Government Statistical Service

Cross Government Housing and Planning Statistics Work Programme[1]: Progress Update as at 29th January 2019.

Action	Target Date	Owner	Progress
Improving Coherence			
Prioritise topics on which to provide insight across the four countries of the UK, using existing data, starting with the Private Rented Sector (PRS)	July 2018	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	**This initial prioritisation is complete.** Following on from the PRS, affordable housing and homelessness were identified as the next topics. Staff recruitment has taken place and work started in December 2018 and early January 2019 respectively. Further prioritisation will be ongoing through user consultations (see last item in this table).
Publish a UK article on the Private Rented Sector, bringing together existing data sources to assess comparability, coherence, and assess any data limitations	Late 2018	Chris Jenkins (ONS)	**Complete**. The article was published 18 January 2019[2]. Feedback is welcome as we look to shape future articles.
Develop a Conceptual Framework across the UK for housing and planning statistics to illustrate how we are measuring the housing and planning landscape, and assist in identification of priority topics for further improvement	September 2018	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	**First iteration complete. Further work ongoing.** An Experimental Framework was published[3] on 27 September 2018. We are undertaking discussions with housing policy officials in the four nations, and presenting at a series of user events involving non-Government users to inform the next iteration of the framework. See last item in this table. Please get in touch to express interest in forthcoming events.

[1] For country specific deliverables the lead department is shown in brackets. Otherwise, the Cross-Government Housing Steering Group will lead.
[2] https://www.ons.gov.uk/economy/inflationandpriceindices/articles/ukprivaterentedsector/2018
[3] https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/guidances/working-with-users-2/housing-and-planning-statistics/

Improving Quality			
Improve new House Building statistics for England and Wales: - Produce initial plan to improve coherence between quarterly and annual estimates for House Building statistics for England	June 2018	Daniel Shaw (MHCLG)	**Completed**. The plan was published 28th June 2018[4].
- Assess options for improving the coverage and quality of New House Building statistics for Wales	Early 2019	Sue Leake (WG)	**Work progressing.** Discussions with Building control specialists, MHCLG and policy colleagues are ongoing.
Improve the measurement of Homelessness and Rough Sleepers, taking into account the country specific requirements relating to legislation / policy.	To required timescales	Ricky Taylor (MHCLG), Ruth Davies (ONS) Sue Leake (WG) James Sampson (DfC NI) Adam Krawczyk (SG)	**Work progressing.** **England** – Collaboration is ongoing between MHCLG and ONS for a first homelessness data-linking feasibility project bringing together MoJ and H-CLIC data. First homelessness estimates based on H-CLIC data were released on 13 December 2018 by MHCLG. **Wales** – A feasibility study into introduction of individual case level homelessness data collection is ongoing. **NI** - DfC are working alongside NI Housing Executive to produce a standalone biannual homelessness statistics publication. A prototype is currently being worked on. **Scotland** - Already collects individual case level data on homelessness, use of temporary accommodation and preventative Housing Options activity, with summary statistics and analysis published on a biannual basis. Options on improving the measurement of Rough Sleepers are being considered by the Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI), in liaison with the Scottish Government.

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[4] https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-measurement-of-new-homes-built-action-plan

Plan next priorities for quality improvement or to fill gaps in user need, taking a topic based approach	September 2018	Debra Prestwood (ONS)	**Complete.** Homelessness and affordable housing have been identified as next topics. Research has started and articles will be planned for release. Priorities will continue to evolve as cross UK user engagement develops.
Implement new methodology for Household Projections for England	September 2018	Richard Pereira (ONS)	**Complete.** Statistics based on the new methodology were published 20 September 2018. A National Statistical Blog was published 19 October 2018 giving more explanation of the publication[5].
Publish first Housing Conditions data for Wales since 2008	November 2018	Sue Leake (WG)	**Complete.** Headline report on Welsh Housing Conditions Survey was published on 6 December 2018[6]. Further topic reports to continue throughout 2019 see Welsh Housing Conditions Survey publication plan[7].
Scope the potential to create a comprehensive and consistent profile of Northern Ireland Housing Stock	November 2018	James Sampson (DfC NI)	**Complete.** Initial scoping exercise to identify 'viable' housing stock has shown little difference to published housing stock figures. A second, more detailed exercise, is to be considered by DfC.
Implement initial improvements to Dwelling Stock by Tenure statistics for England and Sub National Housing Affordability statistics for England and Wales	March 2019	Nigel Henretty (ONS)	**Work progressing and on** track to release a research output using Tenancy Deposit Protection data.

[5] https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2018/10/19/what-our-household-projections-really-show/
[6] https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/welsh-housing-conditions-survey/?lang=en
[7] https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2018/181206-welsh-housing-conditions-survey-2017-18-publication-plan-en.pdf

Create relevant UK Subnational Housing analyses in areas with limited official statistics such as landlords, mortgages and communal establishments.	Dependent on user consultation	Nigel Henretty (ONS)	**Work progressing.** Initial analysis of first-time buyer housing affordability was published July 2018[8], using new mortgages data. Work has started to develop data sharing arrangements. Work has started using a linked address and property transactions dataset from Ordnance Survey to assess the feasibility of improving the statistics on transaction of newly built dwellings.
Improving Harmonisation			
Produce a work programme for developing harmonised UK definitions across the four countries, where feasible, or promoting transparency where definitions are based on devolved legislation	Autumn 2018	Sean Mattson (ONS)	**Work progressing.** A work program was agreed in mid-November 2018. Publication was postponed to coincide with the publication of the feasibility report on harmonisation of homelessness definitions (see below).
Conduct feasibility work and aim to develop a UK understanding of Homelessness definitions as a first priority	November 2018	Sean Mattson (ONS)	**Work progressing.** The Feasibility report was produced and will be published in mid February 2019. Publication was delayed to allow broad stakeholder feedback prior to publication. Work continues on new guidance on coherence of homelessness definitions and the development of a conceptual framework to communicate this.
Improving Accessibility to Data			
Develop a summary guide for users showing availability of data by producing body	July 2018	Debra Prestwood, Chris Jenkins (ONS)	**Completed.** An experimental overview guide linking to existing datasets for the policy departments and ONS was published on 10 August 2018[9]. Next steps are to make the guide more interactive. Feedback is welcomed.

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[8] https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/housing/articles/firsttimebuyerhousingaffordabilityinenglandandwales/2017

[9] https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/UK-Housing-and-Planning-Statistics-Overview.pdf

Building upon open data initiatives in the four countries, consider how to improve user accessibility to data given the multi-producing bodies, including collaboration with external partners and inhouse strategic solutions	September 2018	Debra Prestwood (ONS)	**Work progressing.** It was agreed in September 2018 to pilot Dwelling Stock by Tenure data for the four nations on the "GSS Data Project" which is prototyping producing linked open data across government producers of statistics. Scoping work started in January 2019 and funding options for the project during 2019/20 are being considered. In parallel, administrations continue to work with CaCHE data initiatives.
Review England Housing and Planning statistical releases to align with user interest as opposed to data collection streams, starting with Social Housing statistics	March 2019	Daniel Shaw (MHCLG)	**Work progressing.** MHCLG has published a number of updated and improved housing and planning statistical bulletins with additional contextual information included. Related releases such as Social Lettings and Social Housing Sales were published on the same day and there are plans to further consult users on how MHCLG releases can be even further aligned.
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	March 2019	Sue Leake (WG)	**Work progressing.** A progress report[10] was published in September 2018. We are working with the newly established Administrative Data Research Unit – Wales to seek access to further relevant administrative data.
Improving User Engagement			
Consider the optimal user engagement model with government and non-government users across the four countries of the UK to feed into continuing review of priorities	September 2018	Debra Prestwood (ONS)	**Completed.** A cross UK engagement model was agreed by the Across Government Housing Steering Group in Autumn 2018. Existing country events will incorporate sessions on cross UK coherence. The first of these was the Wales Housing Information Group seminar on 24 January 2019. A cross UK event in London is scheduled for 14 February 2019. Please get in touch at tony.wilkins@ons.gov.uk to express interest in future events.

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[10] https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2018/180921-housing-stock-analytical-resource-progress-report-september-2018-en.pdf