



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme) and Help to Buy: NewBuy statistics: Data to 30 June 2016, England

- During the thirty nine months of **Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme** (to 30 June 2016), **91,759 properties** were bought with an equity loan.
- The total value of these equity loans was **£4.17 billion**, with the value of the properties sold under the scheme totalling **£20.82 billion**.
- The mean purchase price of a property bought under the scheme was **£226,887**, compared with a mean equity loan of **£45,442**.
- Most of the home purchases in the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme were made by **First Time Buyers**, accounting for **74,025 (81 per cent)** of total purchases.
- For the **Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme**, **5,695** house purchases were made since the launch of the scheme in March 2012. There were no new transactions in Q2 2016 due to the **scheme closing** to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015.

Housing Market *Statistical Release*

29 September 2016

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Date of next publication:

15 December 2016

Introduction

This Statistical Release presents Official Statistics on the number of home purchases and the value of equity loans under the Government's Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, as well as the number of purchases under the Government's Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme (formerly known only as 'NewBuy').

Further policy information on the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme can be found on the Department's website:

<http://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes/help-to-buy-equity-loans>

Further policy information on the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme can be found at:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-available-homes/supporting-pages/newbuy-guarantee-scheme>

This release does not cover statistics regarding the Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme.

More information on Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee can be found here:

<http://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantees>.

The quarterly release of Official Statistics on the scheme can be found at

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantee-scheme-quarterly-statistics>. The next release will be published on 15 December 2016.

This is the twelfth statistical release concerning Help to Buy: Equity Loan statistics. The figures presented in this release cover the first thirty nine months of the scheme, from its launch on 1 April 2013 until 30 June 2016. This release also covers the Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme from its launch on 12 March 2012 to 30 June 2016.

Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme

Quarterly figures

Statistics for Help to Buy: Equity Loan are based on legal completion dates for transactions in the scheme as operated in England. The quarterly figures presented in Table 1 below cover the thirty nine months from the launch of the scheme on 1 April 2013 to 30 June 2016 inclusive. Monthly figures are also provided and can be found in the Accompanying Tables section of the release.

The quarterly figures for all completions are presented in Table 1. The cumulative total of the number of completions in the first 39 months of the scheme (to 30 June 2016) was 91,759. The corresponding value of these equity loans at point of legal completion was £4.17 billion, with the overall value of properties sold under the scheme totalling £20.82 billion.

Table 1: Number of legal completions, and value of equity loans (£m), England

	Completions ³	Value of Equity Loans (£m) at completion ¹	Total value of properties sold (£m) ²
2013			
Q2	2,103	£78.09	£391.35
Q3	3,944	£156.24	£784.31
Q4	7,976	£331.82	£1,664.70
2014			
Q1	5,581	£235.21	£1,181.89
Q2	8,775	£380.81	£1,913.72
Q3	5,846	£252.67	£1,269.99
Q4	8,174	£357.36	£1,794.82
2015			
Q1	4,929	£215.84	£1,085.28
Q2 (R)	9,356	£429.80	£2,164.08
Q3 (R)	6,900	£319.37	£1,609.02
Q4 (R)	10,649	£504.57	£2,542.56
2016			
Q1 (R)	6,805	£330.20	£1,657.66
Q2	10,721	£577.77	£2,759.52
Total to 30 June 2016	91,759	£4,169.74	£20,818.91

(R) – revised since the last statistical release to reflect more up-to-date information.

1. The value of equity loans are based on the purchase price of the property, up to 20 per cent of the property's value at point of sale. The remaining balance of the purchase must be financed by a purchaser deposit and a conventional mortgage. The value is shown in £million and rounded to 2 decimal places.

2. Value of properties sold is equal to the sum of the purchase prices at point of legal completion.

3. Completions of legacy FirstBuy transactions that occurred after 1 April 2013 are not included in these statistics. For the reporting period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, there were 957 legacy FirstBuy completions for a total value of Government equity loan of £13m.

Table 2: Number of legal completions, and value of equity loans (£m) for First Time Buyers, England

	Completions ³	Value of Equity Loans (£m) at completion ¹	Value of properties sold (£m) ²
2013			
Q2	2,004	£73.17	£366.72
Q3	3,564	£136.69	£685.73
Q4	6,899	£275.40	£1,380.51
2014			
Q1	4,645	£185.69	£932.95
Q2	6,943	£285.18	£1,431.85
Q3	4,588	£188.69	£947.93
Q4	6,442	£269.08	£1,351.09
2015			
Q1	3,841	£159.07	£800.00
Q2 (R)	7,384	£323.83	£1,628.67
Q3 (R)	5,441	£240.81	£1,212.27
Q4 (R)	8,407	£381.52	£1,921.49
2016			
Q1 (R)	5,332	£246.90	£1,237.44
Q2	8,535	£450.11	£2,116.17
Total to 30 June 2016	74,025	£3,216.14	£16,012.81

See notes under Table 1

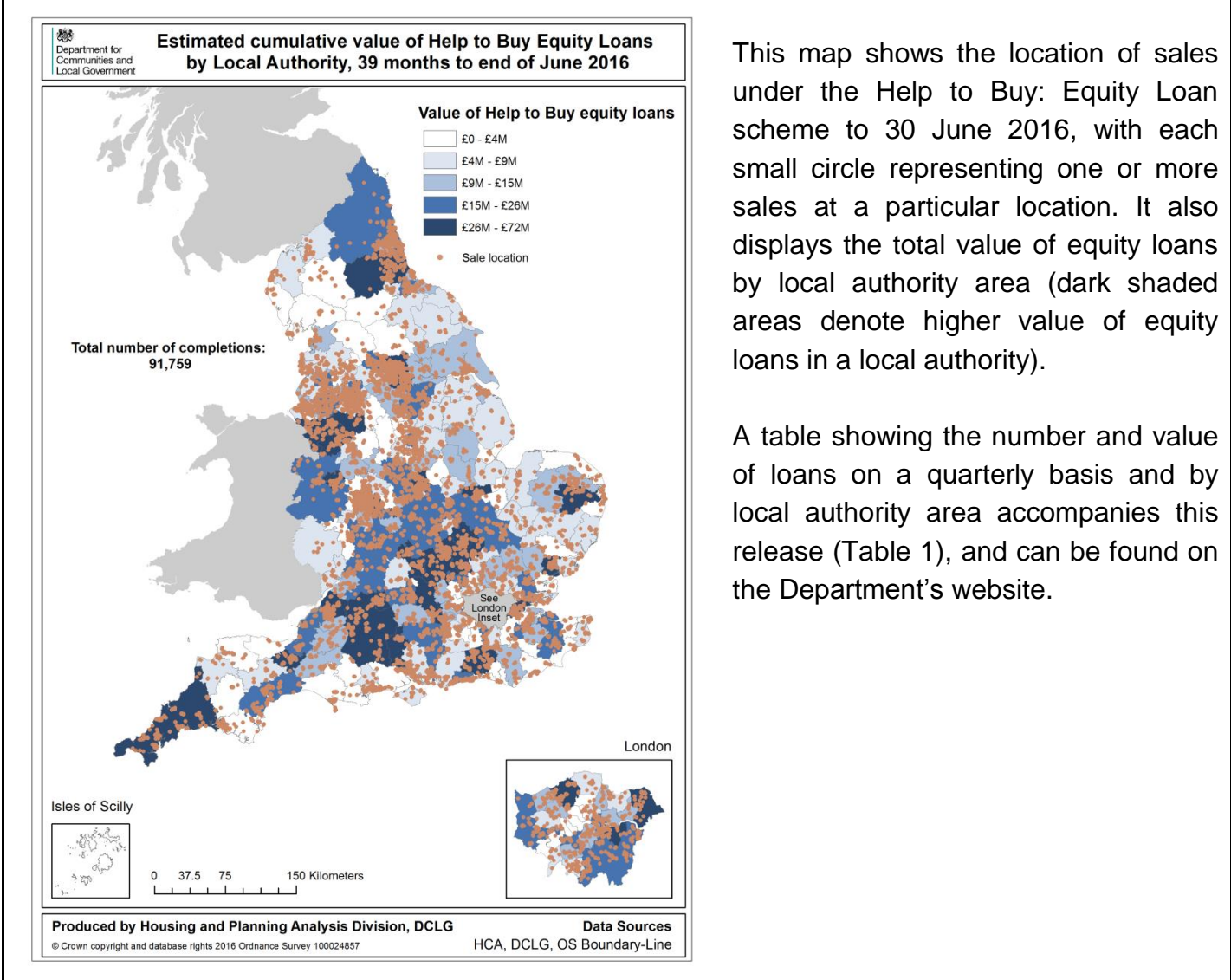
Table 2 presents quarterly figures for First Time Buyers. The cumulative total of the number of First Time Buyer completions during the scheme was 74,025, accounting for 81 per cent of total purchases. The corresponding value of these equity loans at point of legal completion was £3.22 billion (77 per cent of the total value of equity loans), with the overall value of properties sold to First Time Buyers under the scheme totalling £16.01 billion (77 per cent of the total value of properties sold).

Help to Buy: Equity Loan in London

During the 39 months of the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, 5,162 properties in London were bought with an equity loan. Since 1 February 2016 Help to Buy applicants were able to claim an equity loan up to 40% of purchase price for properties in Greater London. Between 1 February 2016 and 30 June 2016 there were 935 completions in London, of which 364 were made with an equity loan higher than 20%. Of these 364 completions, the average purchase price was £476,744 and 290 were made by First time Buyers with an equity loan of 40% of the value of the property.

Sub-national trends

Map 1: Total Value of Equity Loans and completions, by local authority area



This map shows the location of sales under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme to 30 June 2016, with each small circle representing one or more sales at a particular location. It also displays the total value of equity loans by local authority area (dark shaded areas denote higher value of equity loans in a local authority).

A table showing the number and value of loans on a quarterly basis and by local authority area accompanies this release (Table 1), and can be found on the Department’s website.

Purchase price

The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme can be used to purchase a new build property up to the value of £600,000, with a maximum equity loan of £120,000 (20 per cent). In Greater London, the maximum equity loan is £240,000 (40 per cent).

Table 3 shows the numbers of homes purchased in the scheme to 30 June 2016 by purchase price. The £150,001 - £200,000 price bracket contained the greatest proportion of all completions (29 per cent), followed by the £200,001 - £250,000 price bracket, which contained 21 per cent of total sales. When combined, these two price brackets accounted for just over half of the total completions in the scheme.

The £150,001 - £200,000 price bracket also accounted for the greatest proportion of homes purchased by First Time Buyers, representing 31 per cent of total First Time Buyer sales. In contrast, the £250,001 - £350,000 price bracket contained the greatest proportion of homes purchased through the scheme by non-First Time Buyers. The percentage of homes purchased by First Time Buyers in each of the three lowest price brackets was considerably greater than the corresponding percentage for non-First Time Buyers.

Table 3: Cumulative number of legal completions to 30 June 2016, by purchase price

Purchase Price ¹	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Percentage of completions (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (all)	Percentage of completions (all)
£0 – £125,000	7,704	10%	8,098	9%
£125,001 - £150,000	9,726	13%	10,462	11%
£150,001 - £200,000	22,994	31%	26,551	29%
£200,001 - £250,000	15,078	20%	19,333	21%
£250,001 - £350,000	12,497	17%	18,031	20%
£350,001 - £500,000	4,900	7%	7,709	8%
£500,001 - £600,000	1,126	2%	1,575	2%
All properties	74,025		91,759	

1. Purchases under Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme are subject to Stamp Duty Land Tax on the same basis as other residential dwellings. The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme has a property price cap of £600,000.

The quarterly average purchase prices of homes bought under the scheme are shown in Table 4. The median purchase price was £192,995 for First Time Buyers, £250,000 for non-First Time Buyers and £204,950 when all completions are combined. The mean purchase price was £216,316 for First Time Buyers, £271,010 for non-First Time Buyers and £226,887 when considering all completions. Each of the mean purchase prices are higher than the corresponding median purchase price, which reflects the fact that there are relatively few sales in the higher price brackets. Also, the quarterly mean and median purchase prices are both higher for non-First Time Buyers than for First Time Buyers. When considering all completions, the mean and median are both closer to the corresponding average for First Time Buyers than that for non-First Time Buyers, which can be attributed to the high proportion of completions made by First Time Buyers.

Table 4: Average purchase price of property sold under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, by quarter, to 30 June 2016, England

	Mean purchase price			Median purchase price		
	First Time Buyers	Non-First Time Buyers	All	First Time Buyers	Non-First Time Buyers	All
2013						
Q2	£182,994	£248,834	£186,093	£169,995	£234,995	£170,000
Q3	£192,404	£259,437	£198,863	£175,000	£242,000	£179,995
Q4	£200,102	£263,878	£208,714	£180,995	£247,950	£189,950
2014						
Q1	£200,851	£265,963	£211,771	£180,500	£245,000	£190,000
Q2	£206,229	£263,029	£218,087	£185,000	£244,995	£196,000
Q3	£206,611	£256,005	£217,240	£185,950	£239,995	£195,000
Q4	£209,732	£256,195	£219,577	£189,950	£239,995	£199,950
2015						
Q1	£208,279	£262,203	£220,182	£189,950	£247,500	£199,950
Q2	£220,568	£271,504	£231,304	£197,995	£256,723	£210,000
Q3	£222,803	£271,931	£233,191	£199,995	£259,950	£211,500
Q4	£228,558	£277,018	£238,760	£206,000	£261,495	£219,950
2016						
Q1	£232,077	£285,287	£243,595	£209,950	£270,000	£224,950
Q2	£247,940	£294,307	£257,394	£219,950	£279,995	£234,950
Average to 30 June 2016	£216,316	£271,010	£226,887	£192,995	£250,000	£204,950

The median equity loan was £38,399 for First Time Buyers, £49,999 for non-First Time Buyers and £40,400 across all completions. The mean equity loans were slightly higher at £43,447 for First Time Buyers, £53,773 for non-First Time Buyers and £45,442 for all completions. Each of these mean equity loans are 20 per cent of the value of the corresponding mean purchase price. Also, since the scheme's inception, the average equity loan (as a percentage of purchase price) has remained virtually unchanged at 20 per cent for each of First Time Buyers, non-First Time Buyers and all completions, indicating that most people using the scheme choose to take out the maximum equity loan available to them.

Property type

Table 5 shows the number of completions by property type. The property type most frequently sold under the scheme was semi-detached houses, representing 30 per cent of total completions, followed closely by detached properties at 29 per cent. Terraced properties and flats made up 26 per cent and 15 per cent of completions respectively.

When comparing the types of property purchased by First Time Buyers and non-First Time Buyers, there are notable differences. A much higher proportion of non-First Time Buyers (52 per cent) than First Time Buyers (24 per cent) purchased detached houses, and a considerably lower proportion of non-First Time Buyers than First Time Buyers bought any of the other three main

property types through the scheme (5 per cent compared to 17 per cent for flats, 24 per cent compared to 32 per cent for semi-detached houses and 19 per cent compared to 28 per cent for terraced houses).

Table 5: Cumulative number of legal completions to 30 June 2016, by property type

Property Type	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Percentage of completions (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (all)	Percentage of completions (all)
Flat	12,510	17%	13,459	15%
Terraced	20,707	28%	24,004	26%
Semi-detached	23,364	32%	27,694	30%
Detached	17,413	24%	26,568	29%
All properties¹	74,025		91,759	

1. Includes 28 completions (25 for First Time Buyers) for which the property type was not recorded and 6 Studio apartments (all for First Time Buyers).

Purchaser deposits

Most completions under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme were made by purchasers with a deposit of up to 5 per cent, accounting for 65 per cent of completions for First Time Buyers, 48 per cent of completions for non-First Time Buyers, and 62 per cent of all completions. There was also a marked difference between the proportion of First Time Buyers (8 per cent) and non-First Time Buyers (21 per cent) that used a deposit of 15.1 per cent or more.

Table 6: Cumulative number of legal completions to 30 June 2016, by purchaser deposit level and type of purchaser

Deposit band ¹	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (non-First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (total)	Percentage of completions (all)
Up to 5%	48,220	8,454	56,674	62%
5.1% to 10%	14,734	3,596	18,330	20%
10.1% to 15%	4,929	1,910	6,839	7%
15.1% or more	6,142	3,774	9,916	11%
All properties	74,025 (81%)	17,734 (19%)	91,759 (100%)	

1. The deposit level for each transaction is calculated by expressing the amount of purchaser deposit as a percentage of the purchase price, and rounding to one decimal place.

Applicant household incomes

The household income of purchasers of properties under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme is recorded for each individual completion in the scheme. 'Total applicant household income' reported below refers to the total income for the household, regardless of how many members of that household are making the purchase.

Table 7 shows the breakdown of homes purchased by total household income. The greatest number of homes purchased on the scheme was by purchasers with a household income between £30,001 and £40,000 a year, representing 24 per cent of all completions. 16 per cent of completions had applicants with a registered household income of between £20,001 and £30,000 a year, with 3 per cent of completions with applicant household incomes lower than this. 78 per cent of completions had household incomes of £60,000 or less, whilst 3 per cent of completions had applicants with a registered household income in excess of £100,000 a year.

For First Time Buyers, the greatest proportion (25 per cent) of purchases made on the scheme was by households with a total income between £30,001 and £40,000 a year, followed by households with income between £40,001 and £50,000 (21 per cent). Almost half of all First Time Buyers (46 per cent) had household incomes of £40,000 or less. In contrast, the greatest proportion (22 per cent) of houses purchased by non-First Time Buyers on the scheme was made by households with total income between £40,001 and £50,000, closely followed by households with income between £60,001 and £80,000 (21 per cent). Only a quarter of non-First Time Buyers had household incomes of £40,000 or less.

Table 7: Cumulative number of legal completions to 30 June 2016, by total applicant household income

Total applicant household income ¹	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Percentage of completions (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (all)	Percentage of completions (all)
£0 – £20,000	2,173	3%	2,369	3%
£20,001 - £30,000	13,048	18%	14,336	16%
£30,001 - £40,000	18,853	25%	21,860	24%
£40,001 - £50,000	15,743	21%	19,680	21%
£50,001 - £60,000	9,788	13%	13,080	14%
£60,001 - £80,000	8,746	12%	12,546	14%
£80,001 - £100,000	3,362	5%	4,788	5%
Greater than £100,000	2,312	3%	3,100	3%
All applicant households	74,025		91,759	

1. Total applicant household income as registered on the Help to Buy Property Information Form completed at the point of reservation. Income brackets presented here reflect total applicant household income, which does not discriminate between single person applications and joint applications under the scheme. Purchasers must have proof of income in order to be eligible for a Help to Buy: Equity Loan. The scheme allows for property purchases up to £600,000 with a maximum equity loan of 20 per cent and 40 per cent in Greater London. After accounting for the purchaser deposit and equity loan, the remaining balance must be financed through a mortgage which is not in excess of 4.5 times the applicant's household income e.g. a £600,000 property, with a 5 per cent purchaser deposit (£30,000) and a 20 per cent equity loan (£120,000) must fund the remainder of the purchase through a mortgage (£450,000). In this instance, the total applicant household income must be at least £100,000 per annum.

The quarterly averages of total applicant household income can be seen in Table 8. To 30 June 2016, the median total household income was £41,808 for First Time Buyers, £51,250 for non-First Time Buyers and £43,500 for all completions. The mean total household income was £46,838 for First Time Buyers, £55,534 for non-First Time Buyers and £48,519 for all completions. The median household income for First Time Buyers has increased more consistently over time, and consequently the difference between the quarterly medians for non-First Time Buyers and First Time Buyers has reduced over the duration of the scheme.

Table 8: Average total applicant household income under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, by quarter, to 30 June 2016, England

	Mean total applicant household income			Median total applicant household income		
	First Time Buyers	Non-First Time Buyers	All	First Time Buyers	Non-First Time Buyers	All
2013						
Q2	£40,601	£54,600	£41,260	£36,469	£50,372	£37,000
Q3	£43,055	£55,783	£44,282	£38,276	£52,203	£39,500
Q4	£44,567	£56,105	£46,125	£39,600	£51,996	£40,914
2014						
Q1	£44,895	£57,509	£47,010	£40,000	£52,421	£42,000
Q2	£45,524	£55,659	£47,640	£40,424	£50,641	£42,433
Q3	£45,659	£54,201	£47,497	£40,522	£50,000	£42,257
Q4	£45,844	£53,669	£47,502	£40,997	£50,045	£42,500
2015						
Q1	£45,878	£55,280	£47,953	£41,350	£50,400	£43,200
Q2	£47,925	£55,634	£49,550	£43,000	£51,188	£44,757
Q3	£48,150	£54,958	£49,589	£43,364	£51,143	£45,000
Q4	£48,522	£55,378	£49,966	£43,307	£51,000	£44,983
2016						
Q1	£49,179	£56,084	£50,674	£44,026	£53,000	£45,697
Q2	£50,765	£56,755	£51,987	£45,297	£52,575	£47,000
Average to 30 June 2016	£46,838	£55,534	£48,519	£41,808	£51,250	£43,500

Help to Buy: NewBuy Scheme

Quarterly figures

The quarterly figures for the NewBuy Guarantee scheme are based on legal completion dates for transactions in the scheme as reported by participating mortgage lenders. This covers England only and shows data from the launch of the scheme on 12 March 2012 to 30 June 2016.

Table 9: Number of legal completions, Government liability (£m), and cost to Government (£m) under the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme, England

	Completions	Government Liability (maximum possible cost) £m ¹	Successful claims against Government Guarantee, £m ²
2012			
Q2	252	2.6	-
Q3	376	3.8	-
Q4	906	9.1	-
2013			
Q1	764	7.7	-
Q2	1,489	15.7	-
Q3	682	7.2	-
Q4	614	6.6	-
2014			
Q1	198	2.0	-
Q2	192	2.0	-
Q3	119	1.5	-
Q4	75	0.8	-
2015			
Q1	14	0.2	-
Q2	12	0.1	-
Q3	2	0.0	-
Q4	0	0.0	-
2016			
Q1	0	0.0	-
Q2	0	0.0	-
Total to Q2 2016	5,695	£59.4m	£0.0m

(R) – Revised since the last statistical release due to the data provider reviewing the data held on past sales.

1. Rounded to one decimal place. Government liability represents the total value of the government guarantees granted in the period. It also represents the maximum possible cost to Government as a result of claims being made against this guarantee. In practice, expected costs to Government as a result of providing the Guarantee are expected to be much smaller than this liability figure. More detail on the guarantee scheme and how it operates can be found in the Definitions section further down in this release.

2. Successful claims against the guarantee represent money Government that has paid out to mortgage lenders as a result of a mortgagee defaulting on their loan covered by the scheme and not being able to pay it back. In previous statistical releases, this was referred to as 'Government's Total Costs'.

There were no completions in the second quarter of 2016 due to the scheme closing to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015. Any final transactions were completed on or before 8 September 2015. The total value of the Government Guarantees ("Government Liability") for these completed sales was £59.4m. To date, there have been no claims made with respect to the

guarantees made under the scheme.

Sub-national trends

A table showing the cumulative number of completions for the NewBuy Guarantee scheme by local authority area (Table 2) accompanies this release, and can be found on the Department's website.

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release:

Table 1	Number and value of Help to Buy: Equity Loans (<u>quarterly</u>), by local authority, England
Table 2	Number and value of Help to Buy: Equity Loans (<u>monthly</u>), by local authority, England
Table 3	Cumulative number of Help to Buy: NewBuy completions (since March 2012), by local authority, England

These tables can be accessed from

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-equity-loan-and-newbuy-statistics>

The **statistical release Tables 1-9** are also available to download from the link above.

In addition, the following tables are available from Open Data Communities at

<http://opendatacommunities.org/themes/housing-market> or via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/help-to-buy-equity-loan-scheme-quarterly-statistics> and will be updated every quarter:

- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by local authority**
- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by local authority and postcode sector**, showing only postcode sectors with three or more cases to minimise the possibility of individual households being identified
- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by local authority and postcode district**, showing only postcode sectors with five or more cases to minimise the possibility of individual households being identified
- **Cumulative number of Help to Buy equity loans, by Parliamentary Constituency**, showing only loans for which the property's postcode did not straddle a constituency boundary.

The **Open Data mobile app** provides a range of statistics published by DCLG for the locality and is available for download free of charge from the [Windows App Store](#) and [Google Playstore](#). Any

enquiries about the app should be sent to ODC@communities.gsi.gov.uk.

Definitions

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

An **equity loan** is Government financial assistance given to eligible applicants to purchase an eligible home through a Government equity mortgage secured on the home. The Government equity mortgage is ranked second in priority behind an owner's main mortgage lender. The Government equity mortgage means that if Government contributed 20 per cent of the value to the applicant to buy a home, the owner will repay 20 per cent of the future value to Government e.g. when selling their equity loan home.

The equity loan scheme reported in this statistical release is **Help to Buy: Equity loan**. This scheme offers up to 20 per cent of the value as Government assistance to purchasers buying a new build home. The buyer must provide a cash deposit of at least 5 per cent and a main mortgage lender must provide a loan of at least 75 per cent. The Government assistance to buy is made through an equity loan made by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) to the purchaser. Help to Buy equity loans are only available on new build homes and the maximum purchase price is £600,000. Equity loan assistance for purchasers is paid via house builders registered with the HCA to participate in the Help to Buy equity loan initiative. The payment is made to builders (via solicitors) at purchaser legal completion. The equity loan is provided without fees for the first five years of ownership. The property title is held by the home owner who can therefore sell their home at any time and upon sale should provide the government the value of the same equity share of the property when it is sold. If Government contributed 20 per cent of the value to buy a new home, the owner will repay 20 per cent of the future value (the value at the time they sell) to Government, e.g. when selling their equity loan home. More information can be found on the Department's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/affordable-home-ownership-schemes/help-to-buy-equity-loans>

The following definitions are used in relation to the equity loan scheme:

- **Completed equity loans (“purchaser legal completions”)**: a purchaser legal completion is defined as occurring when the home is ready for occupation, the sale contract between house builder and purchaser has completed and all mortgage funds, deposit and equity loan assistance have been paid to the house builder. The purchaser takes possession after legal completion.
- **Reservations**: a reservation is defined as the point at which an Authority to Proceed (ATP) is issued by the local Help to Buy Agent. The ATP is issued by Local Help to Buy Agent following their approval of a firm reservation of a Help to Buy Home. ATP issue is the approval for purchasers to commence conveyancing and submit a full mortgage application to the main mortgage lender.

The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme replaced the existing **FirstBuy** shared equity scheme on 1 April 2013. Information about the FirstBuy scheme can be found here:

http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130203154301/http://homesandcommunities.co.uk/cfg?page_id=6016&page=71

Completions of legacy FirstBuy transactions that occurred after 1 April 2013 are not included in these statistics. For the reporting period 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014, there were 957 legacy FirstBuy for a total value of Government equity loan of £13m. FirstBuy offered up to a 20 per cent equity loan on new build properties for First Time Buyers only, co-funded between Government and the house builder.

The figures provided in this release are based on the **legal completion** date for the sale. A purchaser legal completion is defined as when the home is ready for occupation, the sale contract between house builder and purchaser has completed and all mortgage funds, deposits and equity loan assistance have been paid to the house builder. The purchaser takes possession after legal completion.

In February 2016, the Government launched London Help to Buy, which offers equity loans at up to 40% of the value of the purchase price. The parameters of the scheme are the same as for standard Help to Buy: Equity Loan: deposits of at least 5% will be required; and the loans will be interest-free for 5 years, after which a charge will apply.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme

The title of the NewBuy Guarantee scheme was changed in early 2014 to 'Help to Buy: NewBuy', so that it is grouped together with the Government's other schemes designed to help prospective home buyers: Help to Buy: equity loan and Help to Buy: mortgage guarantee.

The scheme allows borrowers to secure up to a 95 per cent loan-to-value mortgage on a new build property. More detail on the scheme can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/policies/increasing-the-number-of-available-homes/supporting-pages/newbuy-guarantee-scheme>

The guarantee is provided by Government, in partnership with the house building industry. In the event of a borrower defaulting on their mortgage, Government and the respective house builder assume responsibility for any debt which is not already paid back to the mortgage lender.

Mortgages are covered by the government guarantee from point of completion. Government's maximum total contingent liability is capped at £1bn. Each time a property is sold under the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme, Government's maximum possible cost within this limit increases by 5.5 per cent of the property's sale value.

Government's costs will be incurred only when: (i) Help to Buy: NewBuy properties have been

purchased (completed), possessed, and/or resold, and have attracted losses, and those losses have been claimed by the appropriate lender/s; and (ii) the total of such losses is in excess of the total of the builder's corresponding indemnity fund.

The Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme closed to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015. Any final transactions were completed on or before 8 September 2015.

Technical notes

Data collection

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

Data are extracted from the Homes and Communities Agency's Investment Management System (IMS). This contains information provided by Help to Buy agents in accordance with monitoring requirements for the payment of the equity loans.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme

The data in this release have been provided by JLT Insurance Management (Guernsey) Ltd (JLTIM) in its capacity as administrator to the NewBuy Mortgage Indemnity Scheme. Analysts working for the Department for Communities and Local Government have worked with JLTIM's analysts to ensure the accuracy of the data presented. JLTIM is a member of the Jardine Lloyd Thompson Group plc group of companies and is regulated by the Guernsey Financial Services Commission.

Data quality

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

Data recorded in the IMS by Help to Buy agents are subject to system validations in IMS. In addition, Help to Buy Agents make Key Performance Standard monthly reports to HCA and these include compliance with HCA requirements. HCA also conducts random file checks for accuracy on all Help to Buy Agents at quarterly contract review meetings. Following extraction for the purposes of producing this statistical release, data are quality assured by checking individual entries which exceed set tolerances e.g. such as purchaser income levels, as well as 'spot checks' by cross checking with the Land Registry database (see: <http://houseprices.landregistry.gov.uk/sold-prices/>).

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee Scheme

Data on individual sales in the scheme are recorded by JLTIM and checked for consistency from both the participating builder and lender. In the event that information is inconsistent, JLTIM will contact and resolve with the relevant parties as part of routine query process.

Following extraction for the purposes of statistical release, the data are validated by DCLG against Management Information reports provided by JLTIM to the Department.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Official statistics and the Department for Communities and Local Government Revisions Policy (found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-revisions-policy>).

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

Where a substantial error has occurred as a result of the compilation, imputation or dissemination process, the statistical release, live tables and other accompanying releases will be updated with a correction notice as soon as is practical.

Scheduled Revisions

Help to Buy: Equity Loan statistics are drawn from the grant administration system and therefore updated information can be provided by grant recipients after the official statistics have been extracted and compiled. If required, revisions are incorporated into the next scheduled statistical release. For each release, revisions are made to the previous eight quarters only. Until recently, the HCA recorded Help to Buy equity loan sales at approval of payment of the builder's claim. In January 2015 the National Audit Office advised that, for accounting purposes, sales should be recorded at the completion of the home purchase. The HCA has amended the data on this basis. The main effect is on the distribution of sales across previous quarters. The most recent cumulative totals are slightly increased. The first revised total to the end of January 2015 was included in the monthly statistics on the 5th March 2015 which also explained the change. The first revised time series (count and value of loans) was included in the monthly statistics on the 31 March 2015 and has been revised today.

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme statistics are drawn from JLTIM's database of recorded transactions. Whilst the majority of transactions that happen within a reporting period are recorded within a month of the period ending, there are residual cases where completion dates have yet to be confirmed by participating lenders in the scheme. This can lead to a slight under-reporting of the actual number of transactions on first release. Figures can also be revised as a result of JLTIM reviewing data held on past sales. The future impact of such revisions is anticipated to be small.

Uses of the data

The data are used for monitoring the delivery of the Help to Buy: Equity loans scheme, and the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme. They are also used to inform wider government policy on housing.

User engagement

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on how these statistics are used and how well they meet user needs. Comments on any issues relating to this statistical release are welcomed and encouraged. Responses should be addressed to the "Public enquiries" contact given in the "Enquiries" section below.

The Department's engagement strategy to meet the needs of statistics users is published here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/engagement-strategy-to-meet-the-needs-of-statistics-users>

A short questionnaire on how the Housing Statistics and data are used and the decisions they inform is currently open at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/housinguser>

Related statistics

Six-monthly statistics on housing starts on site and housing completions delivered by the Homes and Communities Agency (which will include Help to Buy: Equity Loan completions) are published in their Housing Statistics release, which can be found here:

<http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing-statistics>

Although from April 2012 the Mayor of London has had strategic oversight of housing, regeneration and economic development in London, the Homes and Communities Agency administers the Help to Buy: Equity Loans scheme on behalf of the Greater London Authority.

Details of delivery of housing under other Government schemes, including shared ownership schemes, can be found on the Department's website here:

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics>

Both the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, and the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme operate only in England.

As stated in the Introduction (page 2), the quarterly release of official statistics on the Help to Buy mortgage guarantee scheme – covering sales to 30 June 2016 - was scheduled for publication by the Treasury today and can be found at <http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantee-scheme-quarterly-statistics>. Its next release – covering sales to September

2016 - will be published on 15 December 2016. The mortgage guarantee scheme operates across the whole of the United Kingdom.

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) publishes a range of statistics on its programmes including activity on the Help to Buy equity loan scheme. Figures are available at <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/housing-statistics>

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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 DCLG is available via the Department's website: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

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September 2016

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ISBN: 978-1-4098-4895-0