



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

Official Statistics Release

# Statutory Homelessness October to December (Q4) 2020: England

## In this release:

This is the quarterly statistics release for statutory homelessness assessments and activities in England between 1 October and 31 December 2020. It also reports on stock households in temporary accommodation under the statutory homelessness duty in England on 31 December 2020. This release covers part of the period of response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Between October to December 2020:

- 62,250 households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness and owed a statutory homelessness duty, down 9.2% from October to December 2019
- 28,270 households were assessed as being threatened with homelessness, and therefore owed a prevention duty, down 18.5% from the same quarter last year and linked to a 49.9% decrease in threatened homelessness due to service of a Section 21 notice to end an Assured Shorthold Tenancy
- 33,990 households were initially assessed as homeless and therefore owed a relief duty, up 0.5% from the same quarter last year; however households with children fell 13.8%
- 9,670 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, down 5.3% from October to December 2019. Households with children fell by 13.6%, reflecting the fall in households with children owed a prevention or relief duty in the most recent two quarters
- On 31 December 2020 the number of households in temporary accommodation was 95,370, up 8.0% from 88,310 on 31 December 2019. This increase is driven by single adult households, up 45.0% to 28,570, while households with children decreased 4.6% to 59,670
- These changes can be linked to the government and local authority response to COVID-19 including:
  - households accommodated under the 'Everyone In' campaign, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping
  - the restriction on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords

**Release date:** 22 April 2021

**Date of next release:** Summer 2021

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## Additional Headlines

### Initial Assessments

- 62.5% of households owed a prevention duty and 79.5% of households owed a relief duty were single households (households without children)
- 17,560 households with children were owed a prevention or relief duty, down 22.9% from October to December 2019
- Of all households owed a duty, there were 32,040 households, or 51.5%, identified as having one or more support needs. The most common support need was a history of mental health problems, accounting for 15,710 households or 25.2% of households owed a duty. 9,730 households, or 15.6% of all households owed a duty, had a support need of physical ill health or disability.
- 8.8%, or 5,760, of the 65,570 assessments made under the new duties were as a result of referrals from other public bodies under the duty to refer. Of the referrals made, 97% resulted in a homelessness duty.
- The National Probation Service made the most referrals to homelessness services which resulted in an assessment under the duty to refer with 1,480 (or 25.7%) of the total, an increase of 76.2% from October to December 2019.

### Outcomes

- In October to December 2020, 35,490 households had secured accommodation for 6 months or more because of the new prevention or relief duties.
- Over half of the 30,140 prevention duties which ended between October to December 2020 (18,190 or 60.4%) ended because the household secured accommodation for 6 months or more and their homelessness had been prevented. Of these, 33.1% or 6,020, were able to remain in their existing home.

- 4,480 or 14.9% of households whose prevention duty ended were homeless at the end of the 56 days, and therefore owed a subsequent relief duty.
- Of the 41,930 relief duties ended, 17,300 or 41.3% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.
- 15,600 households, or 37.2% of households whose relief duty ended had ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them

## Main Homelessness duty

- In October to December 2020, 6,980 households had their main homelessness duty come to an end in October to December 2020, down 7.7% from October to December 2019
- Of these households, 5,440 or 77.9% households accepted an offer of settled accommodation.

## Temporary Accommodation

- Compared to the previous quarter, the total number of households in temporary accommodation increased 0.8% from 30 September 2020: single households increased 3.9%, and households with children decreased 0.9%
- In London, there were 17.1 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households, compared with 1.7 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England.
- On 31 December 2020, 26,200 or 27.5% of households in temporary accommodation were in accommodation in a different local authority district. 82.9% of these out of district placements were from London authorities.
- On 31 December 2020, 59,670 households or 62.6% included dependent children, with a total of 121,340 dependent children living in temporary accommodation.
- Most households with children, 88.6%, were in self-contained accommodation, down 1.5 percentage points at the end of December 2019.
- Of the households in temporary accommodation, 10,510 were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, up 43.4% from 7,330 at the same time last year. Of these households in B&B, 9,230 (87.8%) were single households, which had increased 70.0% from the same time last year reflecting the Everyone In campaign.
- In contrast, the number of households in B&B with dependent children decreased 32.6% from the same time last year to 1,280 households in December 2020. Of the households with children in B&B, 490 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 7.5% from 530 on the 31 December 2019.

## The Statutory Homelessness Response to COVID-19

- Between 1 April and 31 December 2020 39,110 single households had secured accommodation through a relief duty, and 3,300 of these were sleeping rough on approach
- Between the 1 April and 31 December 2020, the relief duty ended for 29,980 single households because 56 days had elapsed and their homelessness had not been resolved. 10,510 were assessed as priority need and owed a main duty.

# 1. Introduction

## Removal of Experimental Statistics badging

The Statutory Homelessness statistics release had initially been categorised as experimental statistics since 1 April 2018 when the Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) data system replaced the aggregated data return (P1E) for all new homeless applications. The replacement of the aggregated return coincided with the introduction of new legislation, the Homelessness Reduction Act (HRA). The H-CLIC system is now three years old and is no longer in its developmental phase. As such, these statistics have now been designated as ‘Official Statistics’, and are in full compliance with the UK Statistics Authority’s Code of Practice for Statistics.

## What does this release cover?

This release covers part of the period of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This will have impacted on people at risk of homelessness in various ways and should be noted when comparing this quarter’s data with previous quarters. This release covers some of the households who needed help as a result and additionally some households who were accommodated under the ‘Everyone in’ campaign<sup>1</sup>, whereby local authorities were asked to provide emergency accommodation to rough sleepers, people who were living in shelters with shared sleeping arrangements, and those at risk of rough sleeping. This release also covers the restrictions on private rented sector evictions, and lengthened notice periods for landlords which will have reduced numbers homeless due to loss of tenancy, both of which may have led to a reduction in the supply of move on properties.

More detailed breakdowns of single households accompany this release; these include households owed a relief duty and their support needs, reasons for the relief duty ending and accommodation secured at relief. Statutory Homelessness statistics includes some but not all of the people provided with accommodation in response to COVID-19, through the ‘Everyone In’ campaign. Statutory Homelessness statistics cannot be directly compared to or merged with the COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data used to monitor ‘Everyone In’ because of the incomplete overlap between the two. More information on the potential impact of COVID-19 and the reasons why some households were helped as part of the ‘Everyone In’ campaign can be found in the annex: The Statutory Homelessness response to COVID-19.

## What data is used in this release?

The data used in this release are from the Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-

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<sup>1</sup> Further information on the ‘Everyone in’ campaign is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-2-million-emergency-support-for-rough-sleepers-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

CLIC) data system. This system is used as a reporting requirement of local authorities to provide data on statutory homelessness for those approaching local authorities for help with homelessness. The data collected in this release show total activity over the quarter except for data on temporary accommodation which is a snapshot at the end of the quarter.

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention, relief, and main duties. This quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 308 out of 314 local authorities (98.1% response rate). Partial returns indicate that the quality of the data varies by section. Details of coverage by section are detailed in the release and in the [Technical Note](#). Missing figures have been imputed to ensure national headline figures are representative. Low numbers have been suppressed at the local authority level to prevent identification of individuals. There may be seasonal trends in this data, which are not currently adjusted.

Some local authorities are unable to provide temporary accommodation data via H-CLIC, and 18.3% of temporary accommodation from 11 local authorities is provided through P1E for this quarter. Further details on the data quality and improvement plan are available in the [Technical Note](#).

## 2. Initial Assessments

This section of the release covers the initial assessment of people who presented themselves at their local authority and were threatened with homelessness or who were already homeless between October to December 2020. This section does not cover secondary relief duties owed to a household where the applicant has not managed to secure accommodation whilst being threatened with homelessness. It also does not cover main duty assessments as these are included under [Main duty decisions](#).

For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 2.8% of the England total. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

This section includes:

- New duties owed – prevention and relief
- Causes of homelessness
- Accommodation at the time of application
- Referrals from other public bodies
- Household characteristics

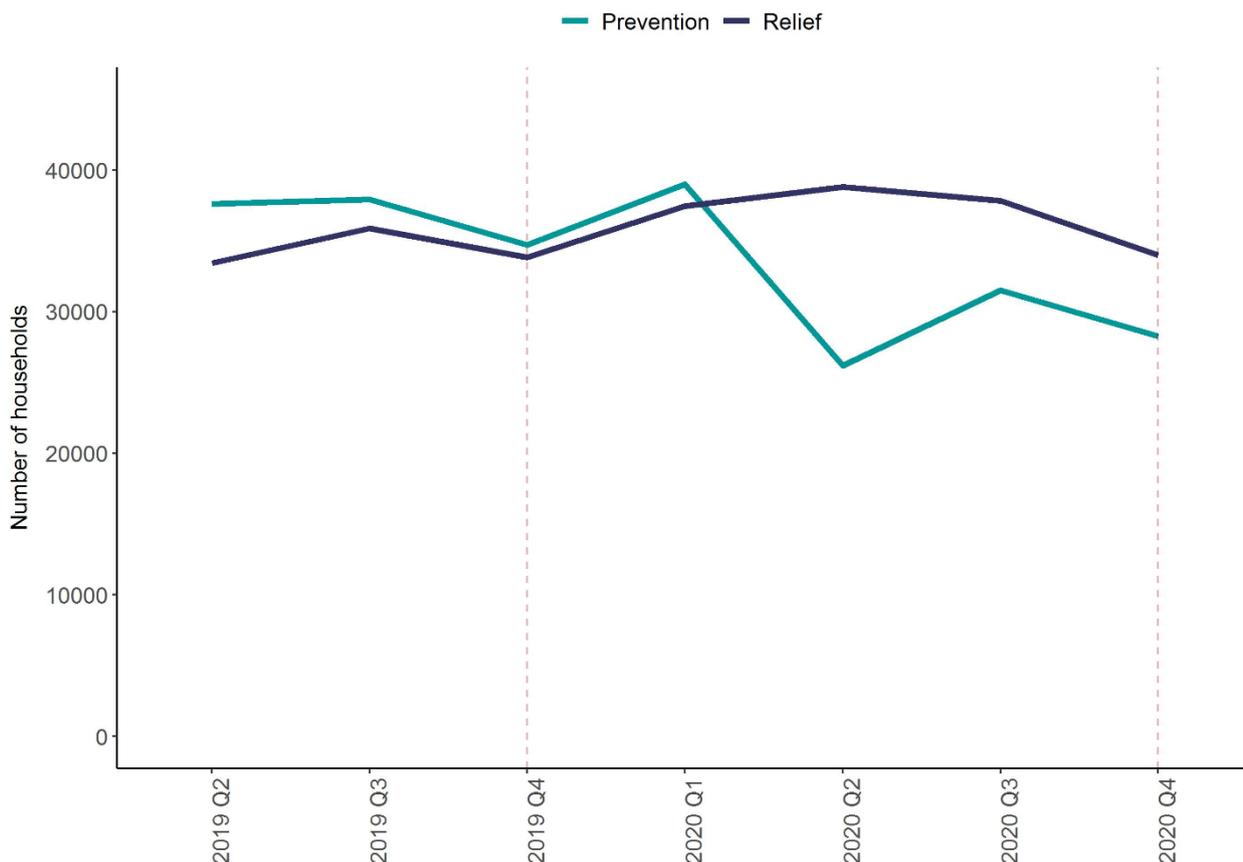
### New duties owed

#### [Table A1](#)

**Prevention duty:** Local authorities may deliver their prevention duty through any activities aimed at preventing a household threatened with homelessness within 56 days from becoming homeless. This would involve activities to enable an applicant to remain in their current home or find alternative accommodation in order to prevent them from becoming homeless. The duty lasts for up to 56 days but may be extended if the local authority is continuing with efforts to prevent homelessness.

**Relief duty:** The relief duty is owed to households that are already homeless on approaching a local authority, and so require help to secure settled accommodation. The duty lasts 56 days and can only be extended by a local authority if the household is not owed the main homelessness duty.

**Figure 1: Number of households owed a prevention or relief duty since 2019 Q2**



Between October to December 2020, 65,570 homelessness assessments were carried out. 62,250 or 94.9% households were initially assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and therefore owed a statutory homelessness duty. This is down 9.2% from October to December 2019.

28,270 or 43.1% of households assessed were threatened with homelessness within 56 days and owed a prevention duty. 1,920, or 6.8% of prevention duties were owed because the household had been issued with a section 21 notice. The number of prevention duties owed due to the issue of a section 21 notice has decreased 49.9% from 3,830 households in October to December 2019. This reduction will largely reflect the ongoing measures to protect renters during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as restrictions on bailiff enforcement activity and the extension of notice periods.

**Section 21 notice:** A section 21 notice is the form a landlord must give a tenant to start the process to end an assured shorthold tenancy. This is recorded alongside initial assessments.

33,990, or 51.8% of households were assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty, an increase of 0.5% from 33,820 in the same quarter last year. This increase is driven by single households, increasing by 1,340, and will likely reflect the response to 'Everyone In' as above. The number of households with children decreased by 1,120 from the same quarter last year.

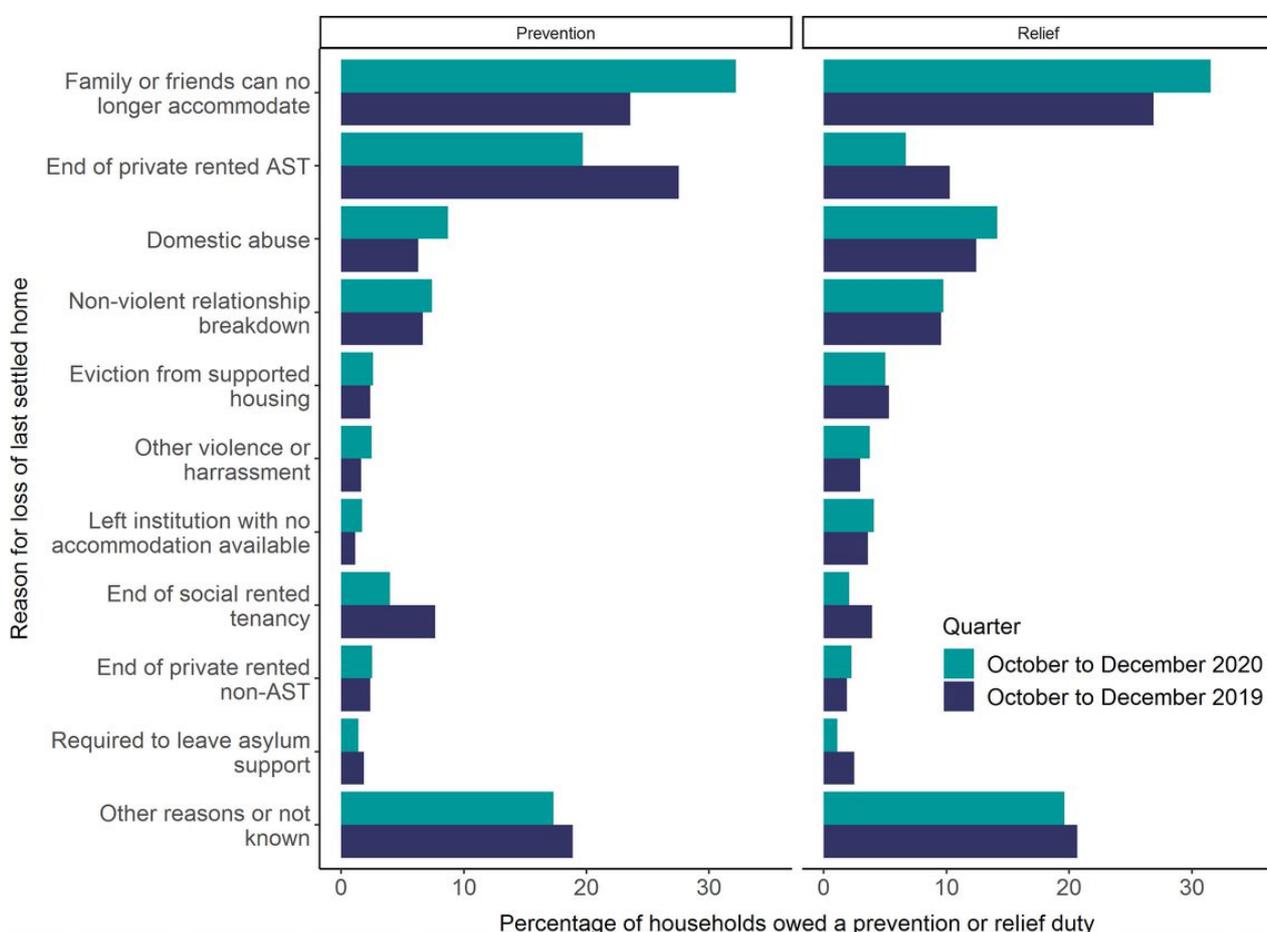
3,320 were found to be not homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. This is down 11.9% from October to December 2019.

# Causes of homelessness

Table A2P and A2R

The reason for loss of last settled home is a good indication of the cause of homelessness for households assessed as being owed a duty. However, it should be noted that in this section, 'Other' is a large category overused by some local authorities who we are working with to improve their reporting. 'Other' is listed as the reason for loss of their last settled home for 18.6% of households. Other or unknown is therefore overrepresented and will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

**Figure 2: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by reason for loss of last settled home**



Between October to December 2020, the most common reason for loss of last settled home was “friends or family no longer willing or able to accommodate”, which accounted for 19,820 households or 31.8% of households assessed as homeless or threatened with homelessness. As a proportion of households owed a prevention duty, this has increased 8.6 percentage points; and for those owed a relief duty, this has increased 4.6 percentage points. This equates to total increase of 2,540 from October to December 2019, despite the total number of households being owed a prevention or relief duty decreasing over the same period. For households owed a relief duty, the

second largest category was domestic abuse at 14.2%, up 1.7 percentage points from October to December 2019.

For households owed a prevention duty, those stating end of private rented ASTs as the reason for loss of last settled home fell 7.8 percentage points to 19.7% in October to December 2020. For households owed a relief duty, this fell 3.6 percentage points to 6.7%. These decreases will likely reflect the restrictions on landlord evictions. Private rented AST can end for a range of reasons. 3,480, or 44.4%, of AST terminations in this quarter were due to the landlord wishing to re-let or sell the property. Other reasons were much smaller proportions, with the next most common being a change in personal circumstances, accounting for 7.8% of AST terminations, and tenant difficulty budgeting, 7.0% of AST terminations.

End of social rented tenancy and required to leave asylum support also decreased proportionately across prevention and relief from October to December 2019. Again, this may reflect restrictions placed on evictions due to the pandemic.

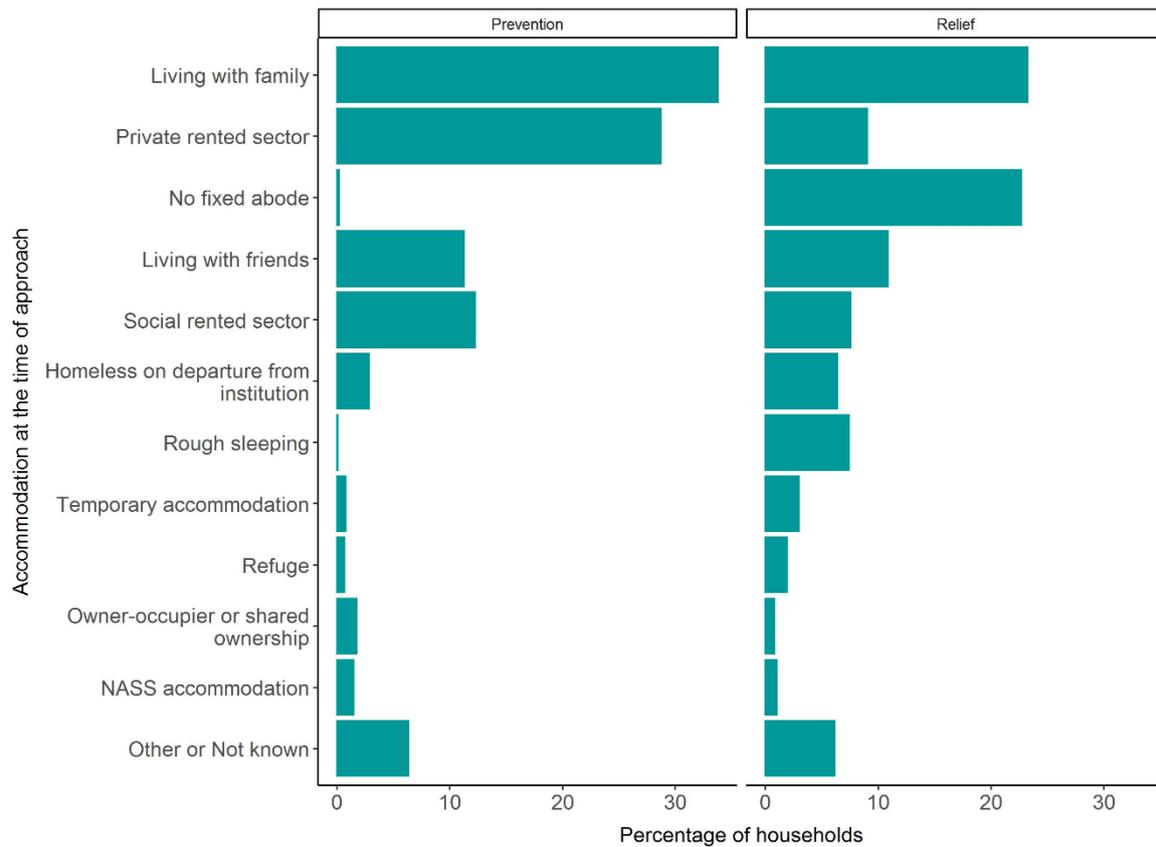
## Accommodation at time of application

### [Table A4P and A4R](#)

Current accommodation is used to identify the accommodation types of households who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, at the point at which they make an application to a local authority for help.

It is highly likely that that 'no fixed abode' has been overused by data providers as a category in the return where living with friends or family would have been more appropriate. 'No fixed abode' should not be used as a proxy for rough sleeping as this category can include people who are temporarily staying at multiple addresses but not sleeping rough. In addition, 'other or unknown' is overrepresented, and will impact on the numbers represented in every other category, with the potential for this impact to be disproportionate.

**Figure 3: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by accommodation at time of application**



As shown in Figure 3, the most common accommodation type at the time of application was living with family with 33.7% of households owed a prevention duty, up 7.8 percentage points from the same quarter last year, but down 0.8 percentage points from the previous quarter; and 23.2% of households owed a relief duty, up 2.1 percentage points from the same quarter last year, and down 2.1 percentage points from the previous quarter.

For households owed a prevention duty, this was followed by private rented sector, with 8,110 households or 28.7%. This has fallen 8.2 percentage points compared to the same quarter last year, driven mainly by the 8.5 percentage point fall in self-contained accommodation; however houses in multiple occupation (HMO) and those lodging (not with family or friends) both increased by 0.1 and 0.3 percentage points respectively. Overall for households owed a prevention duty, accommodation in the private rented sector at time of application has fallen 4,680 or 36.6% from the same quarter in the previous year, which is likely to be linked to the restrictions on evictions. For households owed a relief duty, this has fallen 18.3% to 3,080 from the same quarter last year. In total, 11,190 households owed a prevention or relief duty were in private sector accommodation at the time of application. This is higher than the 7,840 households citing the end of a private rented AST as their reason for loss or threat of loss of last settled home, indicating other reasons for leaving their private sector accommodation, such as relationship breakdowns.

For households owed a relief duty, 2,520 households were rough sleeping at the time of application, 440 of which were in London and 2,080 in the rest of England. This is a 15.1% increase from October to December 2019 and represents 4.0% of all households owed a new duty in October to December 2020. This increase will likely reflect the response to 'Everyone In' and

the increased support provided to those sleeping rough or at risk of sleeping rough’.

This is lower than the 2,688 rough sleepers recorded as sleeping rough on a single night in England in 2020. This difference is expected as HCLIC will only capture rough sleepers who had a homelessness application assessed and assistance provided by a local authority during this quarter. Further data sources on rough sleeping can be found in the [Technical Note](#).

In addition, these figures cannot be directly compared to the COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data used to monitor the ‘Everyone In’ campaign because of the incomplete overlap between the two sources. More detail on this can be found in the Annex at the end of this release.

**Rough sleeping:** People sleeping in the open air (such as on the streets, in tents, doorways, parks, bus shelters or encampments or other places not designed for habitation (such as stairwells, barns, sheds, car parks, cars, derelict boats, stations, or “bashes” which are makeshift shelters, often comprised of cardboard boxes). Rough sleepers in this publication may have slept rough one night or across several nights.

**Rough sleeping at the time of Local Authority Approach:** Rough sleepers are defined as those who were, in the judgement of the assessor, rough sleeping when they approached a local authority for help.

**History of Rough Sleeping:** This is a support need based on a history of sleeping rough and does not mean that the household was sleeping rough at the time of approach to the local authority

Households in National Asylum Seeker Support (NASS) accommodation decreased 46.9% from the same quarter last year to 770 households; however it more than doubled compared to the previous quarter (360). This may reflect the Home Office resuming evictions from asylum accommodation in August 2020 after a period of suspension due to COVID-19. Other notable changes from the same quarter in the previous year include households in owner-occupier or shared ownership accommodation at the time of approach, down 24.5% to 770 households; and households in temporary accommodation, up 13.9% to 1,230 households.

## Referrals from other public bodies

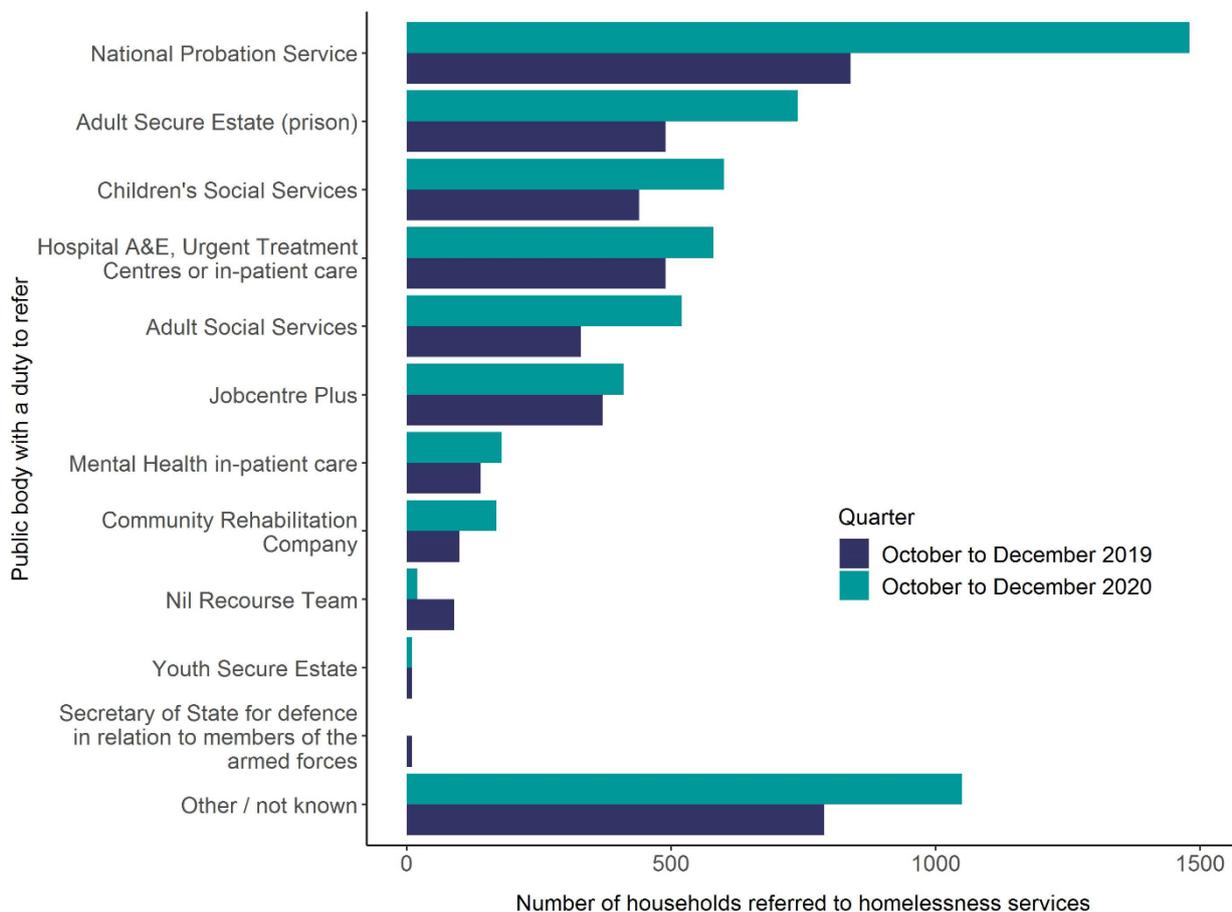
### [Table A7](#)

**Duty to Refer:** Since 1 October 2018, duty to refer has required specified public bodies to refer, with consent, users of their service who they think may be homeless or threatened with homelessness to a local housing authority of the individual’s choice.

For 1,050 households, local authorities indicated that a household had been referred to them under a duty to refer but failed to identify an eligible referring authority; these referrals are reported as ‘Other / not known’. This category mostly reflects referrals made where the body does not have

a duty to refer. MHCLG are working to reduce the use of 'Other / not known' through amendments to the H-CLIC Specification which were implemented from 1 April 2021.

**Figure 4: Proportion of households referred, by public body with a duty to refer**



During October to December 2020, there were 5,760 referrals made under the duty to refer which resulted in an assessment, compared with 4,090 between October to December 2019. Of the referrals made, 97.0% resulted in a homelessness duty.

National Probation Services have the largest number with 1,480, or 25.7% of the total, and 97.0% of these resulted in a homelessness duty. Adult Secure Estate made the second highest number of referrals resulting in an assessment with 740, followed by Children's Social Services with 600. These three authorities represent 49.0% of referrals which resulted in a homelessness assessment under the duty to refer.

Households can also be referred to local authorities by public bodies without a duty to refer e.g. GP practice, police or housing associations. During October to December 2020 3,680 referrals were made by other organisations, public or private without a legal duty to refer which resulted in the household being assessed. 200 additional referrals were made by other local authorities.

# Household characteristics

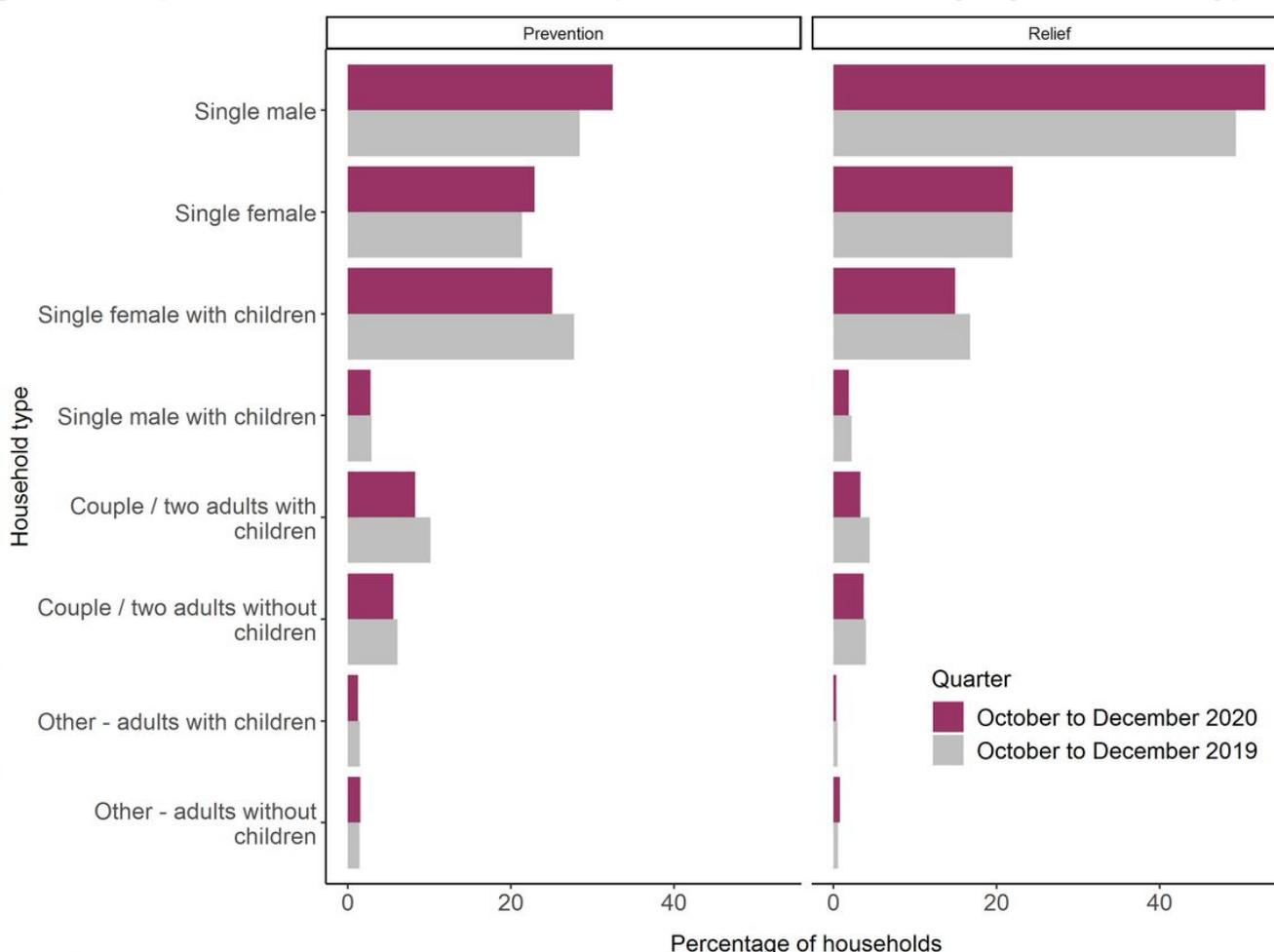
## Household composition

[Tables A5P and A5R](#)

**Single households:** A term used for households without children, which will include couples and households with two or more adults.

**Single adult households:** Single adult households are a subset of single households, where the household comprises just one individual adult.

**Figure 5: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by household type**



Of the 62,250 households owed a prevention or relief duty after initial assessment, 71.8% were single households and 28.2% were households with children. This has shifted from 66.5% as single households and 33.3% as households with children in October to December 2019. Of the 28,270 households owed a prevention duty, 62.5% were owed to single households compared with 79.5% of the 33,990 households owed a relief duty.

During October to December 2020, single males were the largest household group owed homelessness duties, making up 53.0% of households owed a relief duty, and 32.5% owed a prevention duty. Proportionately, this is an 3.6 percentage point increase in relief and a 4.0

percentage point increase in prevention, equating to an overall increase of 610 single males from October to December 2019.

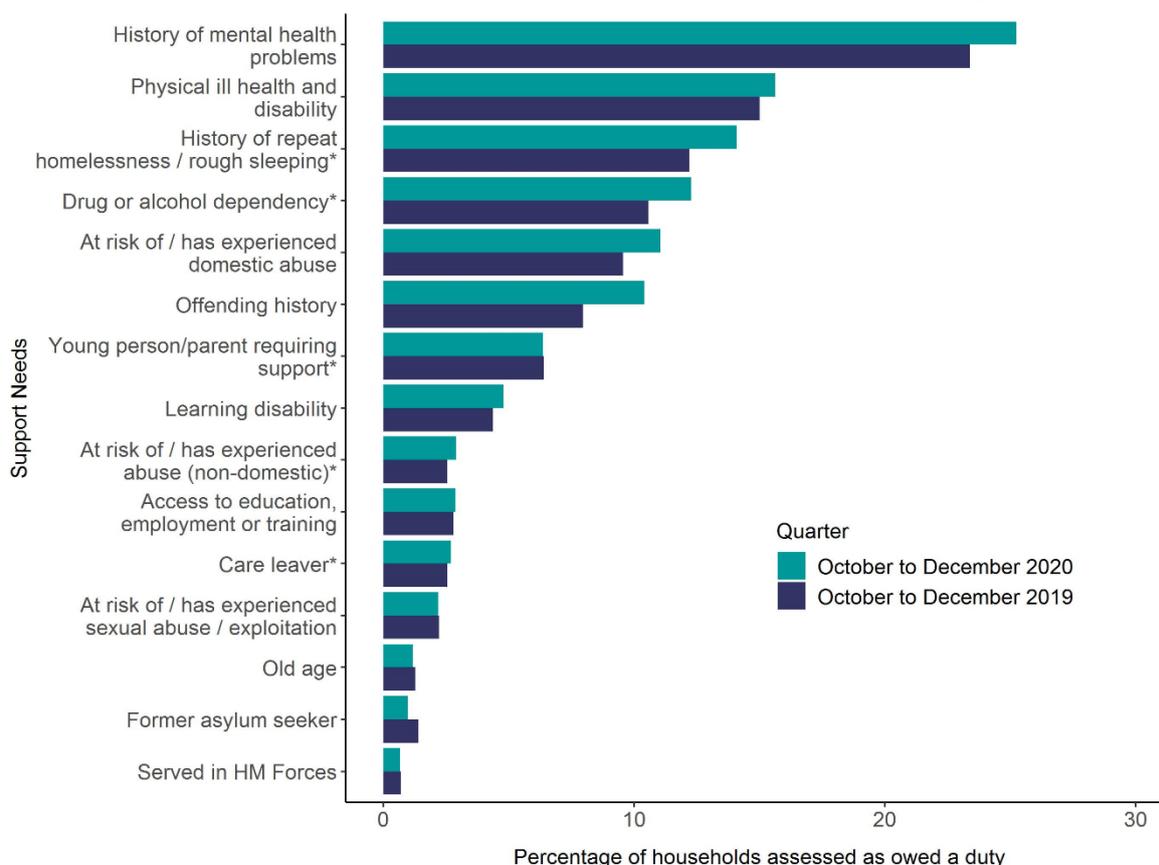
Single female with dependent children were the second largest group owed a prevention duty, comprising 25.1% of households, and the third largest group after single males and single females owed a relief duty, comprising 14.9% of relief duties owed. Couples with children and extended family households with two or more adults and children represented 9.2% of those owed a prevention duty and 3.6% of those owed a relief duty.

## Support needs

### Table A3

**Support needs:** areas of additional needs that mean the household requires support to acquire and sustain accommodation, giving an indication of the additional services local authorities need to provide to prevent an individual becoming homeless or to stop the cycle of repeat homelessness. Local authorities report as many support needs that apply to each household.

**Figure 6<sup>2</sup>: Proportion of households owed a prevention or relief duty, by support need**



Of the 62,250 households who were owed a homelessness duty in October to December

<sup>2</sup> Please note: these categories are grouped using support need categories that are similar. This means some households may be counted more than once in these categories

2020, 32,040 or 51.5% of households were identified as having support needs, compared with 47.9% in October to December 2019. Of the households who had a support need, 14,790 households or 46.2% had one support need; 7,630 households or 23.8% had two support needs; and 9,620 or 30.0% had three or more support needs.

The most common support need identified was a history of mental health problems which was reported as 15,710 households or 25.2% of households owed a new duty. A history of repeat homelessness or rough sleeping was identified in 4,750 and 4,020 households respectively, making up a combined total of 14.1% of households owed a new duty, up 1.9 percentage points from the same quarter last year. This is higher than the 2,540 households who were sleeping rough at the time of application to the council, as households with this support need may have been living in other settled or unsettled accommodation at the time of application.

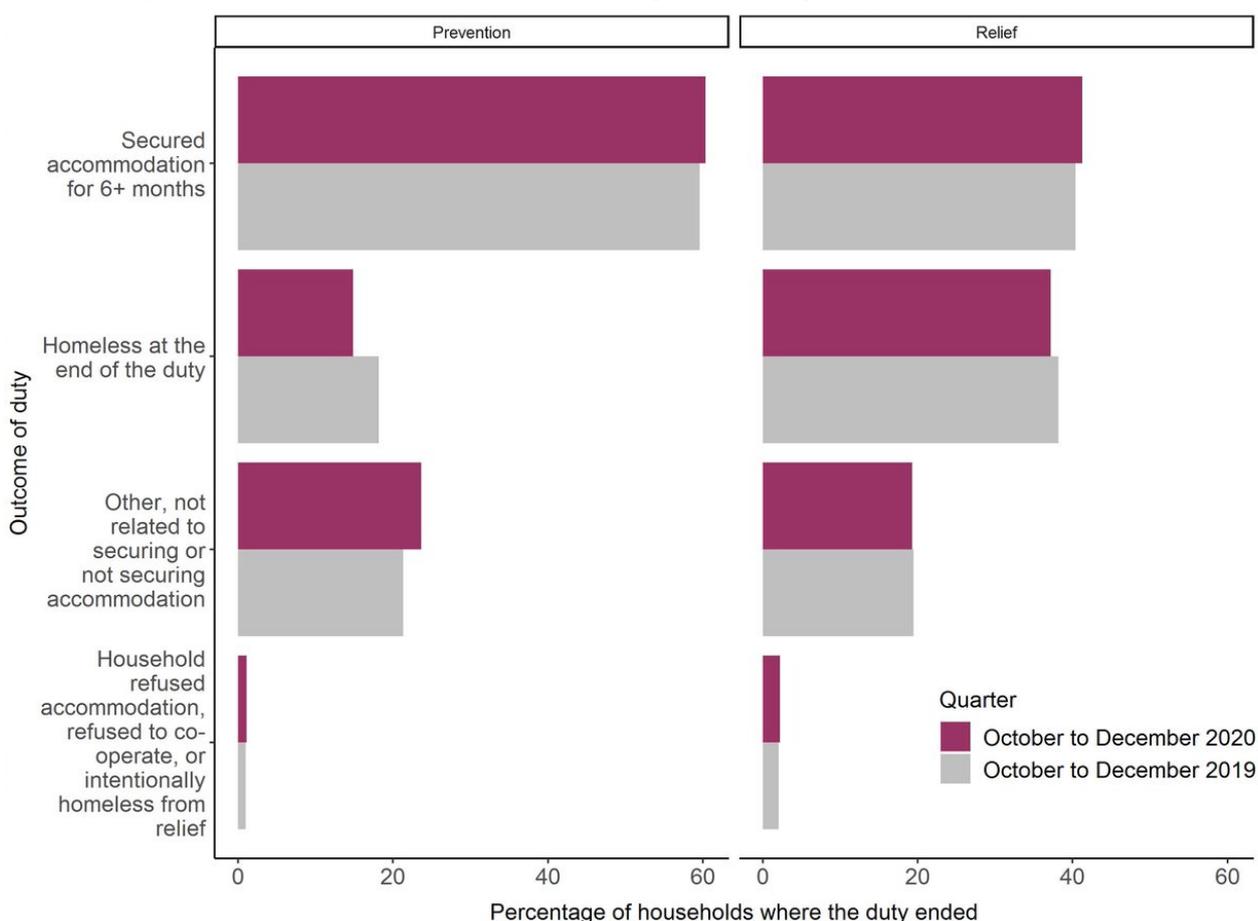
Other notable groups included those with experience of or at risk of domestic abuse, 11.1%, those with drug or alcohol dependency, 12.3%, and those with offending history, 10.4%. This is likely a reflection of the proportionate increase in single households owed a duty and the 'Everyone In' campaign.

### 3. Prevention and Relief Duty Outcomes

The homelessness legislation requires local authorities to take reasonable steps to try to prevent or relieve a household’s homelessness by helping them to secure accommodation for at least 6 months. These duties usually last 56 days each. The reasons for duties ending indicate the likely outcomes for these applicants.

The outcomes in October to December 2020 may refer to duties which began in previous quarters. Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on prevention and relief duties ending. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 1.7% of the England total for prevention, and 2% for relief, and so totals should be used with caution. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

**Figure 7<sup>3</sup>: Proportion of households whose duty ended by outcome**



<sup>3</sup> Note: the categories in Figure 7 are variables collapsed from tables P1 and R1. Homeless at the end of the duty includes those intentionally homeless for prevention duties. Other, not related to securing or not securing accommodation includes: Application withdrawn or applicant deceased, contact lost, 56 days elapsed and no further action, local referral accepted by other LA, and no longer eligible. Households where the outcome is not known are not included.

## Prevention duty ended

### [Table P1](#)

Figure 7 shows the outcomes for the 30,140 prevention duties that ended in October to December 2020, and the outcomes for the 41,930 relief duties ended in the same period. The number of prevention duties that ended decreased 13.3% from the 34,770 households in October to December 2019. This may reflect the decrease in prevention duties owed in July to September 2020.

18,190 households, or 60.4%, secured accommodation for 6 months or more and were no longer threatened with homelessness. Of those who secured accommodation 33.1% secured their existing accommodation, whilst 66.9% secured alternative accommodation.

For 4,480 or 14.9% of households, the prevention duty ended because the household became homeless, and was therefore owed a relief duty.

There are several further reasons why a prevention duty may end that do not relate to securing accommodation for 6+ months or the household becoming homeless. 14.3% of prevention duties ended for other reasons, such as losing contact, or the application being withdrawn, and 1.1% ended due to the household refusing accommodation or refusing to co-operate.

## Relief duty ended

### [Table R1](#)

41,930 households' relief duties ended this quarter, up 5.7% from the 39,670 households reported in the same quarter last year. As shown in Figure 7, 17,300 or 41.3% of households had accommodation secured for at least 6 months.

For 37.2% of households the relief duty ended because their homelessness had not been relieved within 56 days and at this point the local authority would need to assess whether a main duty is owed to them. 19.3% of households' relief duty ended for reasons not related to failing to secure or securing accommodation for at least 6 months, and 2.2% ended due to the household refusing accommodation, refusing to co-operate, or becoming intentionally homeless.

## 4. Main Duties

### Main duty decisions

[Tables MD1 and MD1 timeseries](#)

Data in this section concerns decisions on whether the main homelessness duty is owed to a homeless household.

**Main Duty:** The 'main' homelessness duty describes the duty a local authority has towards an applicant who is unintentionally homeless, eligible for assistance and has priority need<sup>4</sup>. These households are only owed a main duty if they did not secure accommodation in the prevention or relief stage, and so is not owed to those 'threatened with homelessness'. In addition a minimum of 56 days of assistance must have elapsed from a household approaching the local authority to being owed a main duty.

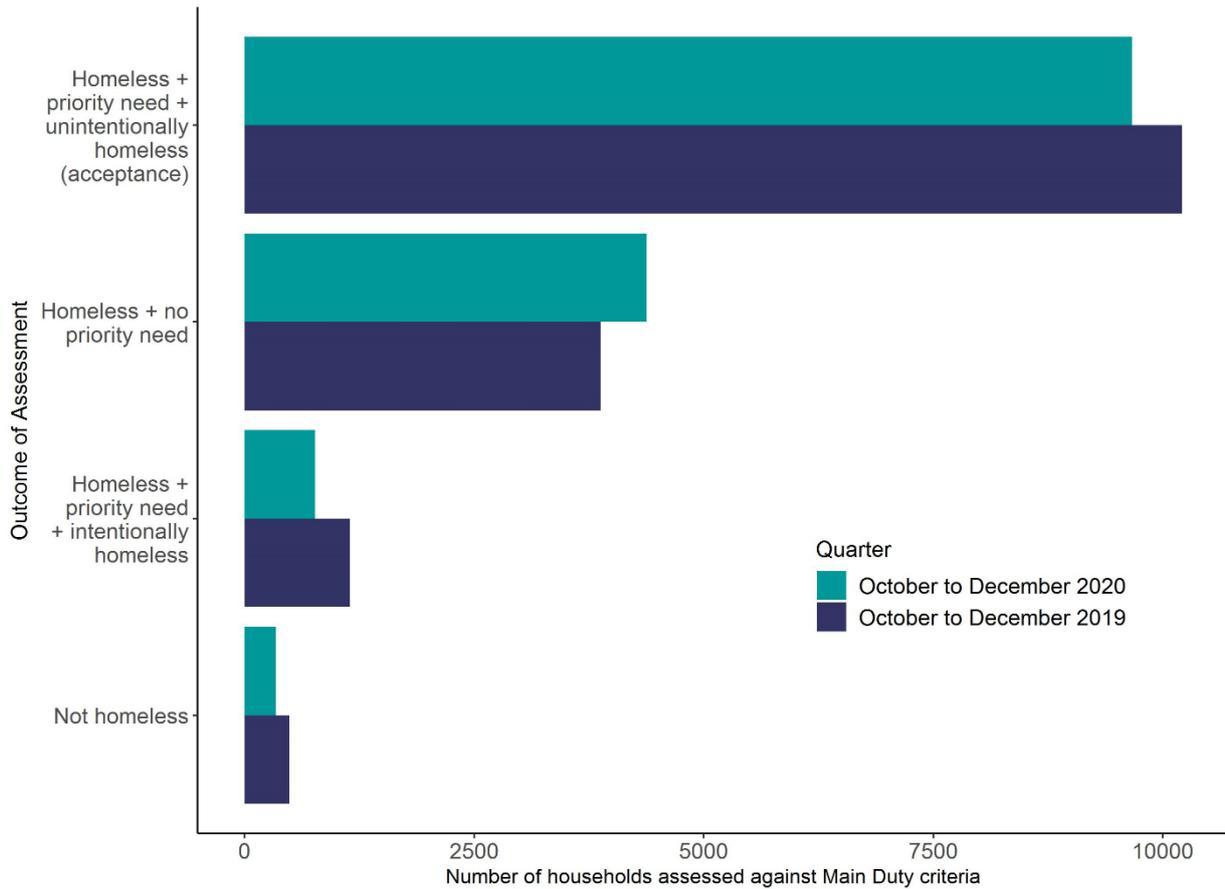
From 3 April 2018 homeless households were owed a 56 day relief duty before a main duty decision could be made or a duty could commence, and in some cases would also have been owed a prevention duty before the household became homeless.

Several local authorities have reported issues collecting or reporting accurately on main duty decisions, primarily because this information is collected in a separate system that is unable to submit via HCLIC. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 2.0% of the England total. The England level figure in this release is also likely to be under-reported and has previously been revised up in previous quarters. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), or the live tables. We will also revise this data in future.

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<sup>4</sup> Eligibility and priority need are further defined in Section 5, Additional Information.

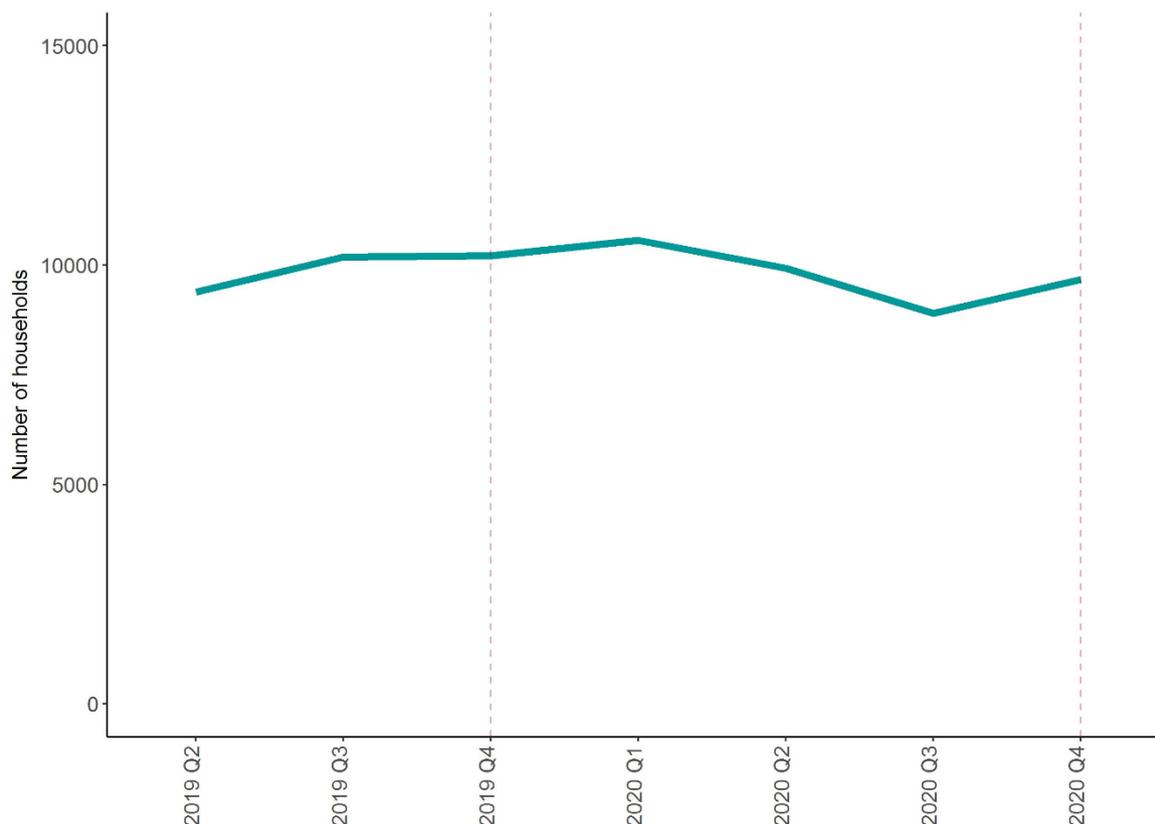
**Figure 8: Number of households assessed against a main duty decision, by outcome**



Local authorities made 15,150 main homelessness duty decisions in October to December 2020, down 3.6% from October to December 2019. 9,670 households were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, which is a 5.3% decrease from 10,210 households in October to December 2019. However, this increased 8.7% from 8,900 in the previous quarter, as shown in Figure 9.

Of those owed a main duty 2,530 were in London, accounting for 26.2% of the England total. 4,380 households were found to be homeless but did not have priority need, and therefore not owed a main duty following the statutory relief duty.

**Figure 9: Number of households with main duty homelessness acceptances since 2019 Q2**



## Main duties ended

### [Table MD2](#)

Some local authorities have struggled to provide accurate information on main duties ended, particularly on cases where applications were taken prior to April 2018. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 2.5% of the England total, and so it should be used with caution. The England level figure for the latest quarter in this release is also likely to be revised, and has previously been revised up or down by at least 4% in previous quarters. Further details on the authorities whose figures were imputed can be found in the [Technical Note](#), and the live tables.

When a household is accepted as being owed a main duty by a local authority, the authority has a duty to ensure that suitable accommodation is available until such time that the duty ends. Because there is no fixed end, this section includes some outcomes of main duty applications made prior to the HRA commencement date as well as decisions made under the amended legislation. The main duty can also be ended for other reasons such as the applicant turning down a suitable offer of temporary or settled accommodation, or the applicant no longer being eligible for assistance.

**Table 1: Number and percentage of households whose outcomes of main duties ended**

<b>Outcome of Main Duties Ended</b>	<b>Number of households October to De- cember 2020</b>	<b>Percentage of households October to De- cember 2020</b>	<b>Number of households October to December 2019</b>
<b>All outcomes</b>	<b>6,980</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>7,560</b>
Accepted an offer of settled accommodation	5,440	77.9%	6,020
<i>Local Authority or Housing Association accommodation</i>	<i>4,810</i>	<i>68.9%</i>	<i>5,350</i>
<i>Private Rented Sector accommodation</i>	<i>630</i>	<i>9.0%</i>	<i>670</i>
Intentionally homeless or voluntarily ceased to occupy Temporary Accommodation	760	10.9%	730

As shown in Table 1, the main homelessness duty was ended for 6,980 households in October to December 2020, down 7.7% from the same quarter in the previous year. This includes those who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting alternative accommodation.

5,440 households accepted an offer of settled accommodation, or 77.9%. This is a comparable proportion of households with October to December 2019. Most households (68.9%) accepted a tenancy offer in local authority or housing association accommodation.

Of those households whose duties ended without securing accommodation, 240 households became intentionally homeless from temporary accommodation, while 520 households voluntarily ceased to occupy temporary accommodation.

## 5. Temporary Accommodation

**Temporary Accommodation:** Temporary Accommodation is the term used to describe accommodation secured by a local housing authority under their statutory homelessness functions. The majority of households in temporary accommodation have been placed under the main homelessness duty, but temporary accommodation is also provided during the relief stage to households who the LA has reason to believe may have priority need, or on interim basis in other circumstances such as pending the outcome of a review on a homelessness decision.

Unlike other data in this release, temporary accommodation (TA) is a snapshot at the end of the quarter. It is not a cumulative total of all placements across a quarter. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter usually includes households who are:

- awaiting a decision on whether a main duty is owed under a new application or reapplication
- awaiting a decision on whether a referral has been accepted under local connection arrangements
- undergoing a local authority review or county court appeal
- under a relief duty and have or may have priority need so eligible for temporary accommodation
- homeless, eligible for assistance and in priority need and owed the main homelessness duty
- intentionally homeless and have priority need and are being accommodated for a limited period

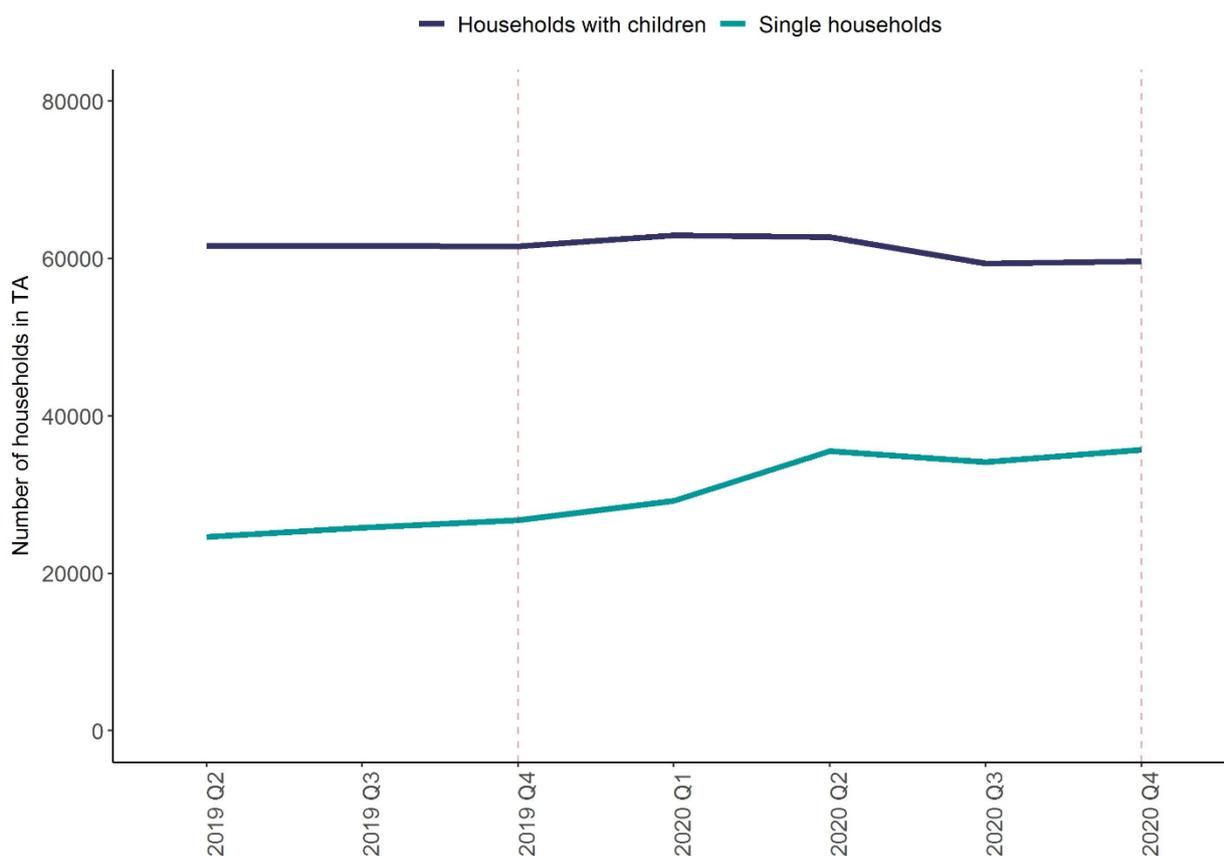
TA has been reported by local authorities through a combination of P1E summary and H-CLIC case level returns this quarter, as in previous quarters since April-June 2018. Local authorities were able to use either return or both to submit accurate temporary accommodation data. Despite offering this flexibility, many local authorities were still unable to provide accurate temporary accommodation data. For the authorities that failed to provide this information, their data was imputed from previous returns. Imputed figures account for 23.6% of the England total households in TA, and so it should be used with caution. Further details on the data quality issues can be found in the [Technical Note](#).

Continuing from the previous quarter, MHCLG advised local authorities that they should report emergency accommodation placements made to rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping who were assisted through activity to bring 'Everyone In'. In some cases where no HA 1996 S188 interim TA duty was owed local authorities were advised they could include within their HCLIC returns, placements made using the power available within the HA1996 to secure accommodation for those owed the S189B relief duty. The TA data for October to December 2020 therefore includes TA placements made under this S189B power, as well as those accommodated under homelessness duties. Placements made under the S189B power may be underreported and instead reported under the S188 duty as the option for reporting the former may not yet have been

adopted on some local authority systems.

As set out above, this quarter's temporary accommodation figures include placements made to better protect rough sleepers from COVID-19, through the 'Everyone in' campaign. Details on the published statistics are provided in the [Technical Note](#). However, it should be noted that many of these households will not have been included because they were not eligible for homelessness assistance, and were accommodated outside HA96 duties. In addition, some households may have stated that they did not want to make an application for assistance; and for those that did make an application, there has been some delay in processing applications in the context of competing priorities. It is expected that some of these households will be reported in future quarters.

**Figure 10: Number of households in temporary accommodation since Q2 2019, by household type**



On 31 December 2020, the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation was 95,370 up 8.0% from 88,310 on 31 December 2019. This increase is driven by single adult households, which was 28,570, up 45.0% on the same date last year, while the number of households with children was 59,670, down 4.6% from the same date last year. The total number of households in temporary accommodation increased 0.8% from 30 September 2020.

**Table 2: Number of households accommodated in temporary accommodation**

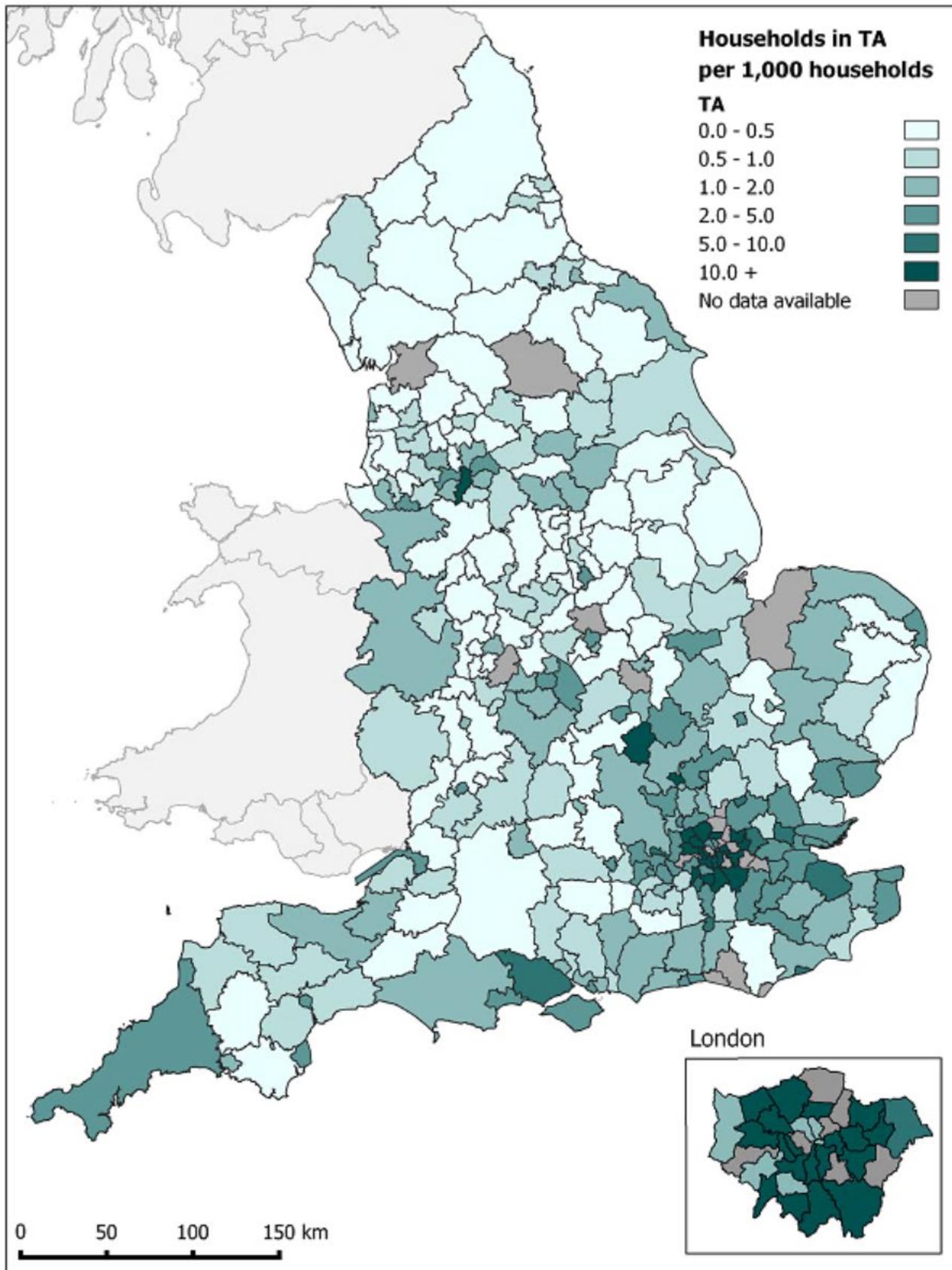
	<b>31 December 2020 Households in TA</b>	<b>Previous quarter 30 September 2020 Households in TA</b>	<b>Previous quarter 30 September 2020 Percentage change</b>	<b>Same quarter last year 31 December 2019 Households in TA</b>	<b>Same quarter last year: 31 December 2019 Percentage change</b>
England	95,370	94,610	0.8%	88,310	8.0%
London	60,680	60,530	0.2%	58,670	3.4%
Rest of England	34,690	34,080	1.8%	29,640	17.0%

\*No change refers to changes of less than +/-1%

As shown in Table 2, the number of households in temporary accommodation in London on 31 December 2020 was 60,680, an increase of 3.4% from 31 December 2019. London accounted for 63.6% of the total England figure. In comparison the number of households in temporary accommodation in the Rest of England increased by 17.0% to 34,690 on 31 December 2020. These changes are driven by the increase in single households.

This means that in England there were approximately 4.1 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households overall, but there were approximately 17.1 households per 1,000 in London and 1.7 households per 1,000 in the Rest of England. As shown in Figure 11, the rate of households in temporary accommodation is highest in London boroughs, and shows additional hotspots in urban centres such as Manchester and Birmingham. The local authority with the highest rate of households in TA per 1000 households is Newham, with 49.5, and the highest outside of London is Luton at 15.3 households per 1000.

Figure 11: Map of households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households in each local authority



Produced by Homelessness Statistics Team, MHCLG  
(c) Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey

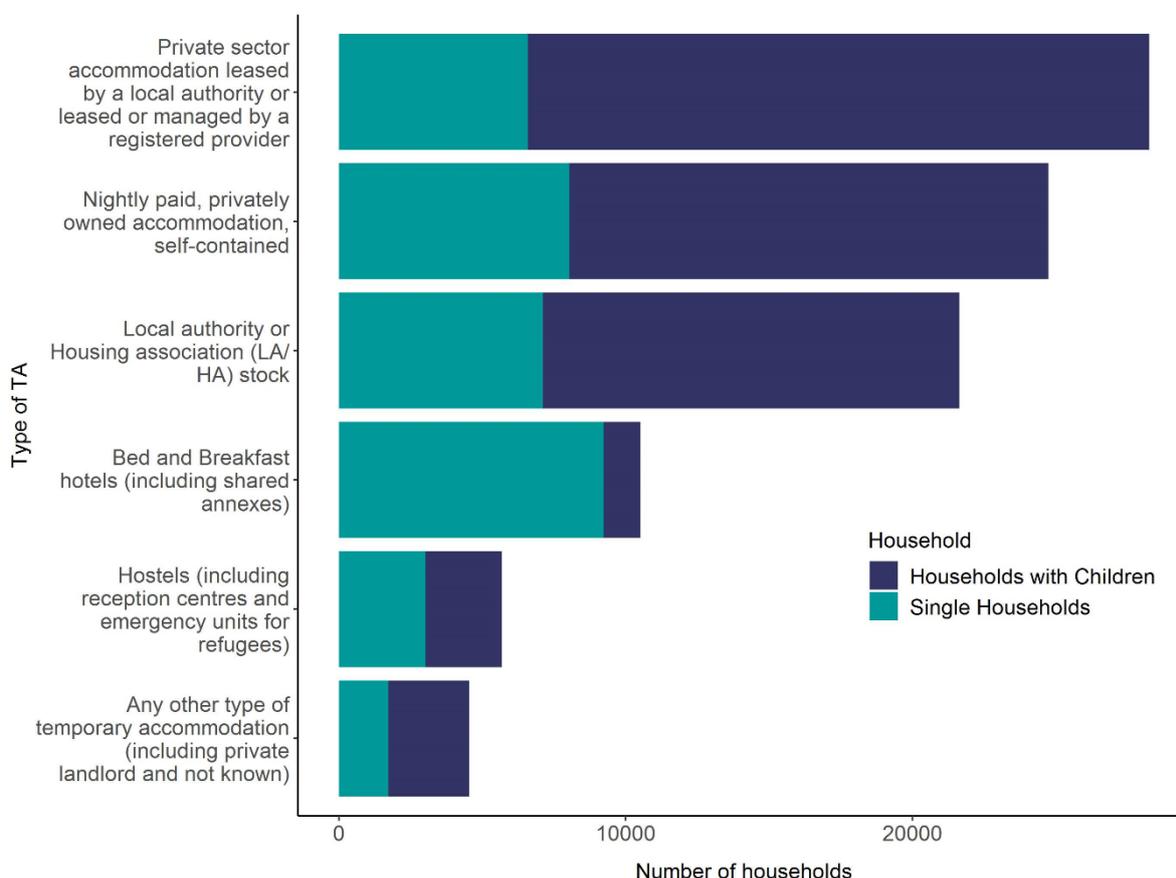
Data sources: OS Boundary Line,  
Local Authority HCLIC returns,  
ONS Household Population Projection

# Types of Temporary Accommodation

Table TA1

The types of temporary accommodation which saw the biggest increases were B&B accommodation, up 43.4%, and Local authority or Housing association stock up 9.1% from 31 December 2019. Both of these increases were driven by single households and will mostly reflect the impact of COVID-19 and the initiative to bring 'Everyone in' from rough sleeping or shelters with shared sleeping arrangements. Private sector accommodation leased by a local authority or managed by a registered provider increased 2.8% from 31 December 2019, also driven by an increase in single households.

**Figure 12: Number of households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation**



Of the 95,370 households living in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2020 78.2% were in self-contained accommodation, down slightly from 79.9% at the end of December 2019. The number of households in temporary accommodation with shared facilities (bed and breakfast and hostels, including women's refuges) was 16,200, or 17.0% of all households in TA. Of these, 10,510 households were living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation (privately owned accommodation in which facilities are shared), which is an increase of 43.4% from 7,330 at the same time last year.

87.8% of households in B&B accommodation were single households. This equates to 9,230

single households in B&B, up 270 from the previous quarter. This may reflect the 270 increase in households who were accommodated under a Section 189B power on 31 December 2020 (seen in Table TA3). Placements under a S189B power have been made during the COVID-19 pandemic for rough sleepers or those at risk of rough sleeping who are eligible for assistance but not owed a S188 interim duty. This does not reflect all rough sleepers in emergency accommodation because of missing data (particularly among London boroughs), and because others will have been accommodated under the S188 duty or outside of HA1996 assistance.

Households in London are the majority of private sector and nightly paid accommodation, making up 76.7% and 80.4% of households in those types of temporary accommodation, while 51.0% of households in Local Authority or Housing Association accommodation are in the Rest of England.

The number of households in temporary accommodation in a different local authority district than those they applied in was 26,200, or 27.5% of all households in temporary accommodation, up 1,770 from the same date last year. 82.9%, or 21,720 of out of local authority placements were from London boroughs.

## Children in Temporary Accommodation

[Tables TA1 and TA2](#)

**Table 3: Households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation**

	31 December 2020 Households in B&B	Previous quarter: 30 September 2020 Households in B&B	Previous quarter: 30 September 2020 Percentage change	Same quarter last year: 31 December 2019 Households in B&B	Same quarter last year: 31 December 2019 Percentage change
Total households in B&B	10,510	10,380	1.3%	7,330	43.4%
Households in B&B with dependent children	1,280	1,420	-9.9%	1,900	-32.6%
Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks	490	470	4.3%	530	-7.5%

Of the 95,370 households in temporary accommodation at the end of December 2020, 59,670 households or 62.6% included dependent children, compared with 62,560 or 70.8% on the same date last year. A total of 121,340 dependent children were in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2020, a decrease of 5.4% compared with December 2019. The average number of children in family households in temporary accommodation was 2.0 children. Most households with children, 88.6%, were in self-contained accommodation, up 1.6 percentage points from 87.1% at the end of December 2019.

Of the 10,510 households in B&B, 1,280 or 12.2% had dependent children, down from 1,900 the same time last year. Of the households with children in B&B, 490 had been resident for more than the statutory limit of 6 weeks. This is down 7.5% from 530 on the 31 December 2019. Only 10 16 to 17 year-old main applicants were in B&B accommodation on 31 December 2020.

## 6. Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. References to previously published tables are included where comparisons are possible.

The below tables can be accessed at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness>

### **Initial assessments of statutory homelessness duties owed**

- A1: Number of households assessed and owed a prevention or relief duty
- A2: Reason for loss of last settled home for households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A3: Support needs of households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A4: Accommodation at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A5P: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a prevention duty
- A5R: Household type at time of application for households assessed as owed a relief duty
- A6: Age of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A7: Households referred to a local authority prior to being assessed
- A8: Ethnicity of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention of relief duty
- A9: Nationality of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty\*
- A10: Employment status of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty
- A11: Reason for eligibility of main applicants assessed as owed a prevention or relief duty\*
- A12: Sexual Identity of main applicants assess as owed a prevention or relief duty

### **Statutory homelessness prevention duty outcomes**

- P1: Reason for households' prevention duty ending
- P2: Type of accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty
- P3: Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of prevention duty
- P4: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured at end of prevention duty\*
- P5: Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of prevention duty

### **Statutory homelessness relief duty outcomes**

- R1: Reason for households' relief duty ending
- R2: Type of accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty
- R3: Main prevention activity that resulted in accommodation secured for households at end of relief duty
- R4: Destination of households with alternative accommodation secured at end of relief duty\*
- R5: Household type of households with accommodation secured at end of relief duty

**Statutory homelessness main duty decisions & outcomes**

- MD1: Outcome of main duty decision for eligible households
- MD2: Outcome of households no longer owed a main duty
- MD3: Priority need category of households owed a main duty

**Households in temporary accommodation**

- TA1: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by temporary accommodation type
- TA2: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by household type
- TA3: Number of households in temporary accommodation at end of quarter by duty provide

\* These tables will now only be published as part of the expanded annual release at end of financial year. The latest published figures can be found in the 2019-20 Detailed local authority-level tables.

## 7. Technical Note

Please see the accompanying [Technical Note](#) document for further details.

Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:  
<https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

Information about statistics at MHCLG is available via the Department's website:  
[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)

# Annex: The Statutory Homelessness Response to COVID-19

## About this section

This annex to the October to December 2020 statutory homelessness release provides an update to the annex in the July to September 2020 publication, which focuses the activities of local authorities in England under their Statutory Homelessness duties in the context of COVID-19. More detailed breakdowns of single households accompany this release, which include households owed a relief duty and their support needs, reasons for the relief duty ending and accommodation secured at relief. Statutory Homelessness statistics includes some but not all of the people provided with accommodation in response to COVID-19, through the 'Everyone In' campaign. Statutory Homelessness statistics cannot be directly compared to or merged with the COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data used to monitor 'Everyone In' because of the incomplete overlap between the two. Impacts of the Everyone In campaign on assistance provided to single households through Statutory Homelessness Duties can be observed through the Statutory Homelessness Statistics.

## Introduction

On 23 March 2020, England entered a national lockdown in response to the rapidly rising rates of COVID-19 infections. Wider initiatives to support people retain or access accommodation through this period were introduced by government. The impacts of these initiatives can be seen in these homelessness statistics from January to March 2020 onwards but are most significant during April to June 2020 for duties owed and July to September 2020 onwards for outcomes. This annex to the October to December 2020 statutory homelessness statistics release aims to update on the impacts of COVID-19, particularly the Everyone In campaign on trends in homelessness, specifically single households.

This focus on single households is because the Everyone In response involved a significant change in the way local authority powers and duties were delivered towards single households, in the context of the pandemic. Local authorities were asked and funded to provide accommodation to people in their area who were rough sleeping, in shelters with shared sleeping areas or were at risk of rough sleeping. This often meant going beyond the statutory duties owed to single people which do not, in usual times, involve providing emergency accommodation to people who were not owed an accommodation duty. Local authorities have certain powers to secure accommodation, including emergency accommodation, for people that are homeless but not owed an accommodation duty, which would include people who do not have 'priority need' under legislation.

## Everyone In Campaign

The Everyone In campaign was launched to bring rough sleepers off the streets into emergency

accommodation to protect them from COVID-19. The campaign is ongoing and covered people that were sleeping rough and those who were at risk of sleeping rough but hadn't necessarily slept rough before. Not all individuals assisted through Everyone In would have been owed a homelessness duty. Any individual not owed a homelessness duty would not be part of the local authority HCLIC case level data submission to MHCLG and therefore would not be included in this report. There are three main groups that are not included in the HCLIC data:

1. People not eligible for statutory homelessness assistance because they are 'persons from abroad' specifically excluded by the legislation. Local authorities relied on powers within the Localism Act to provide shelter to those who were not eligible for statutory assistance.
2. Rough sleepers who did not engage with the assessment process required to take a homelessness application, or who were not owed a relief duty by the local authority. Some people sleeping rough did accept an offer of emergency accommodation but did not wish to pursue a homelessness application, or did not engage with the assessment arrangements. In some cases local authorities did not accept a new relief duty where they had very recently discharged a duty to an individual, and so no new duty was recorded on HCLIC although accommodation was provided.
3. In some areas upper tier local authorities organised emergency accommodation for rough sleepers, although the statutory homelessness duties sit with the lower tier. Most significantly, the Greater London Authority (GLA) played a leading role in delivering the Everyone In campaign, booking hotels and providing support for people moved in from shelters and from rough sleeping. As the GLA is an upper tier authority without statutory homelessness duties individuals accommodated and moved on through their work will not be included on HCLIC except where they were referred on to London boroughs where they had a local connection to provide assistance to move on from hotels.

Everyone In has had an impact on the number of households assessed and provided with assistance under homelessness legislation, and this has been observed in all quarters since March 2020. As there are several different reasons individuals households would not have been helped through the homelessness legislation (as set out above) these statutory homelessness statistics cannot be directly compared or merged with the 'Everyone In' [COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data](#). This showed that by December 2020 local authorities had submitted COVID-19 emergency accommodation survey data that indicated 34,429 people had been helped into accommodation, of which 9,673 were still in emergency accommodation and 24,756 had been moved on to more settled accommodation.

## Trends statutory homelessness for single households following lockdown on the 23 March 2020

After lockdown was announced for the 23 March 2020, the greatest rise in the number of single households assessed as owed a relief duty, likely to be the impact of Everyone In, was observed in April to June 2020. 32,410 single households were assessed as owed relief during the quarter, a 7,270 or 28.9% increase year-on-year, and additionally 5,500 higher than the pre COVID-19 peak of 26,910 in July to September 2019. October to December 2020 saw a fall of 8.4% in the number of single households assessed as owed relief (27,010) compared to the previous quarter but was still 5.0% higher than the same period in the previous year.

**Table 1: Single households assessed as homeless and owed a relief duty**

	October to December 2020	July to September 2020	April to June 2020	January to March 2020	October to December 2019	July to September 2019 <sup>1</sup>	April to June 2019 <sup>1</sup>
Total single households owed a relief duty	27,010	29,480	32,410	29,080	25,720	26,910	25,140
% change from previous quarter	-8.4%	-9.0%	11.5%	13.1%	-4.4%	7.0%	-4.0%
% change from same quarter previous year <sup>1</sup>	5.0%	9.6%	28.9%	11.1%	11.0%	-	-

<sup>1</sup> April to September 2018 were the first two quarters of the HRA and therefore had fewer relief duty outcomes than later quarters. This means year-on-year changes to 2019 are not comparable and therefore have been excluded.

Breakdowns of the largest increases in accommodation on approach of single households owed a relief duty during October to December 2020 are shown in Table 2. These breakdowns show where the additional single households owed a relief duty over this period approached from. The increase in relief duties owed to single households from October to December 2020 consisted of those sleeping rough or with other insecure accommodation situations, such as temporary accommodation and living with family/friends. 2,500 applicants sleeping rough on approach were owed a relief duty in October to December 2020, up 16.3% from the same quarter last year. The number of single households owed a relief duty from private and social rented tenancies fell over the same period, reflecting the impact of the restrictions on evictions from accommodation on duties owed to all households.

**Table 2: Single households assessed as owed a relief duty, including selected accommodations at time of application<sup>1</sup>**

	Total single households owed a relief duty	Of which: Rough sleeping	No fixed abode	Living with family	Living with friends	Homeless on departure from custody	Temporary accommodation <sup>2</sup>
October to December 2020 (% change from Oct-Dec 2019)	<b>27,010</b> <b>5.0%</b>	2,500 16.3%	7,120 -1.8%	5,530 17.7%	2,990 6.0%	1,420 22.4%	740 34.5%
July to September 2020 (% change from Jul-Sep 2019)	<b>29,480</b> <b>9.6%</b>	2,540 25.1%	7,720 0.5%	6,470 29.1%	3,420 16.7%	1,370 20.2%	920 95.7%
April to June 2020 (% change from Apr-Jun 2019)	<b>32,410</b> <b>28.9%</b>	3,720 121.4%	8,520 18.5%	6,410 38.7%	3,830 38.8%	1,780 61.8%	1,140 142.6%
January to March 2020 (% change from Jan-Mar 2019)	<b>29,080</b> <b>11.1%</b>	2,410 34.6%	8,450 9.3%	5,520 16.0%	3,140 9.0%	1,150 18.6%	610 15.1%

<sup>1</sup>Only includes accommodation types which saw large increases during COVID-19. The full breakdown can be found in Table A4rs.

<sup>2</sup>These figures likely reflect those who were put into temporary accommodation through Everyone In and subsequently made an application for a relief duty.

Trends across the support needs of single households in Table A3rs shows that there was an increase in relief duties owed towards people with drug dependency, offending history, a history of repeat homelessness, and a history of sleeping rough in October to December 2020 from the same quarter in previous year. There will be many households with more than one of these support needs.

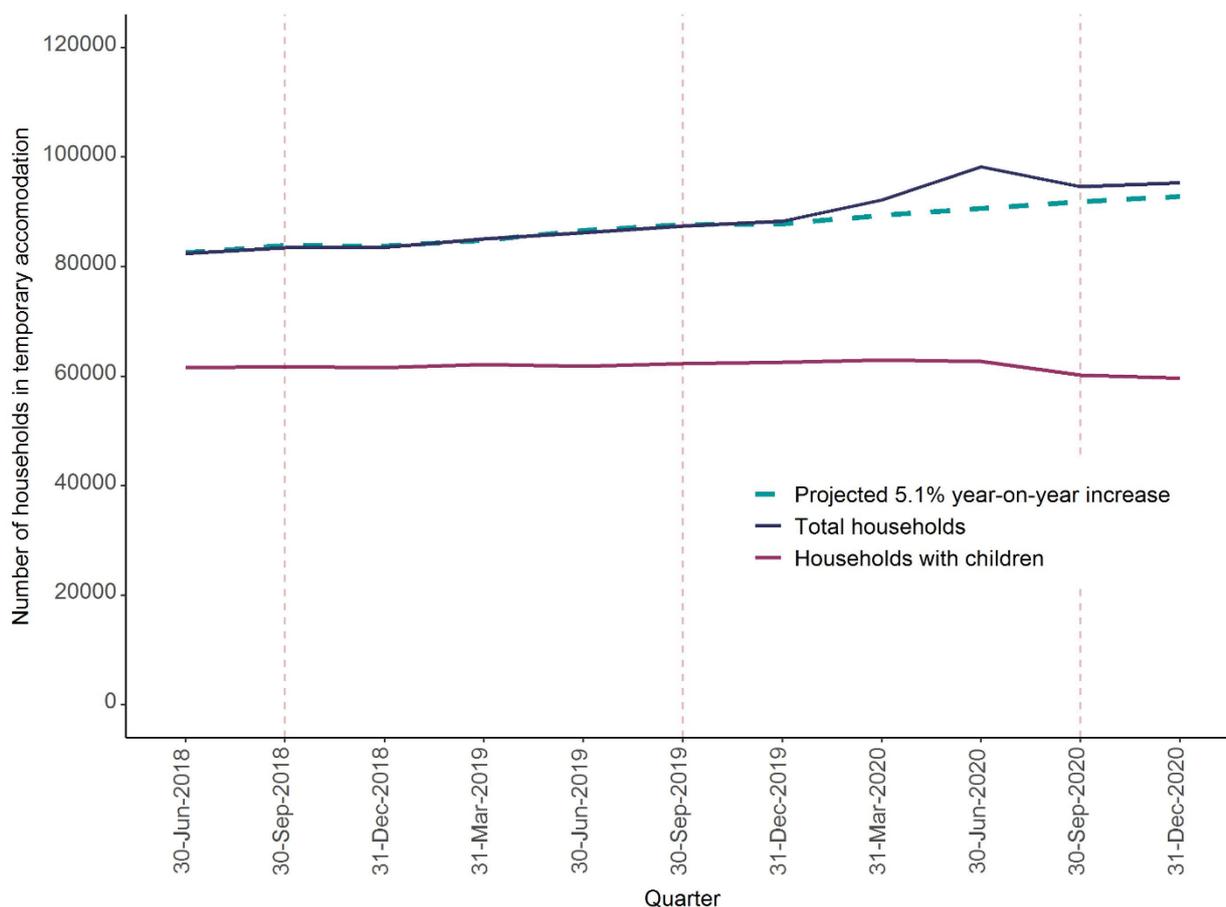
3,510 single households with a history of repeat homelessness, and 3,370 single households with a history of sleeping rough were owed a relief duty in October to December 2020, up 10.7% and 8.4% respectively from October to December 2019. 4,580 single households had an offending history, up 18.0% from October to December 2019. 34% of rough sleepers seen by London's outreach workers in 2019-20 (CHAIN data) had previously been in prison. In addition, just over half of those interviewed in MHCLG's rough sleeper questionnaire who had slept rough in the last year had spent time in prison. 3,450 households had drug dependency needs, up 10.2% from the same quarter last year.

## Temporary accommodation

The number of households in temporary accommodation had increased annually by an average of 5.1% across all quarters in 2019 before Everyone In. On 31 December 2020 temporary accommodation numbers rose to 95,370 or by 0.8% from 30 September 2020. This was an

increase of 8.0% compared to the previous year, which is slightly closer to the projected 5.1% year on year increase that had been greatly exceeded on 30 June 2020 (see Figure 1). Between the 30 September 2020 and the 31 December 2020 households with children fell 0.9% to 59,670, and single households rose 3.9% to 35,700.

**Figure 1: Number of households in temporary accommodation from 30 June 2018 to 31 December 2020**



The increase in single households in temporary accommodation was mostly observed in B&B, where 9,230 or 25.9% of single households were accommodated on the 31 December 2020. This increased by 3,800 (an increase of 70.0%) compared to the 31 December 2019. At least 1,940 households were accommodated under a S189B power, which means the households were not owed a temporary accommodation duty (because they had no priority need or were assessed as intentionally homeless) and the temporary accommodation was provided using discretionary powers rather than under statutory duties. We know not all authorities were able to identify their temporary accommodation provided under a S189B power in their HCLIC system, so the real figure is likely to be higher. The households in temporary accommodation under a S189B power would not normally have been provided with temporary accommodation. B&B use for families has fallen from 1,900 households in temporary accommodation on 31 December 2019 to 1,280 on 31 December 2020 and will in part be a result of the fewer families that were owed a prevention or relief duty over this period.

## Relief duty outcomes following Everyone In

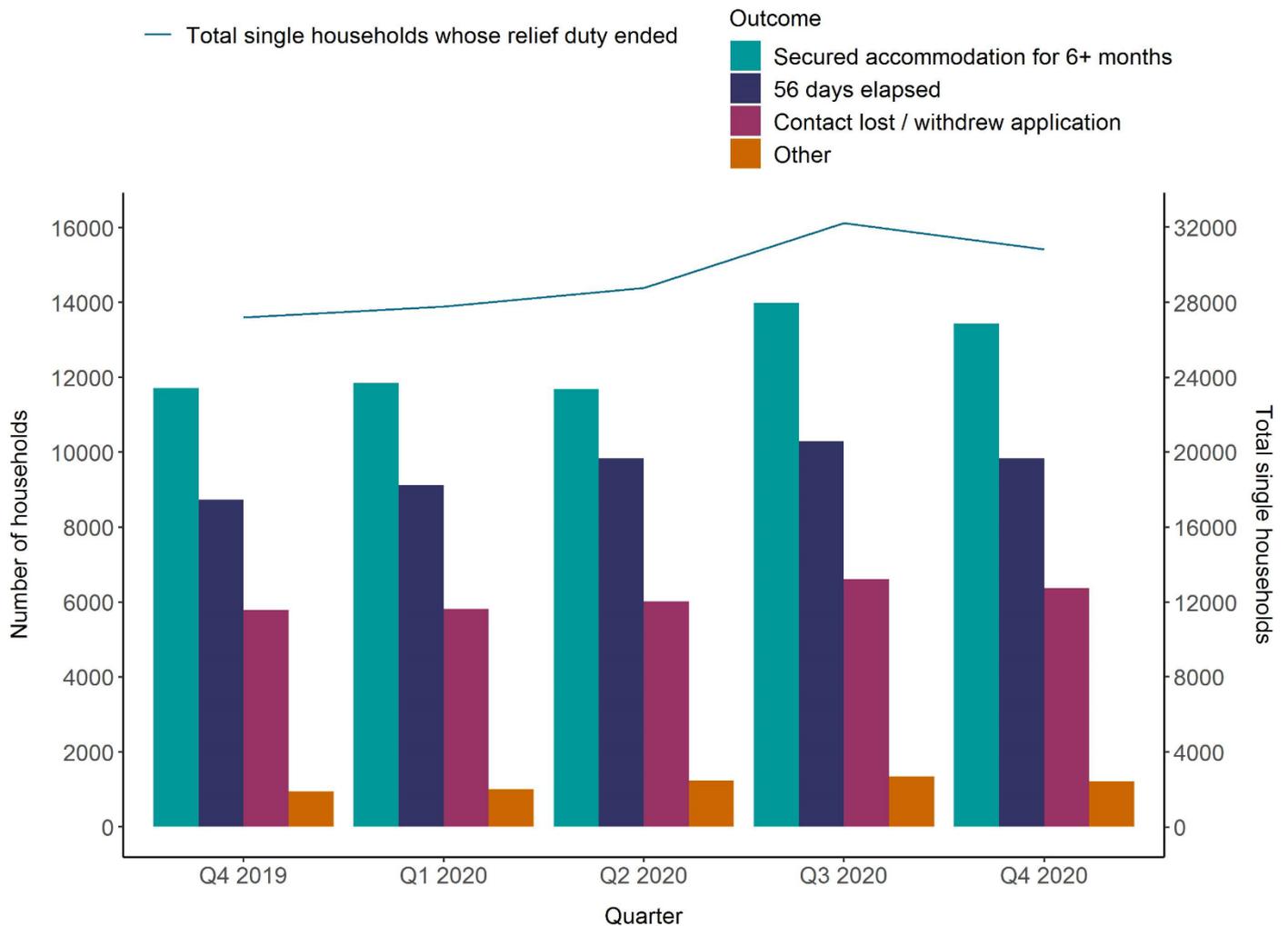
The impact of Everyone In is also evident in relief duty outcomes. The number of single households whose relief duty ended decreased by 4.4% to 30,840 in October to December, compared to 32,250 in the previous quarter. This may reflect the decrease in relief duties owed in July to September, which was down 9.0% compared to the previous quarter.

**Table 3: Single households whose relief duty ended and total accommodation secured outcomes**

	October to December 2020	July to September 2020	April to June 2020	January to March 2020	October to December 2019	July to September 2019
<b>Total single households whose relief duty ended</b>	<b>30,840</b>	<b>32,250</b>	<b>28,780</b>	<b>27,780</b>	<b>27,200</b>	<b>26,760</b>
Secured accommodation for 6+ months	13,430	13,990	11,690	11,850	11,710	11,680
<i>Of which: Rough sleeping on approach</i>	<i>1,120</i>	<i>1,190</i>	<i>990</i>	<i>770</i>	<i>840</i>	<i>790</i>

The full local authority level breakdowns for these quarters can be found in Table R1s

**Figure 2: Quarterly trends in relief duty outcomes from October to December 2019 (Q4 2019) to October to December 2020 (Q4 2020)**



Of single households whose relief duty ended in October to December 2020, 13,430 (43.5%) were able to secure accommodation for 6+ months. This was a decrease of 560 (4.0%) versus July to September 2020. 1,120 applicants who were sleeping rough on approach secured accommodation in October to December 2020, 5.9% less than the previous quarter and a 33.3% increase on the same quarter the previous year. Between the 1 April and 31 December 2020, 3,300 single households that had been sleeping rough at the time of approach had been secured accommodation under a relief duty.

**Table 4: Single households secured accommodation at relief duty end, by type of accommodation**

	Oct-Dec 2020	Jul-Sep 2020	Apr-Jun 2020	Jan-Mar 2020	Oct-Dec 2019	Jul-Sep 2019
<b>Total secured accommodation</b>	<b>13,430</b>	<b>13,990</b>	<b>11,690</b>	<b>11,850</b>	<b>11,710</b>	<b>11,680</b>
Social rented sector	6,700	6,810	5,190	6,360	6,350	6,310
Private rented sector	4,030	4,260	3,930	3,280	3,050	2,940
Staying with family / friends	930	880	910	780	830	780
Other (including owner occupier) / not known	1,790	2,060	1,660	1,430	1,490	1,650

The full local authority level breakdowns for these quarters can be found in Table R2s

Of single households whose relief duty ended with accommodation secured in October to December 2020, 6,700 or 49.9% secured a tenancy in the social rented sector. This is a decrease on 6,810 or 48.7% of accommodation outcomes in the previous quarter. 4,150 were accommodated in supported housing or hostel, and 2,540 in a council or registered provider tenancy.

4,030 or 30.0% were secured a private rented sector tenancy. This compares with 3,050 or 26.0% in the same quarter the previous year. The number of single households who secured houses in multiple occupation (HMO) has almost doubled since October to December 2019, an increase of 84.3% from 890 to 1,640.

The number of relief outcomes for single households due to lost contact or withdrawn applications fell by 3.8% to 6,370 in October to December compared to the previous quarter. This was a slightly higher proportion of all outcomes (20.7% compared to 20.5% the previous quarter). A further 510 single households ended relief duties in October to December after refusing a final accommodation offer or refusing to cooperate. Compared to the previous quarter, this represented a decrease of 8.9%. Households served a notice due to refusal to cooperate fell from 160 to 120.

9,840 single households were still homeless after their duty elapsed at 56 days, lower than the 10,300 in July to September. The proportion of relief duty outcomes that were homeless after 56 days stayed the same at 31.9%. Cumulatively between the 1 April and 31 December 2020 the number of single households still homeless after the relief duty ended because 56 days had elapsed was 29,980. These households would be issued with a main duty decision.

### Main duty decisions for those homeless at the end of relief

Of the 29,980 single households still homeless after relief between 1 April and 31 December 2020, 10,510 single households were issued with an unintentionally homeless and priority need, main duty acceptance. 3,440 single households were issued with an unintentionally homeless and priority need, main duty acceptance during April to June 2020, a 22.0% increase from 2,820 from

April to June 2019. 3,480 single households were owed a main duty between July and September 2020, an increase on the same period the previous year of 10.0%. A further 3,590 single households were owed a main duty between October and December 2020, an increase on the same period the previous year of 10.8%. The three most reported vulnerabilities as a reason for priority need in October to December 2020 were mental health 1,200, physical ill health or disability 1,120, and domestic abuse 420.

13,920 were issued with a homeless but no priority need main duty decision between 1 April to 31 December 2020. This consisted of 4,660 households in April to June 2020, 4,880 in July to September 2020 and 4,380 households in October to December 2020. Even though these households were not owed statutory duties to provide accommodation following a decision that no main duty was owed, many will have continued to be provided with temporary accommodation due to the Everyone In campaign. On 31 December 2020, 2,310 households remained in temporary accommodation when their duty had ended without further action, or they were not found to be owed a duty following an assessment or main duty decision.

# Enquiries

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

Information about statistics at MHCLG is available via the Department's website:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics)



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April 2021