articles will bring together existing data sources to present comparability, coherence, and assess any data limitations.			
i) Homelessness	Autumn 2019	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	Complete. A cross UK homelessness statistics article was published on 17 September alongside an article about improvements to statistics across the GSS and an interactive tool .
ii) Affordable Housing	Autumn 2019	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	Complete. The Affordable Housing article was published on 6 November.
iii) Housing Conditions	Summer 2019	BRE Group	Complete. BRE published The Housing Stock of the UK report on 17 February 2020.

¹ For information, the workplan showing actions undertaken and completed in 2018/19 is available here: <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/HousingWorkPlan1819.pdf>

² ONS – Office for National Statistics; MHCLG – Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government; WG – Welsh Government; SG – Scottish Government; DFC NI – Department for Communities, Northern Ireland

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<p>The Experimental Statistical Framework for Housing & Planning Statistics illustrates how we are measuring the housing and planning landscape across the UK.</p> <p>Make the current Experimental Statistical Framework interactive, taking on board user feedback in development.</p> <p>Continue to refine the content of the Experimental Statistical Framework and use it to assist in identification of priority topics for further improvement / coherence.</p>	Throughout 2019	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	<p>Initial work complete. Further work ongoing.</p> <p>On 25 February we published an interactive framework for housing and planning statistics. The tool combines the topics from the experimental statistical framework with the information contained in the Spreadsheet statistical guide.</p> <p>We have incorporated feedback from user events³ into the statistical framework.</p> <p>We have refined the tool following user feedback and lessons learnt from the publication of the homelessness interactive tool have been incorporated into the housing tool. But we will continue to refine and update the tool.</p>
Improving Quality			
In June 2018 MHCLG published a plan setting out current and future activity to assure and improve the coverage of its statistics relating to new homes built.	Ongoing	Daniel Shaw (MHCLG)	<p>Work ongoing.</p> <p>MHCLG to continue to work with data providers improve the coverage of its quarterly house building statistics as outlined in the June 2018 action plan. In early 2020 we will publish an update to this action plan outlining progress and next steps.</p>

³ We received feedback at the Wales Housing Information Group seminar in January 2019 and at the cross UK user engagement event in February 2019. Slides from the January seminar in Wales - <https://gov.wales/housing-information-group-24-january-2019>. Slides from the February seminar - <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2019/02/PPP-Froum-Housing-slides-1.pptx>.

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Assess options for improving the coverage and quality of New House Building statistics for Wales.	Ongoing	Sue Leake (WG)	Work ongoing. Initial discussions have been held with building control specialists, council tax officials, MHCLG and policy colleagues.
Respond to the recommendations of the Office for Statistics Regulation compliance check of household projections for England against the Code of Practice for Statistics by publishing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variant household projections for local authorities in England • Updated methodological guidance • Updated guidance on household projections across the UK • Further information and analysis about the local authorities which experienced the largest changes between the 2014-based and 2016-based household projections for England. 	Summer 2019	Richard Pereira (ONS)	Complete. Four variant household projections for local authorities in England were published on 16 May 2019. On 27 August 2019, ONS published A user guide to household projections across the UK , produced in collaboration with the Welsh Government, NRS and NISRA. ONS also published an article comparing the differences between the 2014-based and 2016-based household projections for local authorities in England , a households projections analysis tool , a high-level overview of the 2016-based household projections methods and updates to the Quality and Methodology Information (QMI) report and the 2016-based detailed methodology paper . Together, these products address the findings of the OSR compliance check.
Publish a series of topic reports on Housing Conditions in Wales using 2018 survey data, as outlined in the publication plan .	Throughout 2019 and early 2020	Sue Leake (WG)	Work ongoing. Further topic reports to continue throughout 2019 and early 2020, see Welsh Housing Conditions Survey publication plan . Latest report , published on 23 October, was on the energy efficiency of dwellings. A report on housing aids and adaptations is being prepared. Considerable analytical support has also been

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			provided to the Advisory Group on Decarbonisation of Homes in Wales prior to publication of the report Better Homes, Better Wales, Better World .
<p>New methods - investigate new methods to improve the quality of housing statistics.</p> <p>Share best practice across departments / devolved administrations.</p>	September 2019	Nigel Henretty (ONS)	<p>Initial work complete, work is ongoing. Annual subnational dwelling stock by tenure estimates were published on 27 November. These included the latest estimates using the current, survey-based method, as well as an article exploring an alternative, model-based method. The article finds that the overall precision of the model-based method is better than the survey-based method, and recommends that for English local authority estimates, this method is used in future releases.</p> <p>Initial work complete. We will continue to share best practice. Statisticians across the GSS have held workshops to share best practice in calculating subnational dwelling stock by tenure estimates. On 24 September, Welsh Government published their latest dwelling stock estimates, incorporating methodological improvements which are more comparable with those used in England.</p>
<p>New sources - investigate new administrative data sources to improve the quality of housing statistics.</p> <p>Share best practice across departments / devolved administrations.</p>	March 2020	Nigel Henretty (ONS)	<p>Work ongoing. Analysis is nearly complete on the effect of using data collated by Ordnance Survey on the coverage of transactions of new properties recorded by the Land Registry. On 30 January we published a Research Output to describe the effects of using the data, and recommended next steps for improving the coverage of new-build transactions.</p> <p>Work continues on measuring the energy performance of housing using Energy Performance Certificate data. In Spring 2020 we plan to publish analysis of the data to describe the energy efficiency of new and existing dwellings over time by local authority.</p>

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<p>Undertaking analysis to explore the feasibility of supplementing the census questions with administrative data (such as on the total number of rooms, living space and property type), and the feasibility of moving to census-like administrative data based housing statistics.</p>	<p>Throughout 2019 and 2020</p>	<p>Stephan Tietz (ONS)</p>	<p>Initial work complete. Further work ongoing. A comparison between Census 2011 and Valuation Office Agency results for the number of rooms and number of bedrooms was undertaken. Further work on the imputation methodology to be used for the number of rooms on the 2021 Census will be published in early 2020.</p> <p>Comparison between 2011 Census accommodation type and Valuation Office Agency property type.</p> <p>Feasibility of property size measures using Valuation Office Agency floor space measures.</p> <p>Further work will be looking to use an administrative base such as Address Base to produce Local Authority-level estimates and to explore the feasibility of combining different administrative data sources (e.g. Energy Performance Certificate data) to produce outputs on central heating, overcrowding or fuel poverty.</p>
<p>Analytical and statistical support will be required for the development of the new fuel poverty strategy, which will set out the approach for tackling fuel poverty in Scotland and meeting the various targets contained in the Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act.</p>	<p>Throughout 2019 and 2020</p>	<p>Adam Krawczyk (SG)</p>	<p>Complete. The Fuel Poverty (Targets, Definition and Strategy) (Scotland) Act received Royal Assent on 18 July 2019. Scottish Government Statisticians contributed analysis and advice in support of this Act. This included publishing estimates of what fuel poverty and extreme fuel poverty rates would look like under the new definition, based on changes agreed at Stage 2 of the Bill.</p> <p>Complete. Further work was undertaken in support of defining which type of households the new Enhanced Heating Regimes will apply to (taking into account views expressed in the public consultation) and how these could be measured within the Scottish House Condition Survey. Enhanced Heating</p>

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			<p>Regulations were passed by Scottish Parliament Committee on 5 February 2020.</p> <p>Complete. The Scottish Government has commissioned the construction of a remote rural, remote small town and island (RRRSTI) Minimum Income Standard (MIS), required to monitor fuel poverty rates in these areas under the new definition. RRRSTI MIS Regulations were passed by Scottish Parliament Committee on 5 February 2020.</p> <p>Work ongoing. The analytical focus is now on supporting the development of the Fuel Poverty Strategy to meet the various targets in the Act.</p>
Analytical and statistical support for development of new fuel poverty strategy for Wales	Spring 2020	Sue Leake (WG)	<p>Work ongoing. During 2019, new Fuel Poverty estimates for Wales were published, and support has been provided for development of a new fuel poverty strategy for Wales. This is due to be consulted on during 2020.</p>
Improving Harmonisation			
Prioritise existing housing harmonised principles for redevelopment, and publish plans for reviewing, developing or promoting them, with associated timescales.	Summer 2019	Sean Mattson (ONS)	<p>Initial work complete. Further work ongoing. Initial reviews of existing housing harmonised principles are complete.</p> <p>We have conducted further research to prioritise the next steps and propose that the next phase of this work will focus on the Housing Costs and Benefits principle.</p> <p>Planning is underway to develop processes and timescales for redevelopment.</p>

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Work with key stakeholders to investigate the terminology and definitions used for Affordable Housing statistics across the UK. Publish feasibility report and next steps for the potential harmonisation of Affordable Housing statistical definitions.	Autumn 2019	Sean Mattson (ONS)	Complete. The Affordable Housing Statistics in the UK: Definitions, Terminology and Feasibility of Harmonisation report was published on 6 November. The report outlines the different tenures and products that can be classified as affordable housing and identifies the key distinguishing factors. Based on discussions with stakeholders, the need for cross-UK statistics is also discussed along with a number of data gaps identified by stakeholders.
Work with key stakeholders to investigate the terminology and definitions used for Housing Condition statistics across the UK. Publish feasibility report and next steps for the potential harmonisation of Housing Condition statistical definitions.	Spring 2020	Sean Mattson (ONS)	Work ongoing. Initial research has taken place to scope work that will take place from January. This will be discussed further with analysts from the housing conditions surveys in early 2020.
Improving Accessibility to Data			
Enhance the summary guide by making it more interactive, taking on board user feedback in development.	Autumn 2019	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	Work ongoing. On 25 February we published an interactive framework for housing and planning statistics . The tool combines the topics from the experimental statistical framework with the information contained in the Spreadsheet statistical guide. We have refined the tool following user feedback and lessons learnt from the publication of the homelessness interactive tool are being incorporated into the housing tool.
Continue to explore ways to work with UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) to improve data accessibility and explain country differences.	Ongoing	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	Work ongoing. Recent discussions include harmonisation of statistics and affordable housing data. We will continue to engage with CaCHE around their Data Navigator Hub, their potential Wiki and other ways to collaborate. The CaCHE Data Navigator was launched on 23 September.

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Building upon open data initiatives in the four countries, develop a data repository for housing and planning data. This will link data across the four countries of the UK as part of the Connected Open Government Statistics project .	Throughout 2019 and 2020	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	<p>Work ongoing. The Connected Open Government Statistics (COGS) project (formerly the GSS Data Project) is looking to accelerate the rate of uptake of new housing data families.</p> <p>Dwelling by tenure, the pilot dataset, was incorporated in April 2019, and affordable housing and homelessness are the next two data families to be added.</p>
Continue to provide links to other countries' statistical releases/data in individual country releases and other similar initiatives.	Ongoing	All statistical producers	<p>Work ongoing. This will be monitored by the cross-government housing and planning statistics working group.</p> <p>An example of this is the Related Statistics section of MHCLG's Affordable Housing Supply in England statistics which includes links and definitions for other UK countries statistics.</p>
Review MHCLG's Housing and Planning statistical releases to align with user interest as opposed to data collection streams, starting with Social Housing statistics.	Summer 2019	Daniel Shaw (MHCLG)	<p>Complete. MHCLG will continue to look to align its statistical outputs along topic lines.</p> <p>In January 2019 MHCLG published a 'call for user views' on possible changes to social housing and consulted more formally on final proposals in the summer.</p> <p>We have now completed the consultation which was met with positive user responses and we have started to implement the changes with the ending of the Local Authority Housing Statistics bulletin publication, and its data and analysis now appearing where most used.</p>
Take forward work on developing a Housing Stock Analytical Resource for Wales, bringing together a range of data on the condition and energy efficiency of housing stock.	Ongoing	Sue Leake (WG)	<p>Work ongoing. A progress report was published in September 2018. We continue to work with the newly established Administrative Data Research Unit – Wales to seek access to further relevant administrative data. Data has now been transferred to the UK</p>

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			Secure Research Platform (UK SeRP). Governance procedures are being established. We continue to seek access to other relevant datasets, such as energy consumption and data on social landlord dwellings, and to develop projects to demonstrate the value of the analysis available.
Improving User Engagement			
Focus on the user perspective of these statistics to increase their public value. Continue to consult policy and non-Government users on demand for comparable data across the UK. Tailor user engagement activity for each country.	Ongoing	Nick Woodhill (ONS) Daniel Shaw (MHCLG) Sue Leake (WG) James Sampson (DfC NI) Adam Krawczyk (SG)	Work ongoing. We will continue to create user engagement events (or join up with existing events) to help assess demand for comparable data across the UK, or increased transparency on country differences. Events have been held across all four UK countries on a range of topics which have helped shaped our priorities and direction of travel.
Publish user engagement strategy for housing and planning statistics.	May 2019	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	Complete. We published a user engagement statement in February 2020. This sets out how we will engage with our users and provide a reference point for statistical producers to help shape their own user engagement work.
Conduct a user engagement survey to better understand the needs of users of these statistics.	May 2019	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	Complete A user engagement survey was run during May 2019 to collect views on the work statisticians are doing to improve the quality and value of these statistics. Responses were analysed, and initial results have been circulated and presented at the Steering Group meeting and with Working Group members. Results from the survey were shared with statistics producers and on a GSS Blog .

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			We will use this feedback to help prioritise the work we do in the future.