



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Local Authority Housing Statistics

A Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Bulletin



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Summary of consultation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is currently looking at how we publish our statistical releases, trying to move towards providing greater coherence in the way we publish them – away from publication by source or data collection and towards a more thematic, consistent approach. Bringing statistics together in this way will provide users with an easier way to find the statistics on their topic of interest rather than the current process of having to go to different statistical releases.

The department produces the Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS) bulletin in January each year. The statistical bulletin currently covers a number of topics collected as part of the much broader LAHS data collection. The objective of this paper is to set out the department's proposed changes to the LAHS statistical bulletin.

To make the commentary of LAHS data more accessible and placed in better context, the department is proposing to discontinue the LAHS bulletin that is published every year and move its content and commentary to be published instead in other statistical bulletins throughout the year.

The department is not proposing any changes to the underlying LAHS data return nor to the content of the published tables although the timing of their publication may change and usually these will be made available earlier. A proportion of these data are already used and reported in other statistical bulletins published by the department and are not included in the LAHS statistical bulletin. These proposals are consistent with this approach. They are also in line with the Office for Statistical Regulation's recommendations following their review of housing statistics¹.

We would like to take this opportunity to get feedback from users on how they use the bulletin and ask for feedback on the proposed changes.

¹ Statistics on Housing and Planning in the UK <https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Systemic-Review-of-Statistics-on-Housing-and-Planning-in-the-UK20171110-corrected.pdf>

Scope of the consultation

Topic of this consultation:	This consultation seeks views on the proposed discontinuing of the Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS) bulletin that is published in January every year and for its content to be published in other statistical bulletins throughout the year.
Scope of this consultation:	<p>We are considering how best to meet the needs of users in a cost-effective way, while broadening the utility of the data itself.</p> <p>There are no proposed changes to the underlying data collected and published from the LAHS return and therefore, changes to the data are outside the scope of this consultation. However, the department welcomes user feedback at part of its continuous effort to improve statistical output. This can be done by contacting the department at Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk or through participation through the Central Local Information Partnership Housing subgroup (CLIP-H) details of which can be found at https://khub.net/group/clip/group-forum/-/message_boards/category/6066935.</p>
Geographical scope:	These proposals relate to statistics for England only.
Impact Assessment:	An impact assessment is not required as this is a technical consultation relating to the Ministry's statistical activity.

Useful Information

To:	Any users of the Local Authority Housing Statistic or parties interested in Local Authority Housing in England namely; government departments, local government, sector organisations, industry, academics, media, campaign groups, community groups, consultants and members of the public.
Body/bodies responsible for the consultation:	Housing and Planning Analysis Division of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Duration:	This consultation will last for 2 months from 15 July 2019
Enquiries:	For any enquiries about the consultation please contact: Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk
How to respond:	<p>Please read through the document.</p> <p>You can email your response to the questions in this consultation to Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk</p> <p>If you wish to post a written response, then please send it to:</p>

Local Authority Housing statistics Consultation,
Housing and Planning Analysis Division,
MHCLG,
4th Floor, Fry Building,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

When replying please let us know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation and include:

- your name,
- your position (if applicable),
- the name of organisation (if applicable),
- an address (including post-code),
- an email address, and
- a contact telephone number

Local Authority Housing Statistics

Introduction

1. This document invites comments on The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) proposals for the future production of the Local Authority Housing Statistics (LAHS) bulletin. The latest published bulletin can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/local-authority-housing-statistics-year-ending-march-2018>.
2. The LAHS is badged as National Statistics with its bulletin published annually in January. It reports several topics such as changes in stock, waiting lists, rents and stock condition that are collected as part of the much broader LAHS data collection. Other parts of the LAHS dataset are already being presented in other more topical statistical bulletins such as Social Housing Sales, with the latest release available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/social-housing-sales-in-england-2017-to-2018> and Affordable Housing Supply, with the latest release available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/affordable-housing-supply-in-england-2017-to-2018>.
3. MHCLG has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007, to ensure its statistics meets user needs and engage users on changes to the department's statistical output. This consultation meets the requirements for National Statistics to consult its users where major changes are proposed.
4. We review here the current reporting scheme for LAHS data and propose how this scheme may be improved to better meet user needs.

The current reporting scheme for LAHS data

5. The LAHS bulletin is currently published in the January after the reporting year. It presents a broad range of topics on the stock, lettings, rents and condition of local authority owned properties. It reports Private Registered Provider (PRP) owned stock

(first published by the Regulator for Social Housing in the Single Data Return (SDR) in October after the reporting year) and calculates a total social housing stock figure for England. It also contains information on local authority housing waiting lists and evictions carried out by local authority landlords. The bulletin does not cover all topics provided in the LAHS data return.

6. At the same time as the publication of the LAHS bulletin the full LAHS data return is published containing all the data provided to the department. A number of associated live tables are also published with the bulletin, which are;
 - a. LT 115 Dwelling stock: PRP stock, by district; England, since 1997;
 - b. LT 116 Local authority stock, by district; England, since 1994;
 - c. LT 600 Numbers of households on local authorities' housing waiting lists, by district; England, since 1997;
 - d. LT 602 Local authority owned dwellings let by local authority; England, since 2000-01;
 - e. LT 612 Local authority vacant dwellings; England, since 1989;
 - f. LT 702 Local authority average weekly rents, by district; England, since 1998;
 - g. LT 704 Rents: Private Registered Provider (PRP) rents, by district; England since 1997;
 - h. LT 706 Local authority social rented stock and average social rent by size of property; England, 2017-18;
 - i. LT 707 Local authority social rented stock and average social rent by size of property; London, 2017-18.

7. LAHS data is used and published in other bulletins and live tables which are summarised in table 1.

Table 1. Summary of other uses of LAHS data

Bulletin or Live Table	LAHS Data Used	Timing of Release
Social Housing Sales bulletin and associated live tables	LAHS sales and transfers data and demolitions	November after the reporting year
Affordable Housing supply bulletin and associated live tables	LAHS affordable housing supply starts and completions data	November after the reporting year
Social Housing Lettings bulletin and associated live tables	LAHS lettings data is used to apply weightings to CORE lettings data, LAHS total stock data used in calculation	November after the reporting year
Live table 119 Stock of non-decent homes in the Social Rented Sector	LAHS non-decent housing data	January after the reporting year Is timed with the publication of the English Housing Survey (EHS) headline report
Live table 615 vacant dwellings by local authority district	LAHS vacant dwelling data	March after the reporting year
Live table 100 Number of Dwellings by Tenure and district; England and live table 104	LAHS stock data	The second May after the reporting year

Current issues with the reporting scheme

8. The current reporting scheme for LAHS data does not have a clear consistent approach which may make it hard for users to navigate. Some sections of the data are embedded into thematic bulletins such as Social Housing Sales and Affordable Housing Supply. However, the LAHS bulletin has no clear theme other than its primarily data reported in the LAHS return.

9. The current scheme is likely to create barriers for users accessing LAHS data. It is likely that users will primarily search for a topic rather than a named data return. So, for a new user to find information on non-decent social homes using online search engines they might be directed first to live table 119 (Stock of non-decent homes in the Social Rented Sector), which would then require them to identify the sources, and in turn to search for them. If they were to search via the department's gov.uk statistics page they would need to have prior knowledge of the name of the data return.

10. The thematic approach of bulletins such as Social Housing Sales and Affordable Housing Supply collates information from several different sources and then presents a more consistent and comprehensive view of the topic. The current reporting scheme for the LAHS bulletin, based on the data collection survey rather than topic area, requires

the user to consult multiple publications to gather a rounded a full picture: For example, to gain a full understand of non-decent social stock the user would need to visit live table 119 as well as consult the RSH Statistical Data Return, LAHS and English Housing Survey reports.

Meeting user needs

11. User groups of the statistic are varied including: MHCLG and other government departments and agencies, local government, local government associations, academics, media, and community and campaign groups, as well as interested members of the public.
12. LAHS data cover a wide range of topics related to social housing and the role of local authorities and as such is used regularly for different purposes. It is not proposed that the data changes, and the full data return will be made publicly available as is now although publication timings may change. This should limit the impact of the proposed changes to users that primary use the data directly.

Proposed changes

13. LAHS is badged as National Statistics and as such MHCLG has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007, to ensure its statistics meet user needs and engage users on any proposed changes. We outline here the proposed changes to the reporting of LAHS data and invite opinion from the wider user base and those who may not previously have engage with the statistic. In all cases:
 - MHCLG will continue to publish the LAHS data return annually;
 - The LAHS bulletin that is published in the January after the end of the reporting year would be discontinued as of the 2018-19 data return (which is set for publication in January 2020).
14. The data currently published in Social Housing Sales and Affordable Housing Supply bulletins remain the same and are summarised in table 2.

15. The data presented in the LAHS bulletin will be moved to a number of different bulletins currently published by the department. A full summary of the proposed changes can be seen in table 2.

16. It is proposed that the tables for sections of the LAHS data return will be published at the same time as they appear in bulletins. A summary of the changes in the publication of the date is set out in table 3.

Table 2. Summary of the proposed changes to LAHS data publication within statistical bulletins

LAHS Data	Current use in Statistical Bulletins	Current Timing	Proposed Change to Statistical Bulletins	Proposed Timing
Section A: Stock	Social Housing Lettings bulletin total stock used in calculation	November	No change proposed	November
	LAHS bulletin	January	What is published in LAHS bulletin will be added to Dwelling Stock Estimates in England bulletin	Second May after reporting year
	Dwelling Stock Estimates in England bulletin	Second May after reporting year		
Section B: Sales and Transfers	Social Housing Sales bulletin	November	No change proposed	November
Section C: Allocations	LAHS bulletin	January	Added to Social Housing Lettings bulletin	November
Section D: Lettings, Nominations and Mobility Schemes	LAHS lettings data is used to apply weightings of social housing lettings bulletin	November	What is published in the LAHS bulletin will be published in the Social Housing Lettings bulletin	November
	LAHS bulletin	January		
Section E: Vacant dwellings	Dwelling Stock Estimates in England bulletin	Second May after reporting year	No change proposed	Second May after reporting year
Section F: Condition of Stock	LAHS bulletin	January	A note added to the English Housing Survey headline report but figures not presented	January
Section G: Evictions	LAHS bulletin	January	Added to Social Housing Lettings bulletin	November
Section H: Rents	LAHS bulletin	January	A note added to the Social Housing Lettings bulletin but figures not presented.	November
Section I: Affordable housing supply	Affordable Housing Supply bulletin	November	No change proposed	November
Section J: Affordable housing supply (starts)	Affordable Housing Supply bulletin	November	No change proposed	November

Note: Unless specified the timing represent the month after the reporting year.

Table 3. Summary of the proposed changes to the publication of LAHS data in tables

LAHS Data	Current Publication of Data	Current Timing	Proposed Changes to Data Publication	Proposed Timing
Section A: Stock	LAHS data return and associated live table 116	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November
	Live tables 100 and 104 on dwelling stock	Second May after reporting year	No change proposed	Second May after reporting year but underlying data published in November
Section A: Demolitions	Live table 684: annual demolitions of social housing stock for England	November	No change proposed	November
Section B: Sales and Transfers	Partial publication in Social Housing Sales bulletin associated live tables	November	No change proposed	November
	Full publication in LAHS data return	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November
Section C: Allocations	LAHS data return and associated live table 600	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November
Section D: Lettings, Nominations and Mobility Schemes	LAHS data return and associated live table 602	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November
Section E: Vacant dwellings	Full publication in LAHS data return and live table 612	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved back	March
	Live table 615 Vacant dwellings by local authority district: England	March	No change proposed	March
Section F: Condition of Stock	Full publication in LAHS data return and associated live table 119	January	No change proposed	January
Section G: Evictions	LAHS data return	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November
Section H: Rents	LAHS data return and associated live tables 702, 706 and 707.	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November
Section I: Affordable housing supply	Affordable housing supply	November	No change proposed	November
	LAHS data return	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November

Section J: Affordable housing supply (starts)	Affordable housing supply associated live tables	November	No change proposed	November
	LAHS data return	January	No change proposed to data published but publication date moved forward	November

Note: Unless specified the timing represent the month after the reporting year.

Consultation questions

- Which user group most represents your situation?
- What do you use the LAHS bulletin for?
- What do you use the LAHS data tables for?
- Are there any reasons why you would not support the discontinuing of the LAHS bulletin? Please give details.
- Are there any reasons why you would not support the proposed changes to the timing of the publication of the LAHS data? Please give details.
- Do you have any further comments?

How to respond

Now you have read through this document, we would be grateful for your views.

You can email your response to Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk

If you wish to post a written response, then please send it to:

Local authority housing statistics Consultation,
Housing and Planning Analysis Division,
MHCLG,
4th Floor, Fry Building,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

When replying please let us know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation and include:

- your name,
- your position (if applicable),
- the name of organisation (if applicable),
- an address (including post-code),
- an email address, and
- a contact telephone number

About this consultation

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent, and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), the EU General Data Protection Regulation, and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A full privacy notice is included at Annex A.

Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed the Consultation Principles? If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please contact us via the [complaints procedure](#).

Annex A

Personal data

The following is to explain your rights and give you the information you are entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018.

Note that this section only refers to your personal data (your name address and anything that could be used to identify you personally) not the content of your response to the consultation.

1. The identity of the data controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is the data controller. The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at dataprotection@communities.gsi.gov.uk

2. Why we are collecting your personal data

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

3. Our legal basis for processing your personal data

MHCLG has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007, to ensure the statistic meets user needs and engage users on changes to the statistic.

The Data Protection Act 2018 states that, as a government department, MHCLG may process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation.

3. With whom we will be sharing your personal data

Personal data will not be shared outside the department.

4. For how long we will keep your personal data, or criteria used to determine the retention period.

Your personal data will be held for two years from the closure of the consultation.

5. Your rights, e.g. access, rectification, erasure

The data we are collecting is your personal data, and you have considerable say over what happens to it. You have the right:

- a. to see what data we have about you
- b. to ask us to stop using your data, but keep it on record
- c. to ask to have all or some of your data deleted or corrected
- d. to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/>, or telephone 0303 123 1113.

6. Your personal data will not be sent overseas.

- 7. Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision making.**
- 8. Your personal data will be stored in a secure government IT system**