

Moves of Housing Benefit Claimants

15 July 2014

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Introduction

1. This publication sets out data on moves among Housing Benefit (HB) claimants from new analysis of HB administrative data collected from local authorities. It looks at the moves of HB claimants by tenure and by geographical area. These data have also being used as part of the independent evaluation of the recent changes to the Local Housing Allowance (LHA), carried out by a research consortium from the Centre for Regional and Social Research (CRESR) at Sheffield Hallam University, the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS), the Blavatnik School of Government at the University of Oxford and Ipsos Mori.

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Methodology

- 3. The figures presented here are based on analysis of the Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE) data. SHBE is a monthly electronic record of claimant level data compiled from scans taken directly from local authority computer systems. It is the main source of data on Housing Benefit. Figures relate to Great Britain only.
- 4. The methodology to define a move is based on comparing successive monthly SHBE data sets. A move is defined where:
 - a HB claimant appears in two successive SHBE data sets in different Census output areas, or
 - the claimant does not appear in the next SHBE data set but reappears in either of the following two months in a different Census output area.
- 5. There is therefore a three-month horizon for identifying a move. This methodology allows for potential short delays between the claimant moving and them re-appearing in the data set at their new address. This may be due to slight time lags

in the processing of claims and also allows for a short break between claims. The move is attributed to the starting month of the comparison.

- 6. Census output areas are consistent with the 2001 Census and are derived from the postcode of residence. On average, a Census output area covers around 120 addresses. In order for a move to be identified the postcode, and hence the output area, before and after the move must be valid. A small number of postcodes are not recorded correctly. The HB caseload figures presented here exclude cases in the starting month of the comparison for which there is not a valid postcode, so may be slightly lower than published figures.
- 7. Quarterly figures are presented. The caseload figures represent the caseload in the first month of the quarter. The number of moves is the total number of HB claimants who are deemed to move in any of those three months.
- 8. The underlying monthly figures may be affected if a local authority did not submit a scan of its system in the relevant period so that the previous month's data are copied forward. This would result in apparently no moves within the local authority and a larger number of moves when new data are supplied to the Department. The data presented here have not been smoothed in any way to try to account for this.
- 9. The figures do not identify all moves. Short-distance moves where the HB claimant remains in the same Census output area are not captured. The analysis also will not include moves which coincide with the claimant ceasing to claim HB for at least three months, as such cases no longer appear in the SHBE data. The analysis is therefore restricted to moves among claimants who remain on HB.
- 10. Results are presented for quarters from March/May 2010 to June/August 2013. Reliable data on moves are not available prior to January 2010.
- 11. Where figures for Regions are shown, Inner London and Outer London are treated as two distinct Regions, and these are defined according to the statistical classification of London local authorities.

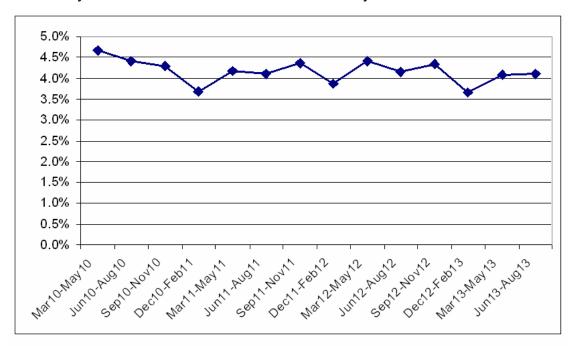
Results

12. The following chapters summarise the results obtained using the above methodology. The underlying detailed local authority to local authority moves data are available on the DWP webpage:

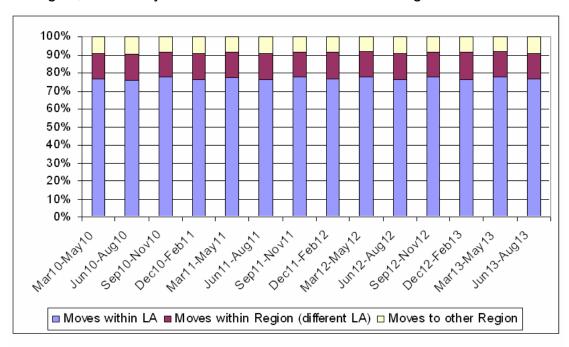
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/ad-hoc-statistical-analysis-2014-guarter-3

Moves within the Private Rented Sector – Great Britain (GB)

13. The chart below shows the number of moves of HB claimants within the private rented sector (PRS) as a percentage of the PRS caseload. On average 4.2% of the claimants move within the PRS each quarter. The propensity to move appears to be systematically lower between December and February.

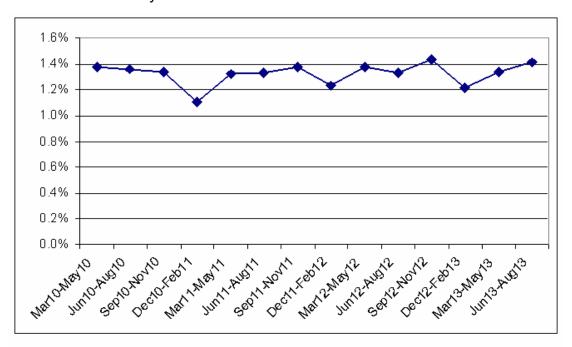


14. More than three-quarters of moves within the private rented sector are within the same local authority. Nearly 15% of moves are to a different local authority within the same Region, and nearly 10% of moves are to a different Region.

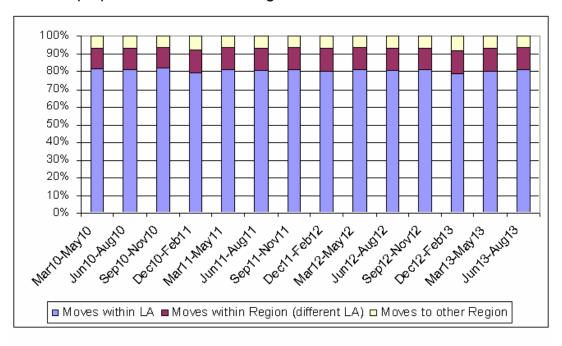


Moves from the Private to the Social Rented Sector – GB

15. The chart below illustrates the number of moves of HB claimants from the private rented sector to the social rented sector (SRS) as a percentage of the PRS caseload. On average 1.3% of the claimants move from PRS to SRS properties each quarter. Again, the share of moving claimants appears to be systematically lower between December and February.

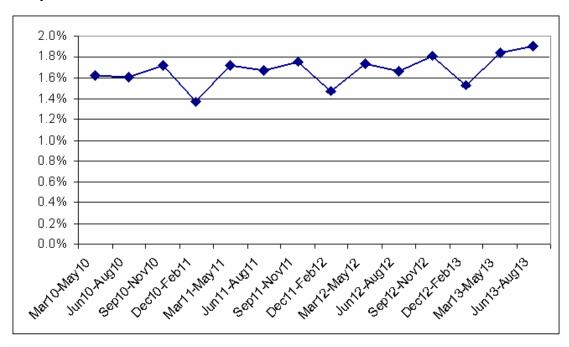


16. Of those moving across these sectors, around 80% stay in the same local authority and a further 10-15% remain in the same Region. The remaining 5-10% move to SRS properties in a different Region.

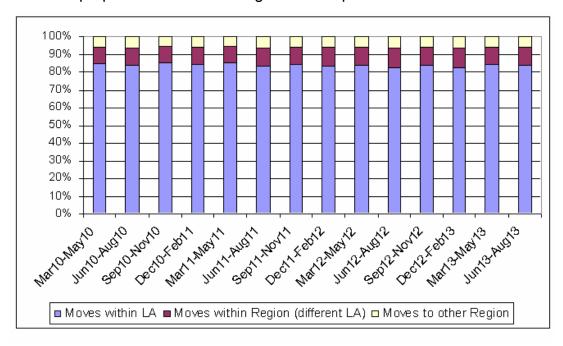


Moves within the Social Rented Sector – GB

17. The chart below shows the number of moves of HB claimants within the social rented sector as a percentage of the SRS caseload. On average 1.7% of the claimants move within the SRS each quarter. The propensity to move within this sector is much lower compared to the PRS. However, as in the PRS, the share of claimants moving appears to be systematically lower between December and February.

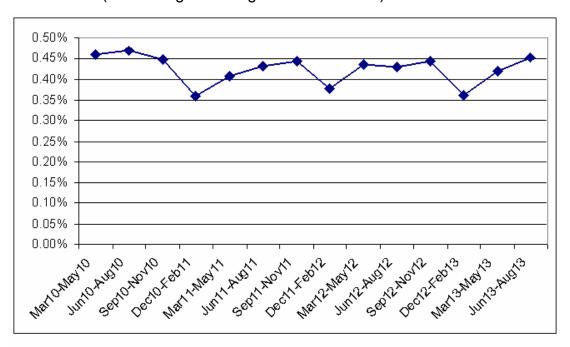


18. Of those moving within this sector, more than 80% stay in the same local authority and an additional 10% remain in the same Region. Only about 5 in 100 move to SRS properties in different Regions each quarter.

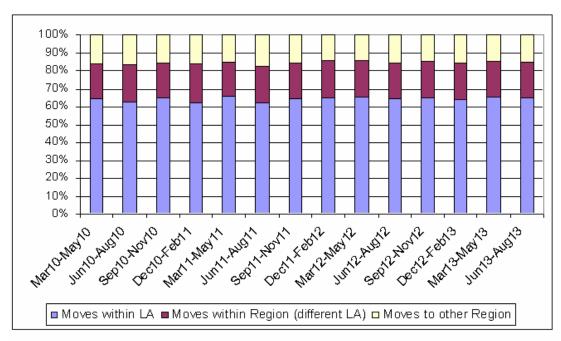


Moves from the Social to the Private Rented Sector – GB

19. The following chart shows the number of moves of HB claimants from the social rented sector to the private rented sector as a share of the SRS caseload. On average 0.4% of the SRS caseload moves to the PRS each quarter. The total number of moves of HB claimants from the SRS to the PRS is lower than from the PRS to the SRS (detailed figures are given in the Annex).

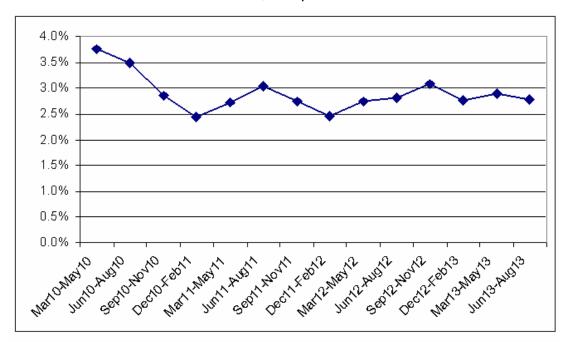


20. Of those moving across these sectors, around 65% stay in the same local authority and a further 20% remain in the same Region. The remaining 15% move to PRS properties in different Regions each quarter. This suggests that HB claimants in the social rented sector who move to the private rented sector are likely to move further than their counterparts who stay in the SRS.

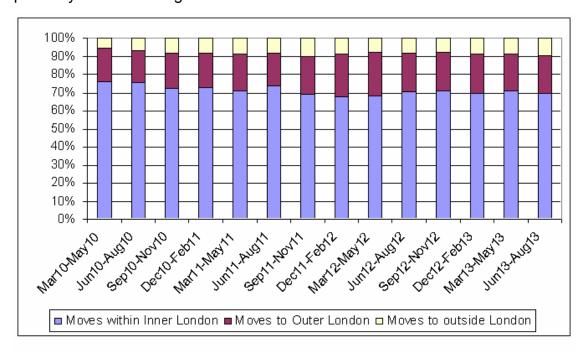


Moves within the Private Rented Sector – Inner London

21. The chart below shows the number of moves within the private rented sector as a percentage of the PRS caseload in Inner London. On average 2.9% of the Inner London PRS claimants move within the PRS each quarter. The propensity to move within the PRS is lower in Inner London, compared to GB as a whole.

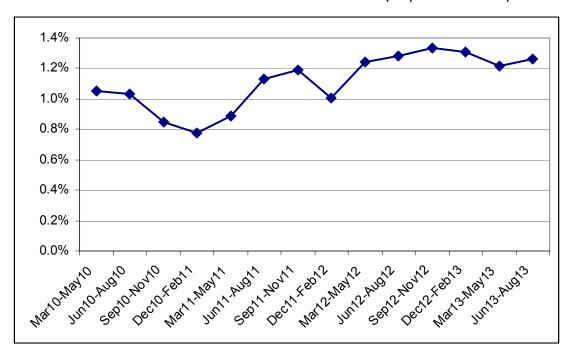


22. The following chart shows the proportions of the Inner London HB caseload that move within the PRS to Inner London, Outer London and outside London. It shows that there has been a reduction in the proportion of moves within Inner London, to stand at 70% of all moves. The proportions moving to Outer London and outside London have increased slightly over the period, to stand at around 20% and 10% respectively in June to August 2013.

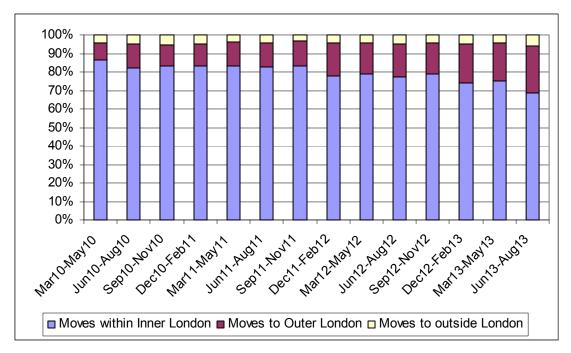


Moves from the Private to the Social Rented Sector – Inner London

23. The chart below shows the number of moves from the private to the social rented sector as a percentage of the PRS caseload in Inner London. On average more than 1.1% of the Inner London PRS claimants moved to SRS properties each guarter.

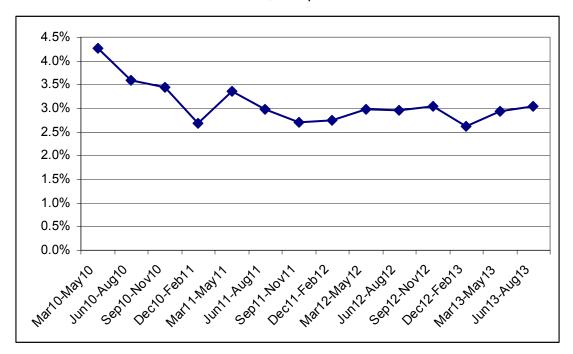


24. Of those moving across these sectors, the proportion staying in Inner London decreased, while the share of those moving to the SRS in Outer London increased in the last three years. Typically, fewer than 5% move to SRS properties located outside London each quarter.

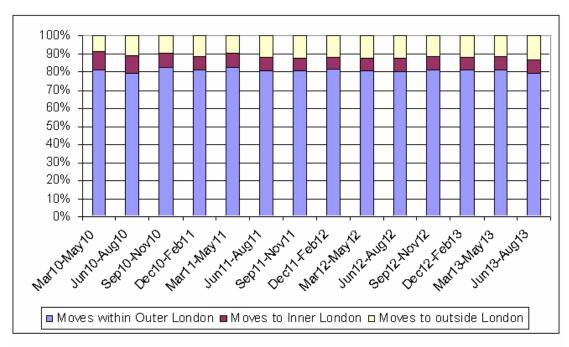


Moves within the Private Rented Sector – Outer London

25. The chart below shows the number of moves within the private rented sector as a percentage of the PRS caseload in Outer London. On average 3.1% of the Outer London PRS claimants moved within the PRS each quarter. The propensity to move within the PRS is lower in Outer London, compared to GB as a whole.

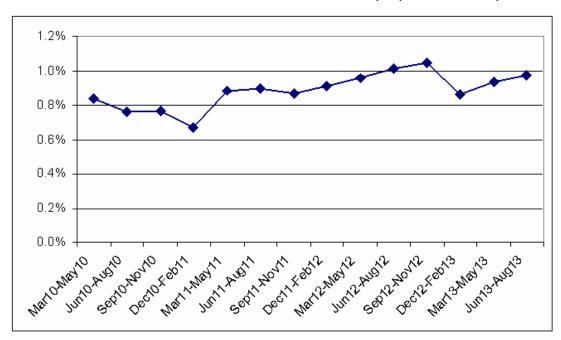


26. Of those moving within this sector, around 80% remain in Outer London. Amongst the other moves – to Inner London and outside London - there has been a slight shift in the balance towards moves to outside London.

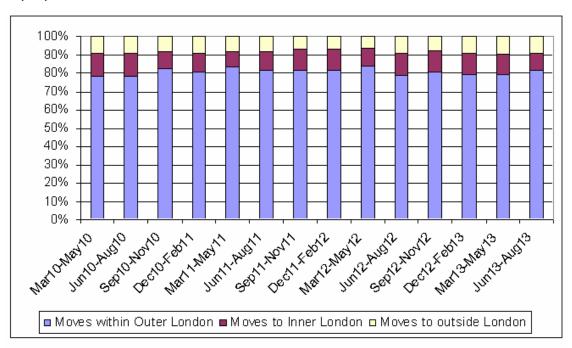


Moves from the Private to the Social Rented Sector – Outer London

27. The following chart illustrates the number of moves from the private to the social rented sector as a percentage of the PRS caseload in Outer London. On average 0.9% of the Outer London PRS claimants move to SRS properties each quarter.



28. Of those moving across these sectors, around 80% stay in Outer London, while around 10% move to Inner London each quarter. Fewer than 1 in 10 moves are to SRS properties outside London.



Annex

29. The annex includes a table for each chart, showing the data represented. These are number of moves, caseload, the share of claimants moving and a breakdown of the moves by area.

Moves within the Private Rented Sector – Great Britain (GB)

		Number of moves			As a percentage			
	PRS Caseload	Within same LA	Within same region ¹	To other region	Within same LA	Within same region	To other region	
Mar10 - May10	1,425,073	51,232	9,348	5,953	77.0%	14.1%	8.9%	
Jun10 - Aug10	1,460,581	48,795	9,353	6,366	75.6%	14.5%	9.9%	
Sep10 - Nov10	1,483,577	49,593	8,655	5,594	77.7%	13.6%	8.8%	
Dec10 - Feb11	1,507,856	42,311	8,231	4,961	76.2%	14.8%	8.9%	
Mar11 - May11	1,543,228	50,027	8,969	5,506	77.6%	13.9%	8.5%	
Jun11 - Aug11	1,560,725	48,894	9,330	6,045	76.1%	14.5%	9.4%	
Sep11 - Nov11	1,579,613	53,406	9,549	5,854	77.6%	13.9%	8.5%	
Dec11 - Feb12	1,597,777	47,781	9,027	5,230	77.0%	14.6%	8.4%	
Mar12 - May12	1,633,966	56,194	10,022	5,968	77.8%	13.9%	8.3%	
Jun12 - Aug12	1,643,952	51,979	9,897	6,274	76.3%	14.5%	9.2%	
Sep12 - Nov12	1,647,392	55,518	9,806	6,074	77.8%	13.7%	8.5%	
Dec12 - Feb13	1,650,759	46,134	8,960	5,291	76.4%	14.8%	8.8%	
Mar13 - May13	1,670,802	53,275	9,557	5,604	77.8%	14.0%	8.2%	
Jun13 - Aug13	1,667,886	52,461	9,792	6,161	76.7%	14.3%	9.0%	

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¹ But to a different local authority

Moves from the Private to the Social Rented Sector – GB

		Number of moves			As a percentage			
	PRS Caseload	Within same LA	Within same region ²	To other region	Within same LA	Within same region	To other region	
Mar10 - May10	1,425,073	15,941	2,317	1,334	81.4%	11.8%	6.8%	
Jun10 - Aug10	1,460,581	16,065	2,401	1,410	80.8%	12.1%	7.1%	
Sep10 - Nov10	1,483,577	16,214	2,285	1,289	81.9%	11.5%	6.5%	
Dec10 - Feb11	1,507,856	13,215	2,196	1,259	79.3%	13.2%	7.6%	
Mar11 - May11	1,543,228	16,603	2,471	1,365	81.2%	12.1%	6.7%	
Jun11 - Aug11	1,560,725	16,690	2,566	1,458	80.6%	12.4%	7.0%	
Sep11 - Nov11	1,579,613	17,654	2,661	1,428	81.2%	12.2%	6.6%	
Dec11 - Feb12	1,597,777	15,811	2,508	1,380	80.3%	12.7%	7.0%	
Mar12 - May12	1,633,966	18,281	2,742	1,462	81.3%	12.2%	6.5%	
Jun12 - Aug12	1,643,952	17,569	2,723	1,589	80.3%	12.4%	7.3%	
Sep12 - Nov12	1,647,392	19,187	2,828	1,681	81.0%	11.9%	7.1%	
Dec12 - Feb13	1,650,759	15,885	2,585	1,618	79.1%	12.9%	8.1%	
Mar13 - May13	1,670,802	17,842	2,866	1,570	80.1%	12.9%	7.0%	
Jun13 - Aug13	1,667,886	19,149	2,871	1,594	81.1%	12.2%	6.8%	

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² But to a different local authority

Moves within the Social Rented Sector – GB

		Number of moves			As a percentage			
	SRS Caseload	Within same LA	Within same region ³	To other region	Within same LA	Within same region	To other region	
Mar10 - May10	3,277,114	45,313	4,884	3,166	84.9%	9.2%	5.9%	
Jun10 - Aug10	3,285,884	44,251	5,239	3,343	83.8%	9.9%	6.3%	
Sep10 - Nov10	3,295,179	48,482	5,208	2,949	85.6%	9.2%	5.2%	
Dec10 - Feb11	3,289,855	38,121	4,414	2,670	84.3%	9.8%	5.9%	
Mar11 - May11	3,308,716	48,473	5,250	3,142	85.2%	9.2%	5.5%	
Jun11 - Aug11	3,323,626	46,023	5,802	3,606	83.0%	10.5%	6.5%	
Sep11 - Nov11	3,337,703	49,228	5,855	3,406	84.2%	10.0%	5.8%	
Dec11 - Feb12	3,338,283	41,102	5,163	2,995	83.4%	10.5%	6.1%	
Mar12 - May12	3,364,569	49,033	6,085	3,449	83.7%	10.4%	5.9%	
Jun12 - Aug12	3,372,944	46,514	6,013	3,552	82.9%	10.7%	6.3%	
Sep12 - Nov12	3,378,369	51,437	6,201	3,630	84.0%	10.1%	5.9%	
Dec12 - Feb13	3,374,880	42,739	5,385	3,413	82.9%	10.4%	6.6%	
Mar13 - May13	3,376,437	52,387	6,013	3,604	84.5%	9.7%	5.8%	
Jun13 - Aug13	3,363,788	53,809	6,500	3,724	84.0%	10.2%	5.8%	

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³ But to a different local authority

Moves from the Social to the Private Rented Sector – GB

		Number of moves			As a percentage			
	SRS Caseload	Within same LA	Within same region ⁴	To other region	Within same LA	Within same region	To other region	
Mar10 - May10	3,277,114	9,711	2,963	2,418	64.3%	19.6%	16.0%	
Jun10 - Aug10	3,285,884	9,694	3,129	2,598	62.9%	20.3%	16.8%	
Sep10 - Nov10	3,295,179	9,544	2,898	2,319	64.7%	19.6%	15.7%	
Dec10 - Feb11	3,289,855	7,389	2,515	1,937	62.4%	21.2%	16.4%	
Mar11 - May11	3,308,716	8,895	2,584	2,037	65.8%	19.1%	15.1%	
Jun11 - Aug11	3,323,626	8,924	2,945	2,483	62.2%	20.5%	17.3%	
Sep11 - Nov11	3,337,703	9,570	2,961	2,303	64.5%	20.0%	15.5%	
Dec11 - Feb12	3,338,283	8,168	2,659	1,803	64.7%	21.1%	14.3%	
Mar12 - May12	3,364,569	9,640	2,978	2,069	65.6%	20.3%	14.1%	
Jun12 - Aug12	3,372,944	9,312	2,887	2,277	64.3%	19.9%	15.7%	
Sep12 - Nov12	3,378,369	9,773	3,089	2,153	65.1%	20.6%	14.3%	
Dec12 - Feb13	3,374,880	7,768	2,552	1,898	63.6%	20.9%	15.5%	
Mar13 - May13	3,376,437	9,282	2,846	2,041	65.5%	20.1%	14.4%	
Jun13 - Aug13	3,363,788	9,864	3,041	2,327	64.8%	20.0%	15.3%	

⁴ But to a different local authority

Moves within the Private Rented Sector – Inner London

	PRS	Number of moves			As a percentage			
	Caseload	Within	То	То	Within	То	То	
	Inner	Inner	Outer	outside	Inner	Outer	outside	
	London	London	London	London	London	London	London	
Mar10 -	0.4.000	0.004	0.47	400	70.40/	40.00/	5.00 /	
May10	94,068	2,691	647	198	76.1%	18.3%	5.6%	
Jun10 -	07.000	0.500	- 00	000	77 70 7	47.00/	0.00/	
Aug10	97,228	2,568	598	236	75.5%	17.6%	6.9%	
Sep10 -							/	
Nov10	98,707	2,046	548	223	72.6%	19.5%	7.9%	
Dec10 -								
Feb11	100,894	1,793	468	198	72.9%	19.0%	8.1%	
Mar11 -								
May11	101,495	1,952	579	233	70.6%	20.9%	8.4%	
Jun11 -								
Aug11	102,464	2,287	574	256	73.4%	18.4%	8.2%	
Sep11 -								
Nov11	104,394	1,982	590	293	69.2%	20.6%	10.2%	
Dec11 -								
Feb12	104,358	1,737	609	215	67.8%	23.8%	8.4%	
Mar12 -								
May12	103,929	1,934	691	216	68.1%	24.3%	7.6%	
Jun12 -								
Aug12	102,569	2,030	627	233	70.2%	21.7%	8.1%	
Sep12 -								
Nov12	100,660	2,203	665	234	71.0%	21.4%	7.5%	
Dec12 -								
Feb13	100,152	1,927	604	233	69.7%	21.9%	8.4%	
Mar13 -								
May13	99,452	2,036	583	254	70.9%	20.3%	8.8%	
Jun13 -								
Aug13	98,557	1,920	556	267	70.0%	20.3%	9.7%	

Moves from the Private to the Social Rented Sector – Inner London

	PRS	Number of moves			As a percentage			
	Caseload	Within	То	То	Within	То	То	
	Inner	Inner	Outer	outside	Inner	Outer	outside	
	London	London	London	London	London	London	London	
Mar10 - May10	94,068	854	92	42	86.4%	9.3%	4.3%	
Jun10 - Aug10	97,228	824	130	48	82.2%	13.0%	4.8%	
Sep10 - Nov10	98,707	696	98	44	83.1%	11.7%	5.3%	
Dec10 - Feb11	100,894	654	91	39	83.4%	11.6%	5.0%	
Mar11 - May11	101,495	751	116	36	83.2%	12.8%	4.0%	
Jun11 - Aug11	102,464	958	148	51	82.8%	12.8%	4.4%	
Sep11 - Nov11	104,394	1,035	166	40	83.4%	13.4%	3.2%	
Dec11 - Feb12	104,358	814	185	48	77.7%	17.7%	4.6%	
Mar12 - May12	103,929	1,021	216	56	79.0%	16.7%	4.3%	
Jun12 - Aug12	102,569	1,013	238	62	77.2%	18.1%	4.7%	
Sep12 - Nov12	100,660	1,058	226	57	78.9%	16.9%	4.3%	
Dec12 - Feb13	100,152	971	273	67	74.1%	20.8%	5.1%	
Mar13 - May13	99,452	907	252	50	75.0%	20.8%	4.1%	
Jun13 - Aug13	98,557	854	315	73	68.8%	25.4%	5.9%	

Moves within the Private Rented Sector – Outer London

	PRS	Number of moves			As a percentage			
	Caseload Outer London	Within Outer London	To Inner London	To outside London	Within Outer London	To Inner London	To outside London	
Mar10 - May10	148,031	5,142	632	547	81.3%	10.0%	8.7%	
Jun10 - Aug10	155,611	4,439	541	603	79.5%	9.7%	10.8%	
Sep10 - Nov10	159,391	4,524	417	537	82.6%	7.6%	9.8%	
Dec10 - Feb11	162,709	3,548	335	490	81.1%	7.7%	11.2%	
Mar11 - May11	164,823	4,586	410	532	83.0%	7.4%	9.6%	
Jun11 - Aug11	169,293	4,068	378	591	80.8%	7.5%	11.7%	
Sep11 - Nov11	171,422	3,727	335	572	80.4%	7.2%	12.3%	
Dec11 - Feb12	173,436	3,905	300	569	81.8%	6.3%	11.9%	
Mar12 - May12	176,206	4,236	368	657	80.5%	7.0%	12.5%	
Jun12 - Aug12	177,780	4,211	378	662	80.2%	7.2%	12.6%	
Sep12 - Nov12	178,205	4,404	405	624	81.1%	7.5%	11.5%	
Dec12 - Feb13	179,682	3,799	333	561	81.0%	7.1%	12.0%	
Mar13 - May13	180,152	4,288	417	595	80.9%	7.9%	11.2%	
Jun13 - Aug13	181,028	4,373	397	743	79.3%	7.2%	13.5%	

Moves from the Private to the Social Rented Sector – Outer London

	PRS	Number of moves			As a percentage			
	Caseload	Within	То	То	Within	То	То	
	Outer	Outer	Inner	outside	Outer	Inner	outside	
	London	London	London	London	London	London	London	
Mar10 -								
May10	148,031	975	154	114	78.4%	12.4%	9.2%	
Jun10 -								
Aug10	155,611	925	149	107	78.3%	12.6%	9.1%	
Sep10 -								
Nov10	159,391	1,014	111	100	82.8%	9.1%	8.2%	
Dec10 -								
Feb11	162,709	876	114	97	80.6%	10.5%	8.9%	
Mar11 -								
May11	164,823	1,211	131	115	83.1%	9.0%	7.9%	
Jun11 -								
Aug11	169,293	1,241	159	120	81.6%	10.5%	7.9%	
Sep11 -								
Nov11	171,422	1,214	168	103	81.8%	11.3%	6.9%	
Dec11 -								
Feb12	173,436	1,297	178	112	81.7%	11.2%	7.1%	
Mar12 -								
May12	176,206	1,414	168	107	83.7%	9.9%	6.3%	
Jun12 -								
Aug12	177,780	1,424	214	162	79.1%	11.9%	9.0%	
Sep12 -								
Nov12	178,205	1,501	217	146	80.5%	11.6%	7.8%	
Dec12 -								
Feb13	179,682	1,231	175	145	79.4%	11.3%	9.3%	
Mar13 -								
May13	180,152	1,333	183	164	79.3%	10.9%	9.8%	
Jun13 -								
Aug13	181,028	1,445	159	163	81.8%	9.0%	9.2%	