



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme) Data to 31 December 2019, England

- Over the period since the launch of the **Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme** (1 April 2013 to 31 December 2019), **263,297 properties** were bought with an equity loan.
- The total value of these equity loans was **£15.34 billion**, with the value of the properties sold under the scheme totalling **£70.26 billion**.
- Most of the home purchases in the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme were made by **First Time Buyers, accounting for 214,064 (81 per cent)** of total purchases.
- The mean purchase price of a property bought under the scheme was **£266,849**, with buyers using a mean equity loan of **£58,258**.
- In **London**, the maximum equity loan was increased from 20% to 40% in February 2016, since then to 31 December 2019 there were 18,807 completions in London, of which 16,486 were made with an equity loan higher than 20%.

Housing *Statistical Release*

7 May 2020

Introduction	2
Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme)	2
Accompanying tables	14
Definitions	14
Technical notes	18
Enquiries	25

Responsible Statistician:

Niall McSharry

Statistical enquiries:

housing.statistics@communities.gov.uk

Media enquiries:

0303 444 1209

newsdesk@communities.gov.uk

Date of next publication:

June/July 2020

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. The figures presented in this release cover the period from the launch of the scheme on 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2019.

Further policy information on the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme can be found at:

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

This release does not cover statistics on Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme as the scheme closed to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015 with all transactions completed by 8 September 2015. 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, which operated for the whole of the UK and closed to new loans on 31 December 2016. 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>.

Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme

Quarterly figures

Statistics for Help to Buy: Equity Loan are based on legal completion dates for transactions under the scheme as operated in England. The quarterly figures presented in Table 1 below cover the period from the launch of the scheme on 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2019. Monthly figures are also provided and can be found in the Accompanying Tables section of the release.

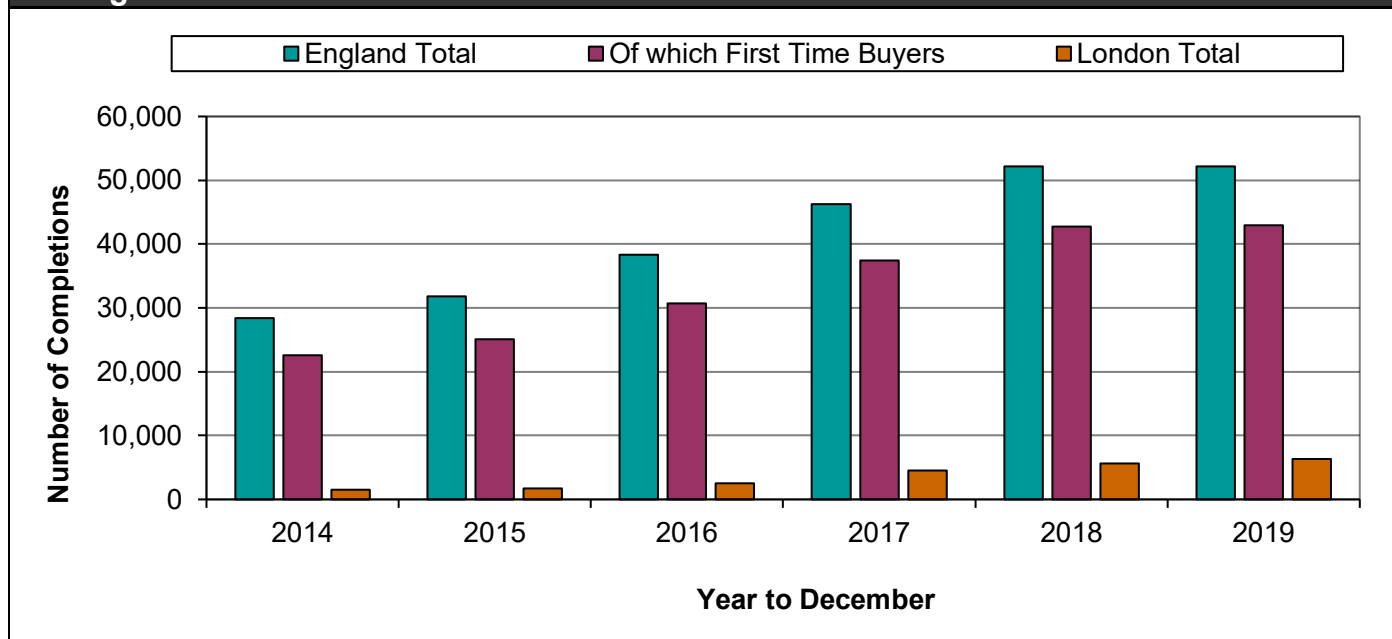
Table 1 presents the total number of home purchases completed under the Help To Buy: Equity Loan scheme since its launch date. Between April 2013 and 31 December 2019, 263,297 properties were sold through Help to Buy: Equity Loan, using a total value of equity loans of £15.34 billion. These equity loans supported the purchase of £70.26 billion worth of property.

Table 2 presents the quarterly number of properties bought by First Time Buyers under Help to Buy since the launch of the scheme in April 2013. Between April 2013 and 31 December 2019, First Time Buyers accounted for 81 per cent of total home purchases. 214,064 properties were bought by First Time Buyers through Help to Buy: Equity Loan using a total value of equity loans of £12.30 billion. The overall value of properties sold to First Time Buyers total £55.21 billion.

Annual figures

Figure 1 presents the total number of home purchases completed under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, for the year ending 31 December 2014 to the year ending 31 December 2019. These figures are sourced from accompanying tables 1 and 1b (see note on page 14).

Figure 1: Help to Buy: Equity Loan. Number of legal completions for England (Total and of which First Time Buyers) and London (Total), year ending 31 December 2014 to year ending 31 December 2019.



For England, home purchases completed under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme totalled 52,207 in the year to 31 December 2019, up by 0.1 per cent compared with the year to December 2018 (52,132 completions). First Time Buyers bought 42,960 properties under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme in the year to 31 December 2019, up by 0.4 per cent compared with the year to December 2018 (42,783 completions).

For London, home purchases completed under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme totalled 6,288 in the year to 31 December 2019, up by 11.3 per cent on the year to 31 December 2018 (5,650 completions). First Time Buyers bought 6,006 properties under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme in the year to 31 December 2019, up by 11.9 per cent compared with the year to 31 December 2018 (5,369 completions).

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

	Completions	Value of Equity Loans (£m) at completion	Total value of properties sold (£m)
2013	14,023	566.15	2,840.37
2014	28,379	1,226.17	6,161.04
2015	31,846	1,470.14	7,403.75
Q1	4,932	215.96	1,085.88
Q2	9,357	429.85	2,164.34
Q3	6,903	319.52	1,609.78
Q4	10,654	504.81	2,543.75
2016	38,414	2,095.95	9,898.93
Q1	6,817	330.83	1,660.95
Q2	10,814	583.71	2,787.92
Q3	8,542	474.00	2,209.88
Q4	12,241	707.41	3,240.18
2017 (R)	46,296	2,911.26	12,994.17
Q1	8,212	504.31	2,226.81
Q2 (R)	13,861	870.53	3,883.78
Q3	10,233	659.66	2,921.47
Q4	13,990	876.76	3,962.11
2018 (R)	52,132	3,446.40	15,214.50
Q1 (R)	10,093	659.93	2,910.88
Q2 (R)	15,045	974.35	4,351.33
Q3	11,273	770.93	3,370.23
Q4	15,721	1,041.19	4,582.06
2019 (P)	52,207	3,622.97	15,747.78
Q1 (R)	10,406	744.88	3,126.24
Q2 (R)	14,908	1,004.30	4,427.21
Q3 (R)	11,884	863.46	3,688.31
Q4 (P)	15,009	1,010.33	4,506.01
Total	263,297	15,339.03	70,260.54

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

(P) - Provisional figures that reflect the most up-to-date information available, but may subject to revisions

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 (40 per cent in Greater London). 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.

4. Quarterly data for 2013 and 2014 is available from the live tables published with this release

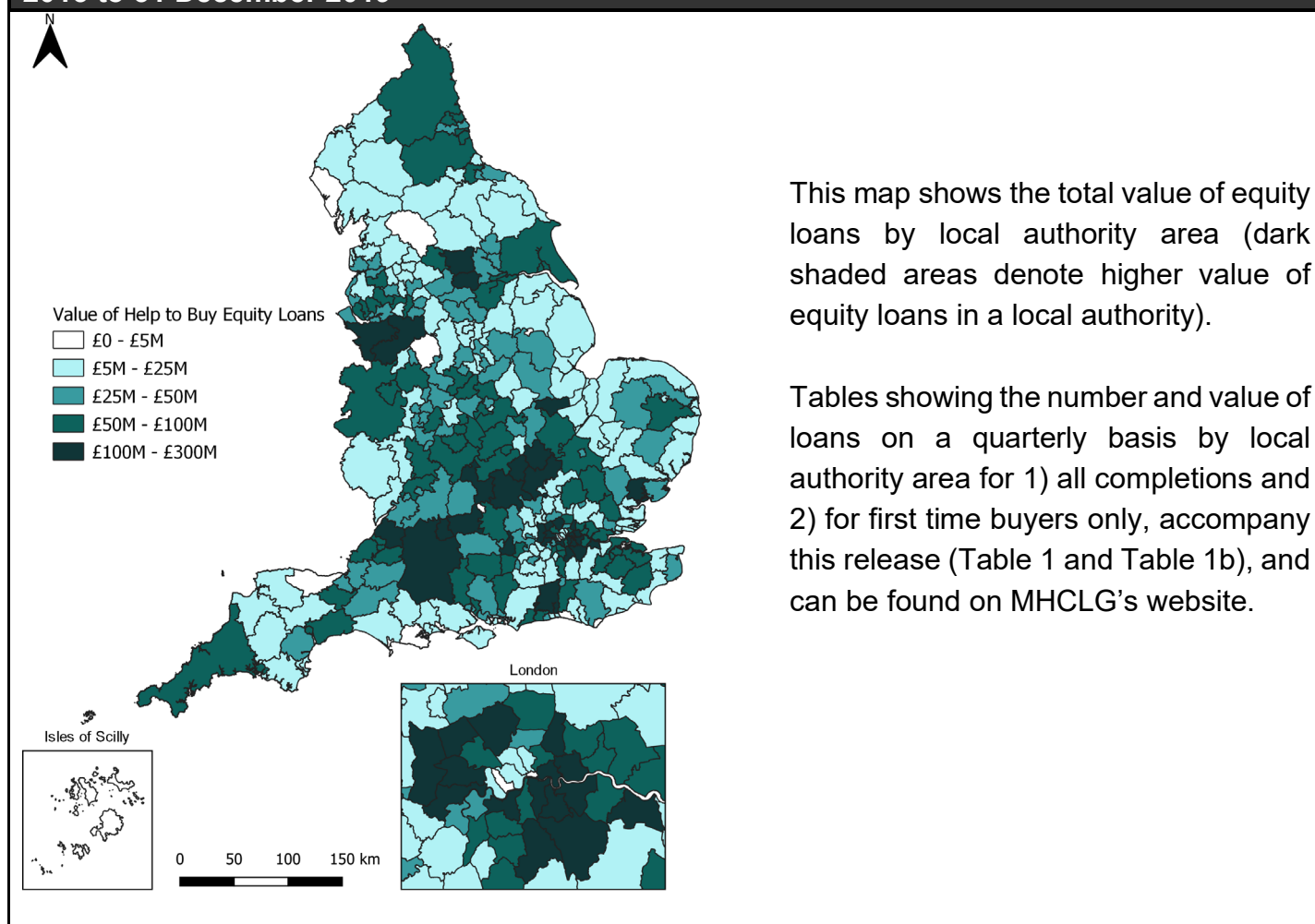
Table 2: Number of legal completions, and value of equity loans (£m) for First Time Buyers, England.

	Completions	Value of Equity Loans (£m) at completion	Total value of properties sold (£m)
2013	12,467	485.26	2,432.95
2014	22,621	928.76	4,664.44
2015	25,077	1,105.31	5,562.83
Q1	3,843	159.15	800.35
Q2	7,384	323.83	1,628.65
Q3	5,441	240.81	1,212.28
Q4	8,409	381.53	1,921.54
2016 (R)	30,685	1,640.78	7,620.80
Q1 (R)	5,334	247.02	1,238.03
Q2	8,590	453.50	2,133.00
Q3	6,791	369.86	1,692.28
Q4	9,970	570.40	2,557.50
2017 (R)	37,471	2,338.27	10,189.58
Q1	6,691	409.65	1,759.89
Q2 (R)	11,177	698.02	3,035.79
Q3	8,235	527.43	2,281.12
Q4	11,368	703.17	3,112.77
2018 (R)	42,783	2,815.26	12,129.55
Q1 (R)	8,264	537.13	2,314.97
Q2 (R)	12,361	797.12	3,470.85
Q3	9,150	625.57	2,658.99
Q4	13,008	855.44	3,684.75
2019 (P)	42,960	2,981.58	12,614.52
Q1 (R)	8,733	629.91	2,572.65
Q2 (R)	12,407	834.31	3,590.62
Q3 (R)	9,686	708.59	2,928.16
Q4 (P)	12,134	808.78	3,523.10
Total	214,064	12,295.23	55,214.67

See footnotes under Table 1

Sub-national trends

Map 1: Estimated cumulative value of Help to Buy: Equity Loans by Local Authority, 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2019



This map shows the total value of equity loans by local authority area (dark shaded areas denote higher value of equity loans in a local authority).

Tables showing the number and value of loans on a quarterly basis by local authority area for 1) all completions and 2) for first time buyers only, accompany this release (Table 1 and Table 1b), and can be found on MHCLG's website.

Help to Buy: Equity Loan in London

Since the launch of the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme on 1 April 2013 to 31 December 2019, 23,035 properties were bought with an equity loan, in London.

Starting 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. Since then, to 31 December 2019, a total number of 18,807 properties were purchased in London. First time buyers accounted for 95.3 per cent (17,920) of these purchases. Of the London home purchases completed between February 2016 and 31 December 2019, 14,431 (76.7 per cent) were made with an equity loan of exactly 40% of the purchase price, showing that most Londoners used the full 40% equity loan available to them. In the same period, 1,947 properties were bought with an equity loan of 20% of the property purchase price and 2,055 with an equity loan ranging between 20% and 40% of the property purchase price. Only 2% (374) of the homes acquired between February 2016 and December 2019 were bought using an equity loan less than 20% of the value of the property at point of sale.

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 number of homes purchased under Help to Buy: Equity Loan to 31 December 2019 by purchase price. More than a third (34 per cent) of Help to Buy: Equity Loan completions were for homes worth £200,000 or less. About 46 per cent of properties acquired through the scheme had a purchase price ranging between £200,001- £350,000 and only 20 per cent had a purchase price greater than £350,000. Overall, 54 per cent of the homes purchased to 31 December 2019 had a price of £250,000 or less, indicating that there are proportionately more buyers in the lower price ranges.

The price of properties acquired by First Time Buyers through Help to Buy: Equity Loan follows the same pattern, with 58 per cent of properties having a value at the point of sale of £250,000 or less.

Table 3: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2019, by purchase price, England.

Purchase Price	Cumulative Completions (First Time Buyers)	Percentage (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative Completions (Total)	Percentage (Total)
0-125,000	12,093	6%	12,758	5%
125,001 - 150,000	18,430	9%	19,841	8%
150,001-200,000	51,197	24%	57,733	22%
200,001-250,000	42,362	20%	51,386	20%
250,001-350,000	51,696	24%	68,707	26%
350,000-500,000	28,871	13%	40,559	15%
500,001-600,000	9,415	4%	12,313	5%
Total	214,064	100%	263,297	100%

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 mean (average) purchase prices of homes bought under the scheme are shown in Table 4. The mean purchase price of all properties acquired through Help to Buy: Equity Loan in England between April 2013 and December 2019 was £266,849. There is a difference in the mean purchase prices of properties sold to first time buyers and non-first-time buyers; with non-first-time buyers being able to afford, on average, higher priced properties.

The median purchase price of all properties acquired through Help to Buy: Equity Loan in England between April 2013 and December 2019 was £243,950, that of properties acquired by First Time Buyers was £231,950 and that of properties acquired by Non-First Time Buyers was £289,950.

In England, the mean purchase prices of properties acquired through the scheme are higher than the corresponding median purchase prices, indicating that across both types of buyers there have been fewer sales in the higher price ranges.

Table 4: Average purchase price of property sold under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, by quarter, to 31 December 2019, England.

	Mean purchase price			Median purchase price		
	First Time Buyers	Non First Time Buyers	All	First Time Buyers	Non First Time Buyers	All
2013	£195,152	£261,837	£202,551	£178,000	£245,000	£183,995
2014	£206,200	£259,916	£217,098	£185,000	£242,995	£195,000
2015	£221,830	£271,963	£232,486	£199,950	£257,950	£210,950
Q1	£208,263	£262,192	£220,171	£189,950	£247,500	£199,950
Q2	£220,564	£271,511	£231,307	£197,995	£256,950	£210,000
Q3	£222,805	£271,882	£233,199	£199,995	£259,950	£211,500
Q4	£228,510	£277,154	£238,760	£205,995	£261,995	£219,950
2016 (R)	£248,356	£294,752	£257,691	£220,950	£279,995	£234,995
Q1 (R)	£232,101	£285,182	£243,648	£209,950	£269,999	£224,950
Q2	£248,312	£294,477	£257,806	£219,950	£279,995	£234,995
Q3	£249,194	£295,607	£258,708	£220,000	£280,000	£234,950
Q4	£256,519	£300,610	£264,699	£230,000	£285,995	£240,000
2017 (R)	£271,932	£317,801	£280,676	£245,950	£299,995	£259,000
Q1	£263,024	£306,982	£271,166	£234,750	£289,995	£246,995
Q2 (R)	£271,611	£315,942	£280,195	£245,000	£299,995	£259,500
Q3	£277,003	£320,496	£285,495	£250,000	£302,000	£263,500
Q4	£273,819	£323,926	£283,210	£249,250	£307,995	£260,000
2018 (R)	£283,513	£329,976	£291,846	£259,995	£317,995	£271,000
Q1 (R)	£280,127	£325,810	£288,405	£255,000	£312,950	£269,950
Q2 (R)	£280,790	£328,050	£289,221	£256,995	£315,000	£269,995
Q3	£290,599	£335,018	£298,965	£269,950	£324,750	£279,995
Q4	£283,268	£330,746	£291,461	£259,995	£316,995	£269,995
2019 (P)	£293,634	£338,840	£301,641	£269,995	£326,000	£280,000
Q1 (R)	£294,589	£330,897	£300,427	£268,500	£315,000	£275,000
Q2 (R)	£289,403	£334,504	£296,969	£265,950	£324,995	£276,995
Q3 (P)	£302,308	£345,840	£310,359	£279,250	£331,995	£289,973
Q4 (P)	£290,349	£341,884	£300,221	£268,000	£329,995	£279,995
Total	£257,935	£305,605	£266,849	£231,950	£289,950	£243,950

In London, the average purchase price of all properties sold under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme to 31 December 2019 exceeded the national average. Under the scheme, the mean property purchase price was £427,501 and median was £426,000. London average purchase prices of properties sold to First Time Buyers and Non-First Time Buyers follow the same pattern as the national average, with existing homeowners acquiring higher priced properties.

Size of Equity Loan

In England, the median equity loan was £45,999 for First Time Buyers, £56,999 for non-First Time Buyers and £48,000 across all completions. The mean equity loans were higher at £57,437 for First Time Buyers, £61,824 for non-First Time Buyers and £58,257 for all completions. Each of these mean equity loans are around 20 per cent of the value of the corresponding mean purchase price, reflecting the fact that most completions in the scheme used the full 20 per cent equity loan available to them.

Property type

Table 5 shows the number of properties sold under Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme by property type. Help to Buy has mainly supported the purchase of houses. Up to December 2019, 18 per cent of all transactions were for flats and 82 per cent were for houses, split among detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, and two bungalows. Proportionally, First Time Buyers purchased more flats, terraced and semi-detached properties, but fewer detached houses than existing owners.

Table 5: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2019, by property type, England.

Property Type	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Percentage (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (total)	Percentage (total)
Flat ¹	43,711	20%	46,398	18%
Detached	53,805	25%	81,138	31%
Semi-detached	72,134	34%	84,646	32%
Terraced	44,387	21%	51,085	19%
Bungalow	2	0%	2	0%
Unrecorded	25	0%	28	0%
Total	214,064	100%	263,297	100%

1. Includes 28 completions (25 for First Time Buyers) for which the property type was not recorded, and 72 Studio apartments (71 for First Time Buyers).

Purchaser deposits

More than a half (55 per cent) of all home purchases were made with a deposit up to 5% of the property purchase price at the point of sale and 22 per cent with a deposit ranging between 5% and 10%. The remaining 22 per cent were made by purchasers who paid a deposit of 10% of the property value or more.

As expected, a greater proportion of First Time Buyers (59 per cent) put down a deposit of 5% per cent or less of the property purchase price, compared with existing home-owners (39 per cent). There was also a difference between the proportion of First Time Buyers (10 per cent) and non-First Time Buyers (28 per cent) that used a deposit of more than 15%.

Table 6: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2019, by purchaser deposit level and type of purchaser, England.

Deposit band ¹	Cumulative completions (non- First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (total)	Percentage (total)
Up to 5%	18,955	126,861	145,816	55%
5.1 - 10%	10,253	48,825	59,078	22%
10.1-15%	6,067	16,133	22,200	8%
15.1% or more	13,958	22,245	36,203	14%
All Properties	49,233	214,064	263,297	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 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. To December 2019, 53 per cent of the Help to Buy: Equity Loan borrowers had household incomes between £20,000 and £50,000. Only 2 and 5 per cent of applicants had household incomes below £20,000 and above £100,000 respectively. The majority of First Time Buyers (55 per cent) using Help to Buy: Equity Loan to purchase a property had household incomes ranging between £20,000 and £50,000.

Table 7: Cumulative number of legal completions, to 31 December 2019, by total applicant household income, England.

Total Applicant Household Income¹	Cumulative completions (First Time Buyers)	Percentage (First Time Buyers)	Cumulative completions (total)	Percentage (total)
£0 - £20,000	3,799	2%	4,230	2%
£20,001 - £30,000	26,244	12%	29,134	11%
£30,001 - £40,000	44,924	21%	51,763	20%
£40,001 - £50,000	47,105	22%	57,186	22%
£50,001 - £60,000	34,110	16%	43,674	17%
£60,001 - £80,000	34,755	16%	46,944	18%
£80,001 - £100,000	13,584	6%	18,301	7%
Greater than £100,000	9,543	4%	12,065	5%
Total	214,064	100%	263,297	100%

The quarterly averages of total applicant household income can be seen in Table 8. The average total applicant household income of scheme beneficiaries to date has been £53,084. Existing homeowners have a total household income which is, on average, £6,397 higher when compared to First Time Buyers. The median total applicant household income at national level is £46,700 for First Time Buyers, £54,465 for non-First Time Buyers and £48,100 for all completions.

In London, the average total household income of Help to Buy: Equity Loan applicants exceeded the national average, with a mean total household income of £70,019 and median of £64,553. The distribution of mean and median total household income by purchaser type reflects the national pattern with existing owners having on average higher household incomes compared to First-Time Buyers.

Figures for quarterly average total household incomes for London and England excluding London can be found in the tables accompanying the release.

Table 8: Average total applicant household income under the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme, by quarter, to 31 December 2019, 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	£43,497	£55,931	£44,877	£38,700	£51,998	£40,000
2014	£45,514	£55,043	£47,447	£40,500	£50,500	£42,372
2015	£47,819	£55,366	£49,423	£42,913	£51,000	£44,620
Q1	£45,880	£55,288	£47,958	£41,360	£50,400	£43,211
Q2	£47,920	£55,640	£49,548	£43,000	£51,199	£44,750
Q3	£48,142	£54,950	£49,584	£43,361	£51,172	£45,000
Q4	£48,407	£55,435	£49,888	£43,300	£51,000	£44,974
2016	£50,435	£56,978	£51,752	£45,238	£53,159	£46,945
Q1	£49,181	£56,086	£50,683	£44,026	£53,000	£45,700
Q2	£50,841	£56,770	£52,060	£45,349	£52,575	£47,046
Q3	£50,284	£57,739	£51,812	£45,253	£53,315	£47,000
Q4	£50,859	£57,178	£52,032	£45,943	£53,680	£47,360
2017	£53,306	£58,373	£54,272	£48,006	£54,743	£49,330
Q1	£51,763	£57,402	£52,808	£46,400	£54,024	£48,000
Q2	£53,435	£58,019	£54,323	£48,000	£54,015	£49,132
Q3	£53,928	£58,965	£54,912	£48,918	£55,153	£50,000
Q4	£53,638	£58,847	£54,614	£48,421	£55,207	£49,811
2018	£54,907	£60,215	£55,859	£50,000	£56,923	£51,025
Q1	£54,204	£59,317	£55,131	£49,269	£56,500	£50,324
Q2	£54,777	£60,303	£55,763	£49,749	£56,588	£50,966
Q3	£55,774	£61,630	£56,877	£50,341	£57,860	£51,846
Q4	£54,866	£59,625	£55,688	£50,000	£56,457	£51,060
2019	£56,847	£61,892	£57,741	£51,420	£58,194	£52,614
Q1	£56,029	£59,913	£56,653	£50,692	£56,071	£51,568
Q2	£56,681	£61,757	£57,533	£51,332	£57,800	£52,413
Q3	£58,227	£63,576	£59,216	£52,500	£59,994	£53,889
Q4	£56,504	£61,872	£57,532	£51,251	£58,635	£52,703
Total	£51,888	£58,285	£53,084	£46,700	£54,465	£48,100

Quarterly data for 2013 and 2014 is available in the Live tables accompanying this statistical release

Property tenure (freehold/leasehold)

Table 9 shows the number of completions by property type and tenure. Of the 263,297 completions in the scheme, 46,398 were flats, and 216,871 were houses.

Of the 46,398 flats, 95 per cent were recorded as leasehold tenure and 5 per cent were recorded as freehold tenure.

Of the 216,871 houses, 91 per cent were recorded as freehold tenure and 9 per cent were recorded as leasehold tenure.

Table 9: Cumulative number of legal completions to 31 December 2019, by property type and tenure, England¹.

Property Type	Cumulative completions (total):	of which freehold;	Percentage freehold	of which leasehold	Percentage leasehold	Unrecorded
Flat²	46,398	2,326	5%	44,072	95%	-
Houses	216,871	197,825	91%	19,039	9%	7
Detached	81,138	73,719	91%	7,414	9%	5
Semi-detached	84,646	77,206	91%	7,439	9%	1
Terraced	51,085	46,898	92%	4,186	8%	1
Bungalow	2	2	100%	-	0%	-
Unrecorded	28	18	64%	10	36%	-
Total³	263,297	200,169	76%	63,121	24%	7

1. 2,326 flats/studios have been recorded as freehold on Homes England's Investment Management System. This is based on information provided by Help to Buy agents in accordance with the monitoring requirements for the payment of the equity loans. In England, flats are typically owned on a leasehold basis and freehold flats are rare. A flat may also be owned as a 'share of freehold', meaning a tenant will have a lease for their flat as well as a share in the freehold of the whole building, but technically the flat will still be a leasehold. It is most likely that these flats recorded as freehold, are 'share of freehold'.

2. Includes 72 Studio apartments (2 freehold, 70 leasehold).

3. Includes a) 28 completions for which the property type was not recorded (18 freehold, 10 leasehold) and b) 7 properties (5 detached, 1 semi-detached and 1 terraced) for which the tenure type was not recorded.

The proportion of houses sold under the scheme on a leasehold basis was on an upward trend until early 2017; since then it has declined. Table 9a (which can be found in the tables accompanying the release) shows at the start of the scheme, in 2013 Q2, 5.7 per cent of houses were sold on a leasehold basis. Sales of leasehold houses rose and peaked in 2017 Q1 at 18.4 per cent and have since fallen to 1.3 per cent in 2019 Q4. Houses sold under the scheme on a leasehold basis are particularly prevalent in the North West as detailed in Table 9b accompanying this release

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 1b	Number and value of Help to Buy: Equity Loans (<u>quarterly</u>) for first time buyers, by local authority, England
Table 2	Number and value of Help to Buy: Equity Loans (<u>monthly</u>), 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- 9b** are also available to download from the link above.

In addition, legacy Help to Buy: NewBuy tables are also available at the link above. These tables have not been updated. For more information please see the Help to Buy: NewBuy text in the definitions and user engagement sections.

Table 3	Cumulative number of Help to Buy: NewBuy completions (since March 2012) by local authority, England
Statistical Release Table 10	Number of legal completions, Government liability (£m), and cost to Government (£m) under the Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme, England

Open Data

A subset of these statistics, broken down by Local Authority and Parliamentary Constituency are available in fully open and linkable data formats at Open Data Communities:

<http://opendatacommunities.org>

Definitions

The Housing Statistics and English Survey glossary can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/housing-statistics-and-england-housing-survey-glossary/a-to-z>

The glossary is a single reference point for terms and definitions used in MHCLG housing statistical publications and English Housing Survey reports, arranged alphabetically.

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 (40 per cent in Greater London) 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 (55 per cent in Greater London). The Government assistance to buy is made through an equity loan made by Homes England 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 Homes England 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 here:

<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://homesengland.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.

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

The Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme operate only in England.

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 operated only in England.

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.

Completions of legacy Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme are not included in these statistics. For the reporting period, 12 March 2012 to 8 September 2015, a total of 5,694 house purchases were made using the Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme.

Figures for the cumulative number of Help to Buy: NewBuy completions (since March 2012), by local authority in England can be found in all statistical releases up to 2018 Q1 and in accompanying tables 3 and 10. These legacy tables are no longer updated and can be found at:

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

Technical notes

Data collection

Help to Buy: Equity Loans

Data is extracted from Homes England'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.

Data quality

Assessment of data quality

In 2015 the UK Statistics Authority (UKSA) published a [regulatory standard for the quality assurance of administrative data](#). To assess the quality of the data provided for this release the department has followed that standard.

The standard is supported with an [Administrative Data Quality Assurance Toolkit](#) which provides useful guidance on the practices that can be adopted to assure the quality of the data they utilise.

The Help to Buy: Equity loan statistical release is produced by MHCLG based on data provided to the department from Homes England. An assessment of the level of risk based on the Quality Assurance Toolkit is as follows:

Risk/Profile Matrix Statistical Series	Administrative Source	Data Quality Concern	Public Interest	Matrix Classification
Help to Buy: Equity loan	Help to Buy agents providing data to Homes England information management System (IMS)	Low	Medium	Low Risk [A1/A2]

The publication of Help to Buy: Equity loan can be considered as medium profile, as there is some mainstream media interest, with moderate economic and/or political sensitivity.

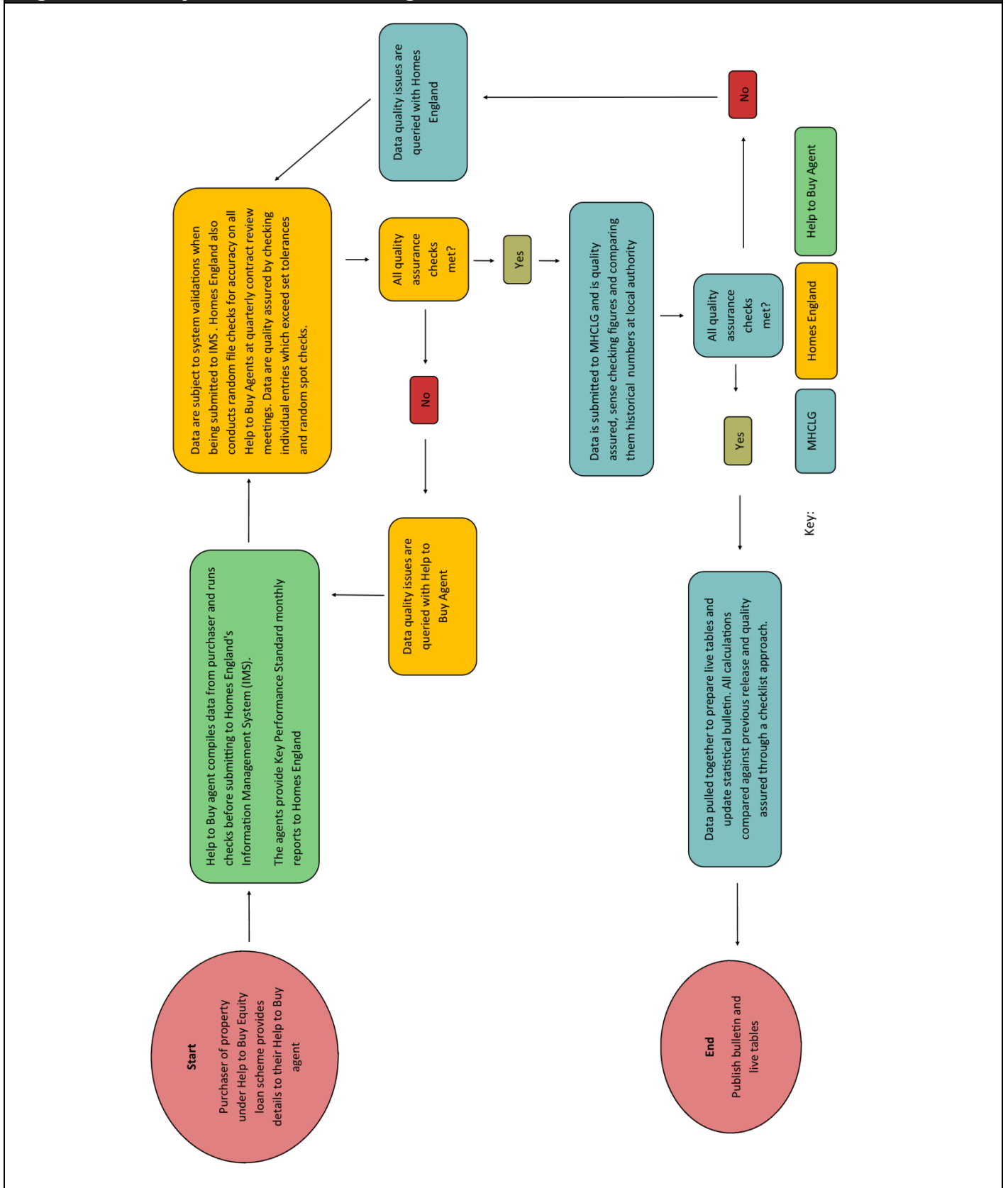
The data quality concern is considered a low concern given that the data is collected on behalf of the department by Homes England who have several quality assurance checks in place.

The data are then further quality assured in detail by the responsible statistician within the department. Further validation and quality checks are carried out, any issues detected are then queried with Homes England.

Overall, the Help to Buy: Equity Loan statistics have been assessed as A1/A2: Low Risk.

A full outline of the statistical production process and quality assurance carried out is provided in the flow chart in Figure 2. Further details are also provided against each of the four areas outlined in the Quality Assurance of Administrative Data (QAAD) Toolkit.

Figure 2: Quality assurance flow diagram



Operational context and admin data collection

Help to Buy: Equity Loan is government scheme administered by Homes England. Through Help to Buy: Equity Loan the Government lends equity towards the cost of a newly built home.

Data to produce this statistical return is collected by Homes England as part of their administration of the scheme. The data is recorded in Homes England's Information Management System (IMS) by Help to Buy agents.

Help to Buy agents are appointed by Homes England. Help to Buy agents administer the Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme. They have the authority to give the go-ahead for purchases with help from the equity loan scheme. The agents also make other key decisions during the purchase process. Details of the Help to Buy agents are available on the Help to Buy website

<https://www.helptobuy.gov.uk/equity-loan/find-helptobuy-agent/>

Communication with data supply partners

Homes England is a non-departmental public body. It is governed by a board who decide what its priorities are. Its members are appointed by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. There is agreement in place for Homes England to collect and provide this data to the department.

Homes England provides clear guidance to the Help to Buy Agents who supply the data as part of the Information Management system <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/investment-management-system-guidance-documents>

House builders are required to submit a monthly return within the first 10 business days of each month. Local Help to Buy agents are responsible for submitting an Authority to Proceed report within 2 business days of month end.

QA principles, standards and checks by data suppliers

Data submitted to Homes England are subject to system validations in IMS. In addition, Help to Buy Agents make Key Performance Standard monthly reports to Homes England and these include compliance with Homes England requirements. Homes England 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/>).

Producers' QA investigations and documentation

Data submitted to Homes England are subject to extensive checks, once it has been provided to the department further quality assurance checks are carried out. These include; checking the total number of completions with Homes England to ensure that the data sets match, comparing the figures for the current release with previously published figures to determine whether there are any anomalous increases, and geo-referencing the data. Geo-referencing involves attributing property

addresses to an individual local authority, parliamentary constituency, postcode sector and district by reconciling data against the latest version of the ONS Postcode Directory where possible.

There are further final quality assurance checks performed when producing this final statistical bulletin and live tables end product. These checks use a clear checklist approach to ensure published figures are consistent across the release and live tables, with each check being systematically signed off when it has been completed.

Imputation

There is no imputation of figures in this release. The data provided from Homes England is a complete record of all Help to buy equity loans.

Revisions policy

This policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics and the Ministry of Housing, 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 from April 1 2015 onwards. Initially, Homes England 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. Homes England 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 5 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.

Uses of the data

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

User engagement

This release provides data on 'Help to Buy (Equity Loan Scheme)' only. It previously had a section on the 'Help to Buy: NewBuy' scheme which closed to new mortgage offers on 8 March 2015. Any final transactions were completed on or before 8 September 2015. Therefore, starting Q2 2018, the title of this release was shortened to 'Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme), Data to 31 December 2019, England' to reflect its reduced content. The release retains a legacy section on the 'Newbuy scheme' providing summary figures and links to past releases and tables.

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 Ministry'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

A guide showing how the different housing statistics produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relate to each other can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guide-to-mhclg-housing-statistics>

Help to Buy: Equity Loan and related statistics are detailed in Table 11. Further information can be found in the separate statistical release for each source which can be found at the links below.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government is part of a cross government working group, including devolved administrations and the Office of National Statistics, working to improve the trustworthiness quality and value of housing and planning statistics across the UK.

This working group has published action plan to make the planned improvements on house building statistics clear and transparent to users. Details of this work and how you can provide feedback are available via the Government Statistical Service website:

<https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/guidances/working-with-users-2/housing-and-planning-statistics/>

Table 11: Help to Buy: Equity Loan and related statistics

Release	What do statistics show?	Frequency	Where does the data come from?	What are these figures most appropriate for?
This release: Help to Buy (Equity Loan scheme) MHCLG	Number of homes purchased and the value of equity loans under the Government's Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme.	Quarterly (Jan, Apr, Aug, Nov)	Data is extracted from Homes England's Investment Management System. This contains information provided by Help to Buy agents in accordance with monitoring requirements for the payment of the equity loans.	Provides an accurate assessment of properties purchased using the Government's Help to Buy: Equity Loan scheme.
Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee scheme MHCLG	Number of homes purchased under the Government's Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme.	Finalised. (Quarterly release previously published but no longer updated as scheme closed in 2015).	Data provided by JLT Insurance Management (Guernsey) Ltd in its capacity as administrator to the NewBuy Mortgage Indemnity Scheme.	Provides an accurate assessment of properties purchased using the Government's Help to Buy: NewBuy scheme.
Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme HMT	Number of homes purchased under the Government's Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme.	Finalised. (Quarterly release previously published but no longer updated as scheme closed in 2016).	Data provided by UK Asset Resolution corporate services, who administer the scheme on behalf of HM Treasury, collect data from lenders participating in the scheme in accordance with monitoring and reporting requirements set by HM Treasury.	Provides an accurate assessment of properties purchased using the Government's Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee scheme in the UK.
Housing Statistics Homes England	Housing starts on site and housing completions delivered by Homes England (which will exclude Help to Buy: Equity Loan)	Six-monthly (Jun, Nov)	The latest statistics on the supply of homes provided by the Homes England, excluding London except for delivery of programmes (excluding Help to Buy Equity Loan) managed by Homes England on behalf of the Greater London Authority.	Provides an accurate assessment of starts on sites and housing completions delivered by Homes England.
Affordable housing supply MHCLG	Overall affordable housing supply (new build and acquisitions)	Annual (November)	Homes England and Greater London Authority data which is published every six months combined with Local Authority Housing Statistics Data	Provides the most complete estimate of affordable housing supply, including shared ownership schemes. Affordable housing figures are a subset of total housing supply.
Housing supply; net additional dwellings MHCLG	Total housing supply that comprises all new build, conversions, change of use, other gains/losses and demolitions	Annual (November)	Comes from local authorities outside London (Housing Flows Reconciliation Return) and for London boroughs is provided by Greater London Authority (London Development Database)	Provides an accurate assessment of annual change in all housing stock and is the most comprehensive estimate of supply.
House building; new build dwellings MHCLG	Quarterly estimates of new build starts and completions	Quarterly (Mar, June, Sep, Dec)	Building control officers at: • National House Building Council • Local Authorities • Approved Inspectors	This is a 'leading indicator' of house building, available soon (< 2 months) after quarter end

Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee

The final MHCLG *Help to Buy: NewBuy Guarantee* statistics can be found at the following link.

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

Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee

The final *Help to Buy: Mortgage Guarantee* statistics can be found at the following link.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/help-to-buy-mortgage-guarantee-scheme-quarterly-statistics>

Housing Statistics

The *Homes England Housing Statistics* can be found at the following link.

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

Affordable Housing Supply

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Affordable Housing Supply statistics can be found at the following link.

<http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-for-housing-communities-and-local-government/series/affordable-housing-supply>

Housing Supply: Net Additional Dwellings

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's Housing Supply; Net Additional Dwellings statistics can be found at the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/net-supply-of-housing>

House Building: New Build Dwellings

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's House Building: New Build Dwellings statistics can be found at the following link.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/house-building-statistics>

Enquiries

Media enquiries:

0303 444 1209

Email: newsdesk@communities.gov.uk

Public enquiries and Responsible Statistician:

Niall McSharry

Email: housing.statistics@communities.gov.uk

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 Ministry's website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics>

© Crown copyright, 2020

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence visit

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>

This document/publication is also available on our website at www.gov.uk/mhclg

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, complete the form at

<http://forms.communities.gov.uk/> or write to us at:

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

Fry Building

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

Telephone: 030 3444 0000

For all our latest news and updates follow us on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/mhclg>

May 2020