

Cross Government Housing and Planning Statistics Work Programme for 2019/20¹: As at 04 April 2019.

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)	Homelessness, affordable housing and housing conditions have been identified as the next topics (see next action). Further prioritisation will be ongoing through 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.			Work has begun. Your feedback is welcome as we look to shape future articles.
i) Homelessness	Autumn 2019	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	
ii) Affordable Housing	Autumn 2019	Tony Wilkins (ONS)	
iii) Housing Conditions	Summer 2019	Building Research Establishment Group	

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

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
<p>The Experimental Statistical Framework³ 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>Work is progressing and we will incorporate feedback from recent user events⁴ into the next iteration.</p> <p>Please get in contact (GSS.Housing@ons.gov.uk) if you can take part in user testing of further developments to the framework.</p>
Improving Quality			
<p>In June 2018 MHCLG published a plan⁵ setting out current and future activity to assure and improve the coverage of its statistics relating to new homes built.</p> <p>Assess options for improving the coverage and quality of New House Building statistics for Wales</p>	Ongoing	Daniel Shaw (MHCLG)	<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 plan⁵.</p> <p>Discussions with Building control specialists, MHCLG and policy colleagues are ongoing.</p>

³ <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Draft-Framework-v1.0-Image.jpg>

⁴ 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>.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/improving-the-measurement-of-new-homes-built-action-plan>

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
<p>Improve the measurement and understanding of Homelessness and Rough Sleepers, taking into account the country specific requirements relating to legislation / policy.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Tony Wilkins (ONS)</p> <p>Danielle Ryan (MHCLG)</p> <p>Sue Leake (WG)</p> <p>James Sampson (DfC NI)</p> <p>Adam Krawczyk (SG)</p>	<p>UK - Investigate how to improve our understanding of homelessness and rough sleepers including through data-linking projects across the UK. This includes ongoing collaboration between MHCLG and ONS to match 'H-CLIC' data to other government departments' data.</p> <p>England – Following first release of England homelessness estimates based on 'H-CLIC' data⁶, expand coverage and quality of statistics to meet user needs.</p> <p>Wales – A feasibility study into introduction of individual case level homelessness data collection is ongoing.</p> <p>NI - DfC are working alongside NI Housing Executive to continue to develop their standalone biannual homelessness statistics publication. The first experimental statistics were published on 5 March.</p> <p>Scotland - Options on improving the measurement of Rough Sleepers are being considered by the Centre for Homelessness Impact (CHI), in liaison with the Scottish Government. National Records of Scotland are looking to produce homelessness death statistics.</p>

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/statutory-homelessness-in-england-april-to-june-2018>

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
<p>Respond to the recommendations of the Office for Statistics Regulation compliance check⁷ of household projections for England against the Code of Practice for Statistics by publishing:</p> <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)	ONS have been engaging with users about their requirements for variant household projections and with colleagues from the Welsh Government, NRS and NISRA about updating cross-UK guidance.
Publish series of topic reports on Housing Conditions in Wales using 2018 survey data, see plan ⁸ .	Throughout 2019	Sue Leake (WG)	Headline report on Welsh Housing Conditions Survey was published on 6 December 2018 ⁹ . Further topic reports to continue throughout 2019, see Welsh Housing Conditions Survey publication plan ⁷ .
New methods - investigate new methods to improve the quality of housing statistics.	September 2019	Nigel Henretty (ONS)	ONS are investigating feasibility of using a new method - Generalised Structure Preserving Estimator – to improve precision of the subnational dwelling stock by tenure estimates.

⁷ <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/compliance-check-of-household-projections-for-england/>

⁸ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/181206-welsh-housing-conditions-survey-2017-18-publication-plan-en.pdf>

⁹ <https://gov.wales/welsh-housing-conditions-survey-headline-results-april-2017-march-2018>

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
Share best practice across departments / devolved administrations			ONS will engage with other departments / devolved administrations via the cross-government housing and planning statistics working group.
<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>ONS to continue to develop relevant subnational housing analyses in areas with limited official statistics such as housing affordability, sales of leasehold and newly built properties, and mortgages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Develop data sharing arrangements for mortgages data - Assess feasibility of improving the statistics on transactions of new properties using Ordnance Survey data - Create additional measures of housing affordability to better reflect the variety of people's income and tenure circumstances <p>ONS will engage with other departments / devolved administrations via the cross-government housing and planning statistics working group.</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>Work progressing.</p> <p>Initial review of existing housing harmonised principles complete.</p>

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
Collaborate with MHCLG and the Devolved Administrations to produce a Homelessness conceptual framework and improved guidance on the comparability of homelessness statistics to be embedded in future statistical publications.	Autumn 2019	Sean Mattson (ONS)	Work progressing. A first draft of the conceptual framework has been produced and shared with key stakeholders; work continues to develop new guidance.
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)	Work progressing. Meetings have taken place with MHCLG, the Devolved Administrations and other key stakeholders; further collaboration is planned.
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 to start in Autumn 2019.

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
<p>Identify the key analytical questions around homelessness and rough sleeping in the UK, and where that requires coordinated working across the four nations. Consider how data can be collated to answer those questions including to improve UK comparability.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Debra Prestwood (ONS) All statistical producers</p>	<p>Consideration will be given to how the barriers to harmonisation that the GSS Harmonisation Report identified¹⁰ could be overcome, including an assessment of the costs and resources associated with providing users with information on the size of the differences, or guidance on how to make adjustments to obtain comparable estimates.</p> <p>We will be seeking user feedback, including through the user engagement survey (see section on Improving User Engagement), to identify the key questions on homelessness alongside any outcomes from the homelessness conceptual framework and cross UK article.</p> <p>This will be monitored by the cross-government homelessness working group.</p>
<p>Improving Accessibility to Data</p>			
<p>Enhance the summary guide¹¹ by making it more interactive, taking on board user feedback in development</p>	<p>Autumn 2019</p>	<p>Tony Wilkins (ONS)</p>	<p>ONS are looking at i) the use of Power BI to make the guide interactive and ii) the use of 'R' to automate the back-end processes (i.e. pulling together the various datasets as they are updated).</p> <p>Please get in contact (GSS.Housing@ons.gov.uk) if you can take part in user testing of further developments.</p>

¹⁰ <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/guidances/harmonisation/0-harmonised-principles/homelessness/>

¹¹ <https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/UK-Housing-and-Planning-Statistics-1.xlsx>

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
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 GSS Data Project ¹² .	Throughout 2019	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	The GSS Data Project ¹¹ is prototyping producing linked open data across government producers of statistics. A data repository for Dwelling Stock by Tenure data will be created in April. Please get in contact (GSS.Housing@ons.gov.uk) if you can take part in user testing of further developments, particularly around exploiting the possibilities of linking this data.
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)	Recent discussions include harmonisation of statistics and affordable housing data. We will continue to engage with them around their Data Navigator Hub, their potential Wiki and other ways to collaborate.
Continue to provide links to other countries' statistical releases/data in individual country releases and other similar initiatives.	Ongoing	All statistical producers	This will be monitored by the cross-government housing and planning statistics working group.
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)	MHCLG will continue to look to align its statistical outputs along topic lines. In January 2019 MHCLG published a 'call for user views' ¹³ on possible changes to social housing and intend to consult more formally on final proposals in the summer.
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)	A progress report ¹⁴ was published in September 2018. WG are working with the newly established Administrative Data Research Unit – Wales to seek access to further relevant administrative data.

¹² <http://gss-data.org.uk/home>

¹³ https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/778085/LAHS_Bulletin_call_for_user_views.pdf

¹⁴ <https://gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2018-12/180921-housing-stock-analytical-resource-progress-report-september-2018-en.pdf>

Action	Target Date	Owner ²	Progress / notes
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)	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. Sessions on data comparability were held at the Wales Housing Information Group seminar on 24 January 2019 and at the cross UK event in London held on the 14 February 2019. We are working with statisticians in Northern Ireland and Scottish Government to run similar events.
Publish user engagement strategy for housing and planning statistics.	May 2019	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	This strategy will set out a vision for how we will engage with our users and provide a reference point for statistical producers to help shape their own user engagement work.
Conduct user engagement survey to better understand the needs of users of these statistics.	April / May 2019	Nick Woodhill (ONS)	Please provide 5 to 10 minutes to answer this survey ¹⁵ . Your responses will shape the work statisticians are doing to improve the quality and value of these statistics. This survey will close at the end of May 2019. A summary of results from this survey and our next steps will be published on our webpage.

¹⁵ <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/UKHousingStatistics/>