

**This bulletin announces the award of contract for the 2012-13 to 2014-15 English Housing Survey; the submission of EHS datasets to the Secure Data Service; brings users up to date with other progress on the survey; and asks you, our users, for feedback on your uses of EHS data.**

**Please complete our survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZLVHMQP>**

## **EHS progress**

### **New Contract**

We are pleased to announce that, following a rigorous procurement exercise under the EU Open procedure, we have awarded the English Housing Survey contract for the next three survey years (2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15) to a consortium led by the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen Social Research). The other members of the consortium are CA Design Services Ltd. trading as Miller Mitchell Burley Lane (MMBL), Building Research Establishment (BRE), and Bryson Purdon Social Research (BPSR).

The survey, commissioned by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) with support from the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), will continue to collect high quality information about people's housing circumstances and the condition and energy efficiency of housing in England.

In addition to the efficiency savings already announced for 2011-12 (e.g. reduction of the sample size, reduction in the interview survey length; and removal of the Market Valuation Survey) a number of further efficiencies have been achieved, for example by scaling back the content of the physical survey and making changes to the surveyor briefing programme. Furthermore, NatCen Social Research will implement an innovative approach to unclustered sampling via interviewing in 13,300 households per year from a random half of England.

As in 2011-12 the interview survey will be conducted with all householders in the sample (around 13,300 households per year), and the physical survey, involving an inspection by qualified surveyors, will be conducted with a sub-sample of around 6,200 properties per year.

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## **2011-12 Fieldwork**

Survey fieldwork for the 2011-12 Survey is progressing well, with response rates slightly higher in quarters 1 and 2 than in previous years.

## **2010-11 EHS reporting**

The next results from the survey will be published in the EHS Headline Report 2010-11 early in 2012. As usual this will cover key findings on households and tenure (including overcrowding, rents and movers), together with housing stock conditions and energy efficiency.

We will update the way the survey estimates the energy efficiency of the housing stock by introducing the SAP 2009 methodology for 2010 housing stock reporting (current estimates are based on the 2005 SAP methodology) and will include an assessment of the impact of change arising from the new SAP methodology.

The Headline report will be followed in Summer 2012 by the publication of the EHS Annual reports for 2010-11. We intend to change the presentation slightly and we hope this will make the reports more accessible.

Analyses of disadvantaged groups, which previously appeared in the stock report, will move to the Household Report, and appear alongside other analysis which is focused on the people in the survey. Other than this the stock report, to now be designated the Home Report, will be largely similar to the previous stock report.

The Household Report will be arranged by topic rather than by tenure. For example, there might be chapters on trends in tenure, demographics, household finances and housing costs, housing needs, household moves. This will enable us to show more three-way comparisons between owner occupiers, private renters and social renters within each chapter.

If you have any comments to share on this change please email us at the address below.

## **Private Landlords Survey**

The results of the 2010 Private Landlords Survey were published on 18th October 2011. The report covers the composition of the sector and landlord and agent views on a range of issues related to private rented housing, including ownership and management; stock condition and energy performance; letting and management characteristics; and housing benefit or local housing allowance.

Interviews were carried out in April and May 2010 with 1,051 landlords or their agents identified through the English House Condition Survey and the English Housing Survey during the

preceding two years. The survey follows on from a series of private landlord surveys carried out by the Department in the years 2001, 2003 and 2006.

See link below to the full report and tables.

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/privatelandlordssurvey2010>

## Secure Data Services (SDS)

We are currently in the process of providing the UK Data Archive with geographical identifiers that will be matched to the existing EHS Household and EHS Housing Stock data. We are putting this dataset on the Secure Data Services facility available at the Archive in response to requests from researchers who want to be able to use geographical identifiers in various analyses, for example, to explore findings controlled by particular groupings of areas and to assist multi-variate modelling. These data will only be available via the SDS, a facility which allows approved users to access data which is considered potentially disclosive under usual rules of access, and enables them to conduct analysis with it in a secure remote environment. Users will be asked to sign a SDS user agreement and will need to complete specific training before using the service. There are restrictions placed on how the data are used and published.

**Users should be aware that EHS data are designed to be representative at the national and regional level only, and because of this and the limitations imposed by sample size, data cannot be used to produce reliable estimates at lower geographical levels such as for individual local authorities.**

The service is open to researchers at UK institutions of higher or further education, who will be subject to a User agreement and a shared code of practice. Access to person-level information held by the SDS will be given to an ONS-Approved Researcher or an ESRC-Accredited Researcher. In each case access is determined by (a) whether the individual is a fit and proper person and (b) the purpose for which access is requested.

The link below details how to become an approved researcher.

<http://securedata.data-archive.ac.uk/member>

Any analysis or output undergoes a Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) process to ensure that individual respondents or households cannot be identified. Data are available to academic researchers only and **access will not permit any commercial use of this service.**

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For those individuals that take part in the survey their anonymity is guaranteed. The data will be made available under the EHS Security Strategy which stipulates the conditions under which personal information maybe released (paragraph 18).

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/pdf/1629364.pdf>

Full details of the service, training and responsibilities of researchers can be found at the link below

<http://securedata.data-archive.ac.uk/home>

Users will be notified by email when the data is available at the archive.

## **Revisions to data**

Users should be aware that some revisions have recently been made to the published 2009-10 EHS Household Report and to the Live Tables. All revisions and the action taken are given on the EHS Revisions log available at link below:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingsurveys/englishhousingsurvey/ehsusers/ehsrevisionspolicy/>

## **EHS Data sets and analysis**

Two EHS data sets are available from the UK Data Archive (UKDA):

- The EHS annual Household Dataset [2008-09 and 2009-10 data]
- The EHS Housing Stock Data set [2008 and 2009 data]

The anonymised SPSS data sets include the raw data collected in the field, plus all the key derived measures used in reporting including those relating to Fuel Poverty. User documentation is also provided.

The datasets are held at the UKDA under the Economic and Social Data Service site, where large scale government surveys can be accessed. For those users not familiar with SPSS analysis, additional help is provided through the various resources the ESDS provides. These include teaching databases and workbooks. In addition to these resources, further support is provided via online data analysis, external links to statistics and mailing lists about upcoming workshops.

<http://www.esds.ac.uk/>

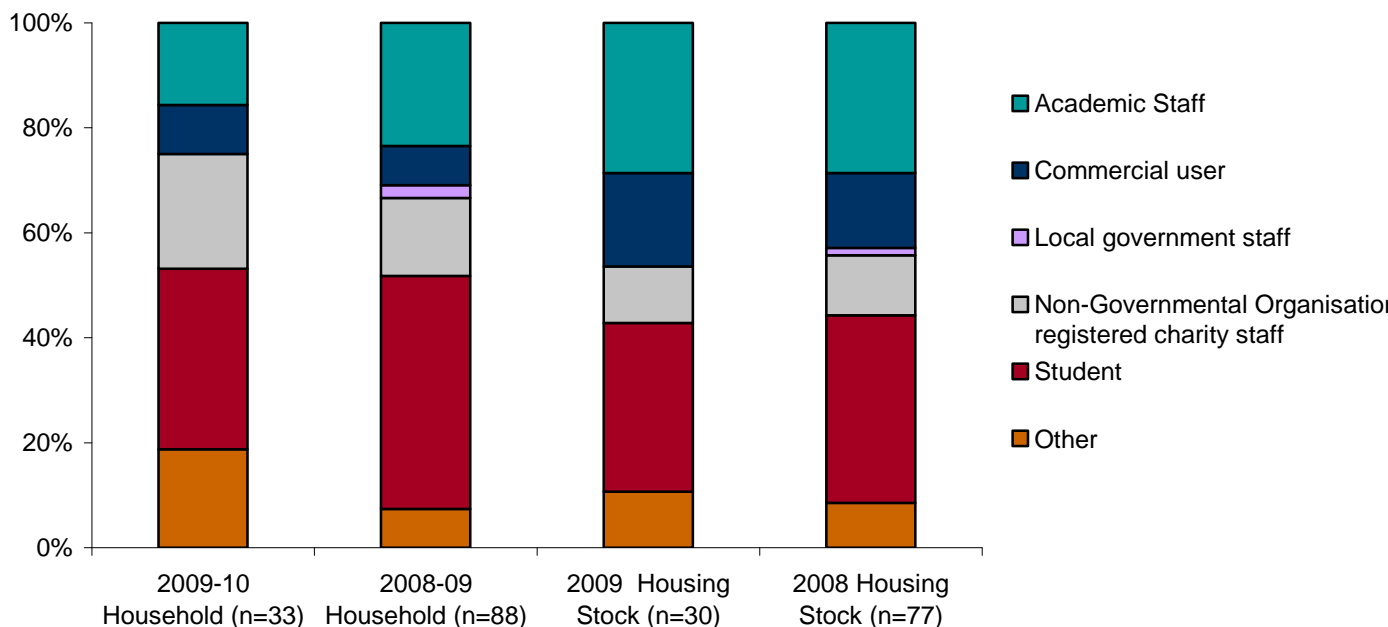
## You Tell Us

We want to find out more about users and uses of EHS data. It is important for us to find out if the EHS really meets users' needs, especially since every pound spent needs to represent good value.

We have some information on the broad type of users:

The graph below shows the different types of users that have accessed the EHS datasets at the UKDA, since the data was released. A wide variety of users have downloaded the data and both the EHS Household and Housing Stock data are regularly accessed.

**Data downloads by user type**



However, we would like to find out more about how data are utilised:

- Are you an individual or an organisation?
- Which sector do you work in?
- Are you most interested in data or reports?
- Which are the most useful parts of the EHS and which do you think could be improved?

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Please contact us at the email address below and tell us briefly how you use the EHS, and how it has made a difference to your work.

Alternatively, you can fill out a short survey on our website. There are just 10 questions and it will really help us understand how you use the EHS.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ZLVHMQP>

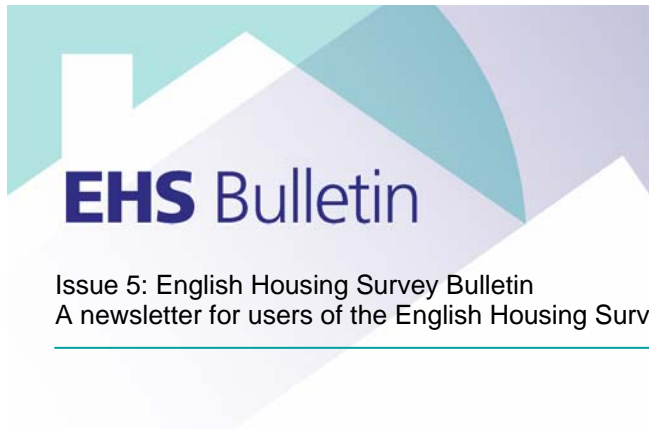
Lastly, we want to hear from you if you would like to nominate someone for a place on our Advisory Group. The terms of reference for the group are:

1. To provide a forum for the exchange of information between DCLG and external users of the survey.
2. To advise DCLG on external users' information needs and current and planned uses of the survey.
3. To obtain external users' views and expert advice on proposed survey developments, dissemination plans and future direction of the survey.
4. To facilitate and encourage external use of the EHS survey results and data sets.

We need additional members and would like to hear your views on who should be involved.

## **Contacts**

The EHS Bulletin will be published regularly giving summaries of findings, updates on progress, outlining methodological issues and setting out plans for analysing and disseminating results. If you would like to be added to our electronic mailing list for the Bulletin, want further information on the surveys or have any comments to make, please contact the project team.



# EHS Bulletin

Issue 5: English Housing Survey Bulletin  
A newsletter for users of the English Housing Survey

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## English Housing Survey

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