

Publication of historical local authority stock and rents data and discontinuation of Live Tables 702 and 704

Overview

The department has published historical [Local Authority Housing Statistics \(LAHS\)](#) data on dwelling stock and average weekly rents by tenure and number of bedrooms and discontinued Live Tables 702 and 704. These tables remain [available on GOV.UK](#) but will no longer be updated.

Background

Data on local authority owned dwelling stock and average weekly rents within a Housing Revenue Account (HRA) was collected through LAHS from 2011-12 to 2018-19, before being replaced by similar questions in the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) [Local Authority Data Return \(LADR\)](#).

Live Table 702 presents the average weekly rents of HRA dwellings let at social rent and affordable rent by local authority, combining data from LAHS and its predecessors up to 2018-19 and LADR from 2019-20 onwards. This table has two discontinuities within the time series which make it difficult to interpret the data. These are the inclusion of affordable rent from 2012 onwards, and the change in coverage due to the change in data source from LAHS to LADR in 2019-20.

Meanwhile, Live Table 704 presents average weekly rents for general needs social rent dwellings owned by large PRPs.

Live Tables 702 and 704 are not directly comparable because Live Table 702 combines all HRA local authority owned dwellings let at either social or affordable rent (the latter from 2012 onwards), whereas Live Table 704 only covers general needs social rent dwellings owned by large PRPs.

Reasons for these changes

We believe there is limited benefit to users in the continued publication of Live Tables 702 and 704, because they are not comparable in their current format and user engagement suggests that the more recent data published by RSH is preferred.

We have instead brought together the historical local authority data in a single time series file for the first time, with a small number of corrections and improvements to data quality, with details included in the cover notes of the proposed data file.

The new time series file presents social rent and affordable rent tenures separately for HRA dwellings, broken down by the number of bedrooms, which provides the same breakdowns as the more recent data in RSH's tables. This means that users

can more easily consider specific categories (such as social rent or 3 bedroom properties) across a longer time series.

A further reason for discontinuing Live Tables 702 and 704 is that the department no longer collects any of the data itself and we do not produce the statistics released alongside them. There is therefore a risk of misinterpreting and misrepresenting the data if there are changes in definition or methodology in the source data.

About the historical data file

The historical data file that accompanies this document contains local authority level data on HRA dwelling stock and average weekly rents by tenure and number of bedrooms in England from 2011-12 to 2018-19.

It represents the latest information held by the department as it includes the corrections and revisions submitted by local authorities since the final versions of each year's returns were published. It therefore supersedes the discontinued Live Table 702 and the published data returns for those years. We do not have the breakdown for years prior to 2011-12.

Detailed definitions of the data in this file and guidance for data providers can be found alongside the yearly LAHS returns associated with each financial year.

Where to find more recent data

The source data from LADR from 2019-20 onwards is presented by local authority area in Tables 2.5 and 2.9 of the Regulator of Social Housing's [Local authority registered provider additional tables](#), for which there is separate file for each financial year.

The data for PRPs from RSH's [Statistical Data Return \(SDR\)](#) is presented by local authority area in Tables 2.6 and 2.11 of Regulator of Social Housing's [Private registered provider additional tables](#), for which there is separate file for each financial year.

The LADR and SDR data is presented (nationally) from 2019-20 onwards in a combined time series for England in Table 1.4 of the RSH [Registered provider social housing stock and rents in England](#) additional tables.