



Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Changes to MHCLG's statutory homelessness statistics

MHCLG has previously alerted data users that MHCLG's statutory homelessness National Statistics are changing. This note provides more information.

On the 27th June 2018 MHCLG's statutory homelessness statistics were published for the final time in their current format. This is because the current local authority P1E aggregated return, on which these statistics are based, has been replaced by a new case level collection called [H-CLIC](#). The final P1E publication on June 27th included new Jan-Mar 2018 quarter and 2017/18 financial year data. From the 1st April 2018 local authorities started to collect data in the new H-CLIC format for MHCLG to monitor their activities under the [2017 Homelessness Reduction Act \(HRA\)](#). The 2017 HRA places new duties on local authorities to help prevent or relieve homelessness for anyone eligible for public funds. This means H-CLIC will contain information on more people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness rather than only those who are considered priority need.

Why is P1E being replaced?

The Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) assessed MHCLG's statutory homelessness statistics in 2015. Users of these statistics commented that a move to a case level data collection would improve the publication. Introduction of the 2017 HRA meant a change to the P1E return was unavoidable. After a consultation period with homelessness charities, other organisations, local authorities and their IT providers, a new case level statutory homelessness collection, H-CLIC, was agreed. H-CLIC includes new fields to monitor local authority case activity under the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act.

Milestones in the H-CLIC project

We will continue to collect data on homelessness on a quarterly basis. Local authorities will submit their first April–June 2018 case level H-CLIC returns to MHCLG over summer 2018. The first H-CLIC Statutory Homelessness Statistics will be published by MHCLG in late 2018.

January – April 2017	Initial consultation phase with local authorities and IT suppliers
August – September 2017	Final consultation on H-CLIC content
January 2018	Final H-CLIC data requirement published
April – June 2018	Homelessness Reduction Act goes live, H-CLIC data collected by local authorities
June 2018	Final P1E Statutory Homelessness National Statistics published
July - August 2018	First quarter (April – June 2018) H-CLIC data submitted to MHCLG
End 2018	First H-CLIC data published as Experimental Statistics

What are the benefits of H-CLIC data versus P1E?

P1E provided important information about the number of households accepted as statutory homeless and those living in temporary accommodation (TA) by local authority each quarter.

However, P1E did not provide any information about each individual case. Additional detail or breakdowns were not available. The move to H-CLIC and case specific information means much more information will be held by MHCLG and there will be opportunities to publish more detailed summaries in tables alongside the quarterly statutory homelessness release. A summary of the additional information that H-CLIC will provide are outlined in the table below.

People	The age, gender of people in the household and their relationship to the applicant.
Household / applicant	Extra information on the employment and benefit status of the main applicant, their partner, last settled accommodation and more details on reason for loss of last settled home, including breakdowns for loss of assured shorthold tenancies.
Support needs & assistance	The needs of the household; any support they received for these during the homelessness process- such as for alcohol problems or mental health issues.
Prevention and relief	Main activity, length of time this was offered and the outcome whether successful or not. Under the 2017 Homelessness Reduction Act prevention and relief are legal duties offered to anyone considered homeless and eligible for public funds.
Temporary accommodation	The duration of TA placements, including those still living in TA, broken down further by type and location. Whether there is overcrowding.
Review	Whether a case has been subject to a review and if that review was successful
Time	The time taken for each case to be secured settled accommodation
Repeat cases	Identify individuals who present as homelessness again in the future.

What this means for users of statutory homelessness statistics

April-June 2018 statutory homelessness data will be reported to MHCLG by local authorities using H-CLIC. As local authorities familiarise themselves with the new data requirements and reporting system the data quality is expected to be lower. As MHCLG work with local authorities to improve the reporting standards, the first H-CLIC statistics release will be the end of 2018. There will be no September statistics release that would have been expected on the regular P1E cycle.

Whilst MHCLG work with local authorities to improve data quality, statutory homelessness statistics will be published as Experimental rather than Official or National Statistics. Experience of the Scottish Government's switch to a case reporting system and the introduction of new legislation in Wales meant their statistics were published as Experimental Statistics for the first year. The new H-CLIC statistics are expected to be published as Experimental Statistics for approximately twelve months. The precise timescales will depend on data quality. We will welcome any feedback to improve the statistics during the experimental phase and will hold a user event in Spring 2019.

Where can I find out more about H-CLIC and the data it will collect?

Updates on the H-CLIC project, including the data specification and guidance can be found here: [Homelessness statistics user forum](#)

Can I respond to the consultation on what new information I wish to see in the H-CLIC dataset?

Yes, MHCLG will consult users about the data they intend to publish from H-CLIC. Where time series in existing data tables can be maintained these will continue to be released. MHCLG will propose and consult on new breakdowns. More information about this is available in the June 2018 statistics release.