



# Statutory Homelessness: January to March 2013 and 2012/13, England

## Household acceptances

- 13,230 applicants were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty between 1 January and 31 March 2013, which is less than one per cent greater than the same quarter last year.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, there were 13,370 acceptances, a decrease of 2 per cent from 13,680 in the previous quarter.
- During the 2012/13 financial year, there were 53,540 acceptances. This is an increase of 6 per cent from 50,290 in 2011/12.

## Households in temporary accommodation

- 55,300 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, 10 per cent higher than at the same date last year.
- On a seasonally-adjusted basis, 55,310 households were in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, 3 per cent higher than the figure of 53,710 in the previous quarter.
- 8 per cent of households were in bed and breakfast style accommodation. This is an increase from 3,960 to 4,500 (14 per cent) compared to the same date last year.
- 9,000 of the households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 14 per cent, from 7,870 at the same date last year.
- The proportion of households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements who had been in such arrangements for two or more years has fallen from 12 per cent to 9 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

6 June 2013



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## Introduction

This release provides summary information on local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation, collected through the quarterly P1E return. Data include the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (referred to as 'acceptances') during the quarter, and the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter. Accompanying tables are provided online alongside the release and are listed on pages 15 and 16. These form the underlying data used to produce the text and charts. The background notes section provides more detail of terms used within the release.

This statistical release does not include any regional totals except for London following last year's consultation on the publication of regional statistics. Further details are given in the Written Ministerial Statement of 18 December 2012, which is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/statistics-for-local-enterprise-partnerships-and-upper-tier-local-authorities>. Figures are given for London because they relate to the area covered by the Greater London Authority.

## Decisions taken by local authorities on homeless applications

Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, local housing authorities made 28,270 decisions on applications (by eligible households) for housing assistance, under the homelessness legislation of the Housing Act 1996. This is 1 per cent higher than the corresponding quarter in 2012. After seasonal adjustment, the number of decisions was 28,320, 2 per cent lower than in the previous quarter. During the 2012/13 financial year, 113,260 decisions were made by local authorities. This is an increase of 4 per cent from 108,720 in 2011/12. Of the 28,270 decisions made between 1 January and 31 March 2013:

- 47 per cent were accepted as owed a main homelessness duty;
- 27 per cent were found not to be homeless;
- 18 per cent were found to be homeless but not in priority need; and
- 8 per cent were found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need.

The number of households found to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need ('acceptances') rose by less than 1 per cent compared with the same quarter in 2012, whereas the number of households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need increased by 11 per cent. The number of households found to be homeless but not in priority need fell by less than 1 per cent, and the number of households found not to be homeless rose by 2 per cent.

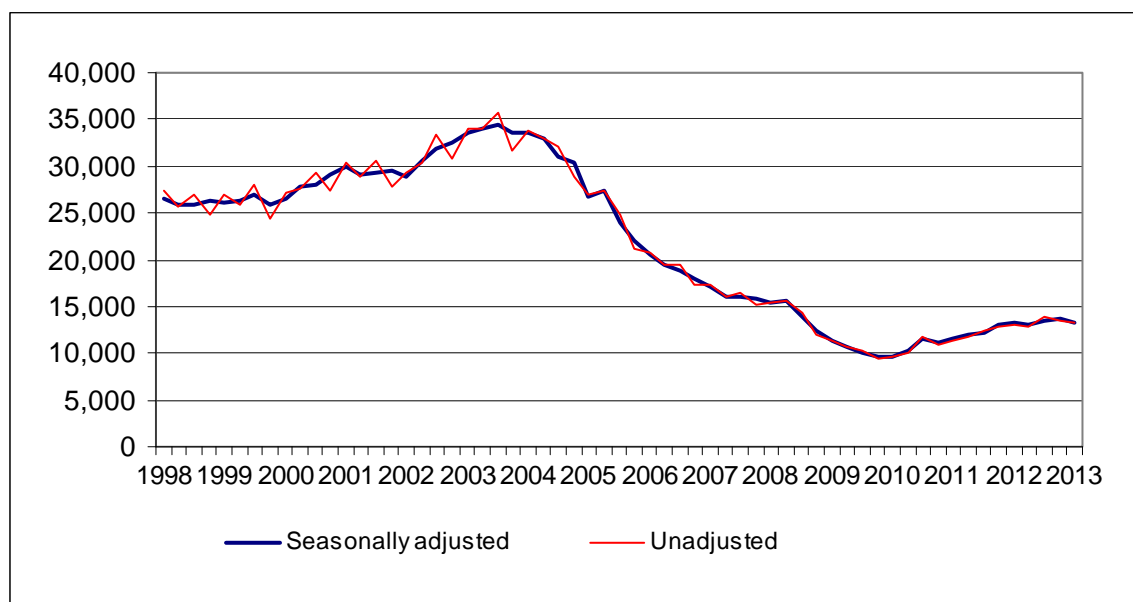
There is no difference in the proportion of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty as a percentage of decisions when compared to the same quarter last year, with the figure remaining at 47 per cent. Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty are discussed further in the next section.

## Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (acceptances)

Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, local authorities accepted 13,230 households as being owed a main homelessness duty. This is an increase of less than 1 per cent compared to the same quarter last year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of acceptances during the first quarter of 2013 was 13,370, a decrease of 2 per cent from the seasonally-adjusted figure of 13,680 in the previous quarter.

During the 2012/13 financial year, 53,540 households were accepted by local authorities as being owed the main homelessness duty. This is an increase of 6 per cent from 50,290 in 2011/12.

**Chart 1: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty each quarter, 1998 to January to March 2013, England**



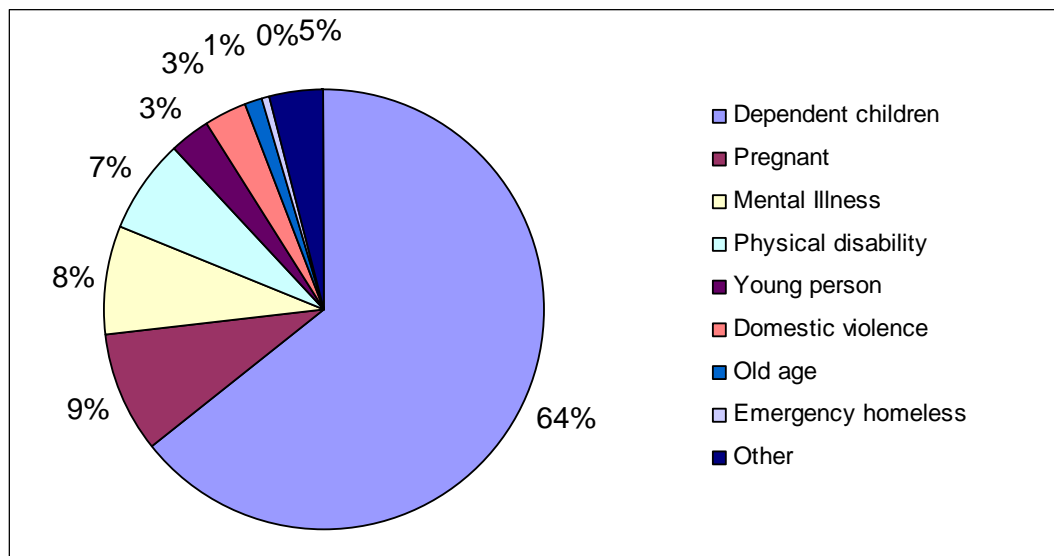
See Live Table 770: decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households

### Acceptances by priority need category

Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, the presence of dependent children in the household was the primary reason for priority need in 64 per cent of acceptances, representing 8,490 households. This is an increase from 63 per cent in the same quarter last year. A further 9 per cent of households were in priority need because they included a pregnant woman, representing 1,180 households and down from 10 per cent in the same quarter last year.

The majority of the remainder were in priority need due to vulnerability, for example, mental illness (8 per cent) or physical disability (7 per cent). Homeless in an emergency accounted for less than 1 per cent of all acceptances. 3 per cent of acceptances were in priority need through being a young person (either 16 or 17 year-olds, or 18 to 20 year-olds formerly in care).

**Chart 2: Acceptances by priority need category during January to March 2013, England**



See Live Table 773: homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category

### Acceptances by reason for loss of last settled home

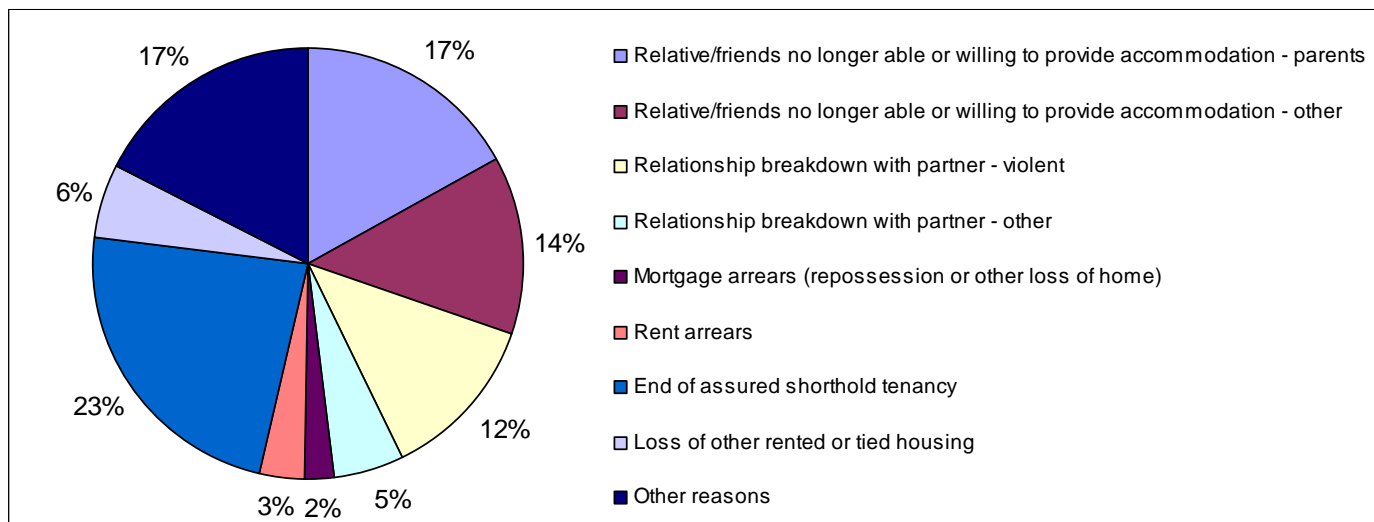
Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, in 30 per cent of acceptances the reason for homelessness was parents, relatives or friends (mostly parents) not being able, or willing, to accommodate applicants.

In a further 18 per cent of acceptances, the reason for homelessness was the breakdown of a relationship with a partner, 69 per cent of these cases involving violence.

In 23 per cent of acceptances the reason for homelessness was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy. There has been a rise in acceptances for this reason, from 19 per cent in the same quarter in 2012.

The proportion of acceptances where homelessness resulted from mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home) was 2 per cent, down from 3 per cent for the same quarter in 2012. The proportion of acceptances due to mortgage arrears has remained much lower than the peak in the last downturn: 12 per cent during 1991.

**Chart 3: Acceptances by reason for loss of last settled home during January to March 2013, England**



See Live Table 774: homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home

### Acceptances by ethnicity

Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, 64 per cent of applicants accepted were stated as being White and 30 per cent were stated as being from a Black and Minority Ethnic group: 15 per cent Black, 8 per cent Asian, 3 per cent mixed and 4 per cent another ethnic group. The ethnic origin of the remaining 6 per cent was not stated. Compared to the population as a whole, there is a higher incidence of acceptances amongst Black and Minority Ethnic groups than amongst the White population.

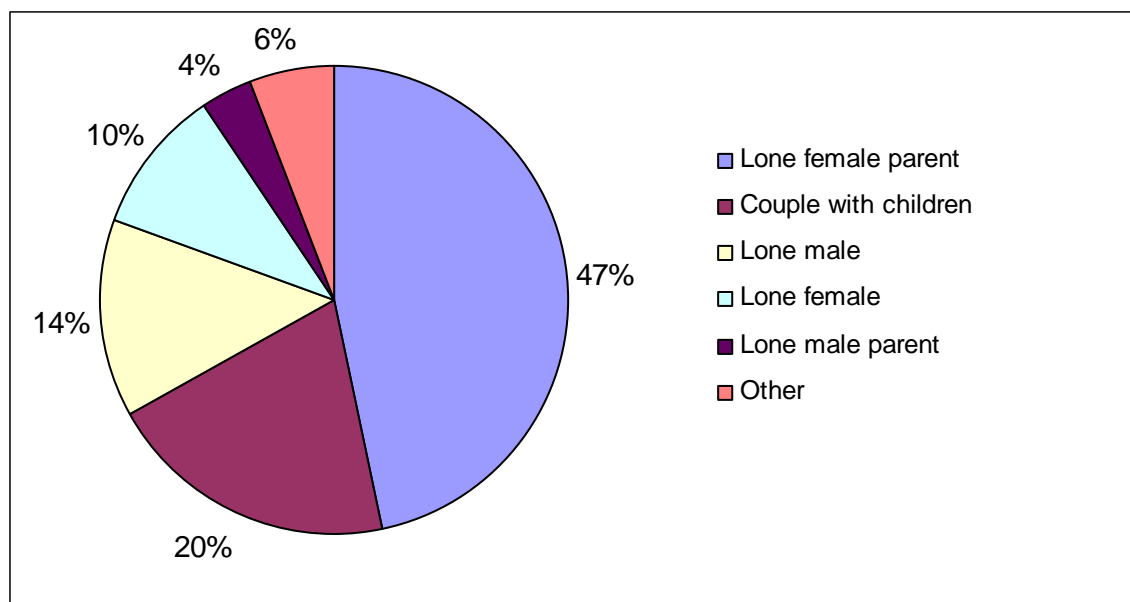
See Live Table 771: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity

### Acceptances by household type

Of the 13,230 acceptances between 1 January and 31 March 2013, 50 per cent were lone parent households with dependent children (4 per cent male, 47 per cent female), and 20 per cent were couples with dependent children.

One person households accounted for 24 per cent of acceptances, of which 57 per cent were male.

#### Chart 4: Acceptances by household type during January to March 2013, England



See Live Table 780: homeless households accepted by local authorities, by household type

#### Acceptances by age band

Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, 84 per cent of all acceptances were applicants aged under 45 years old: 54 per cent were aged between 25 and 44, and 30 per cent between 16 and 24.

See Live Table 781: homeless households accepted by local authorities, by age of applicant

#### Action taken in respect of acceptances

Of the 13,230 acceptances between 1 January and 31 March 2013, 8,050 (61 per cent) were placed in some form of temporary accommodation for a period of time. This is at the same level as in the same quarter last year. For a further 4,120 accepted households (31 per cent), arrangements were made, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements), for the immediate future while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is up slightly, from 30 per cent in the same quarter last year.

6 per cent of acceptances were provided with settled accommodation, by being granted a secure tenancy in local authority or registered social landlord accommodation, or an assured short hold tenancy in the private rented sector. The remaining 2 per cent either made their own arrangements or had no further contact with the authority, thus bringing the homelessness duty to an end.

See the first part of Live Table 778: homeless households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as "duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome

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## Homelessness acceptances: London and the rest of England

The number of households accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty in London between 1 January and 31 March 2013 was 3,990. This is an increase of 6% from 3,760 the same quarter last year and accounts for 30% of the England total. In London, the main reason for the loss of last settled home was the ending of an assured shorthold tenancy at 1,180 (30%). This is an increase of 58% from 750 in the same quarter last year.

The average incidence of homelessness acceptances across England between 1 January and 31 March 2013 was 0.6 per thousand households. This can be broken down into 1.2 per thousand households in London and 0.5 in the rest of England.

## Foreign national households

2,060 foreign national applicants were accepted as homeless between 1 January and 31 March 2013. Of these, 400 were A10 nationals, 430 were from other European Economic Area (EEA) countries and 1,230 were from outside the EEA. During this period, foreign nationals accounted for 16 per cent of all acceptances, slightly up from the figure of 15 per cent for the same quarter last year, when there were 1,920 acceptances.

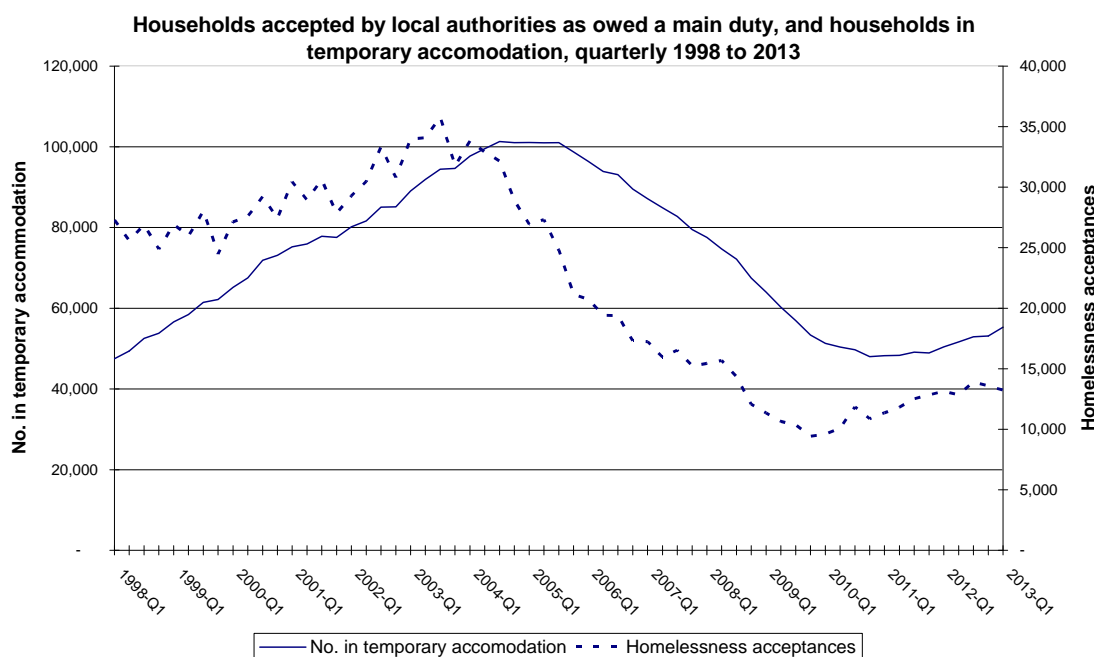
*See Live Table 785: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible foreign national households; and Live Table 786: Homeless foreign national households accepted by local authorities, by reason for eligibility*

## Households in temporary accommodation

The number of households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation, was 55,300: 10 per cent more than the same date last year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of households in temporary accommodation was 55,310, up 3 per cent from the figure of 53,710 at the end of the previous quarter. This is the seventh quarterly increase since the ending in 2011 of the long-term downward trend in the seasonally-adjusted number of households in temporary accommodation, which started at the peak in 2004.

Historically there tends to be a lag between a change in direction in the number of acceptances and a change in direction in the number of households in temporary accommodation, as shown in Chart 5. Recent figures have also demonstrated that pattern, with the upward turn in the time series of acceptances that took place in 2010 having been followed by an upward turn in the time series of households in temporary accommodation.

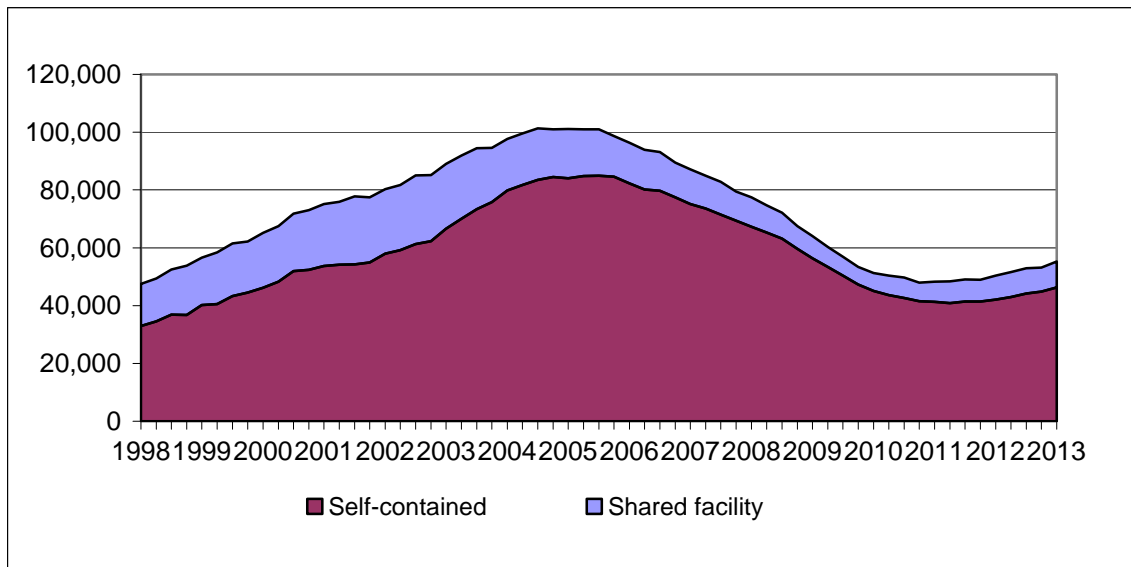
**Chart 5: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty, and households in temporary accommodation, quarterly 1998 to Q1 2013**



Of the 55,300 households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2013, 78 per cent had been accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and were being housed in temporary accommodation by the authority until a settled home became available. The remaining 22 per cent were being accommodated pending a decision on their application, the outcome of a local authority review or an appeal to the county court on the authority's decision, or possible referral to another local authority, or had been found intentionally homeless and in priority need and subsequently were being accommodated for such a period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.



**Chart 6: Households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type, 1998 to 31 March 2013, England**

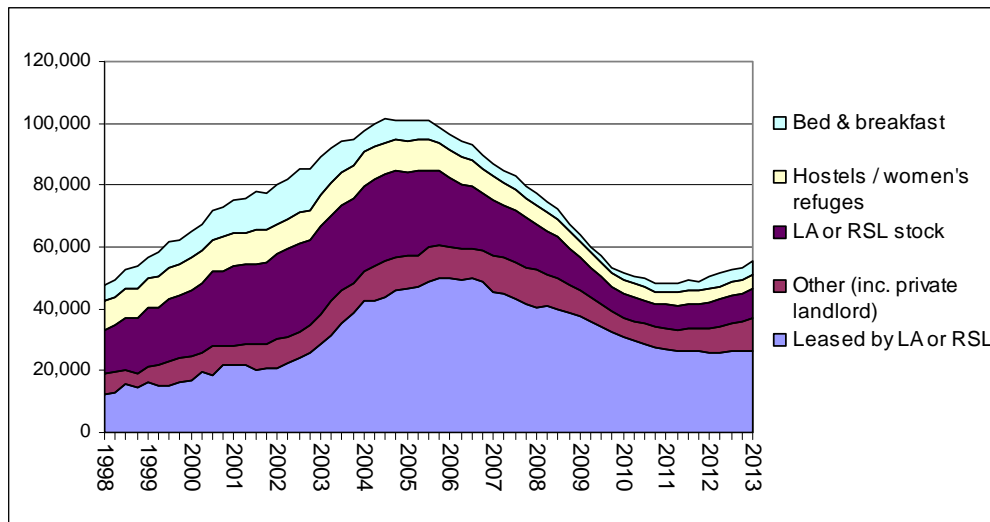


### Households in temporary accommodation, by type of accommodation

There is a wide range of accommodation used to provide temporary accommodation, most of which is self-contained (either in local authority or housing authority stock, or within the private sector). At the end of March 2013, 84 per cent of households in temporary accommodation were in self-contained accommodation. This was the same as at the same date last year.

Looked at the other way round, use of accommodation with shared facilities stayed relatively consistent over recent quarters, at around 16 per cent, after a short period of increase following a long period of decline since its peak in 2001, when 30 per cent of households were in this form of temporary accommodation.

**Chart 7: Households in temporary accommodation, by type, at the end of each quarter, 1998 to 31 March 2013, England**



On 31 March 2013, of the **55,300 households in temporary accommodation**:

- 37,060 households were in **private sector accommodation** (67 per cent of all households), most commonly in a property leased by the local authority or housing association, or in some cases let directly to the applicant as the tenant of a private sector landlord. This is an increase of 9 per cent from 31 March last year, when there were 33,850 such households.
- 9,270 households were in accommodation owned by **social landlords** (17 per cent of all households), up 12 per cent from 8,270 households as at 31 March last year. Of these 9,270 households, 72 per cent were in local authority owned stock, and 28 per cent in registered social landlord owned property.
- 4,470 households were in **hostel accommodation and women's refuges** (8 per cent of all households), up 3 per cent from the same time last year.
- 4,500 households were in **bed and breakfast style accommodation** (8 per cent of all households), 14 per cent higher than the same time last year. London accounts for just over half the number of households in bed and breakfast style accommodation, where the number has increased by 22 per cent since the same quarter last year (1,880 to 2,290 households). Historically, the use of bed and breakfast accommodation peaked in March 1987, when 47 per cent (England) and 59 per cent (London) of households in temporary accommodation were housed in this style of accommodation.

In addition to the 55,300 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, 5,920 households accepted as owed a main duty remained (with consent) in their existing accommodation (or made their own arrangements) while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is 10 per cent higher than at the same date last year.

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*See Live Table 775: homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation*

### **Young people in temporary accommodation**

Of the 55,300 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, 40,450 included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman (within which households there were 76,030 children or expected children). The average number of children in those households in temporary accommodation with children is about 1.9, having been at this level since 2006, after increasing from 1.7 when the data were first collected in 2004.

Of these 40,450 households with children, 88 per cent were in self-contained accommodation, down from 89 per cent as at the end of the same quarter last year. 1,970 (5 per cent) were in bed and breakfast style accommodation, up 19 per cent from 1,660 at the end of the same quarter last year. Of these 1,970 households, 760 had been in bed and breakfast style accommodation for over six weeks (50 of which were pending review). This represents an increase of 59% since the end of the same quarter last year.

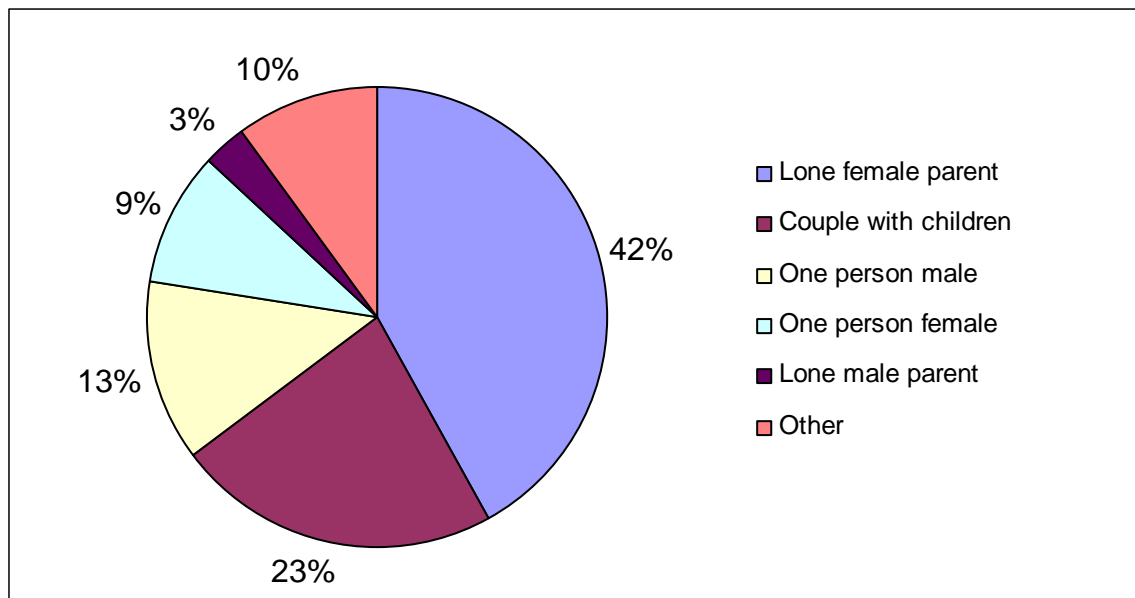
At the end of March 2013, there were 100 households headed by 16 and 17 year-old applicants in bed and breakfast style accommodation, of which 40 had been there for over six weeks.

### **Households in temporary accommodation, by household type and ethnicity**

Of the 55,300 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, the biggest group (42 per cent) were female lone parent households with dependent children. Couples with dependent children accounted for 23 per cent of households. Single person households (with no dependent children) also accounted for 22 per cent of households, with a higher proportion of males than females.

49 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation were headed by ethnic minority applicants. The vast majority of these households (90 per cent) were in London, where they represented 60 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation. This reflects the high usage of temporary accommodation and larger ethnic minority population in the area. Outside London, ethnic minority applicants accounted for 19 per cent of households in temporary accommodation.

**Chart 8: Households in temporary accommodation by household type: 31 March 2013, England**

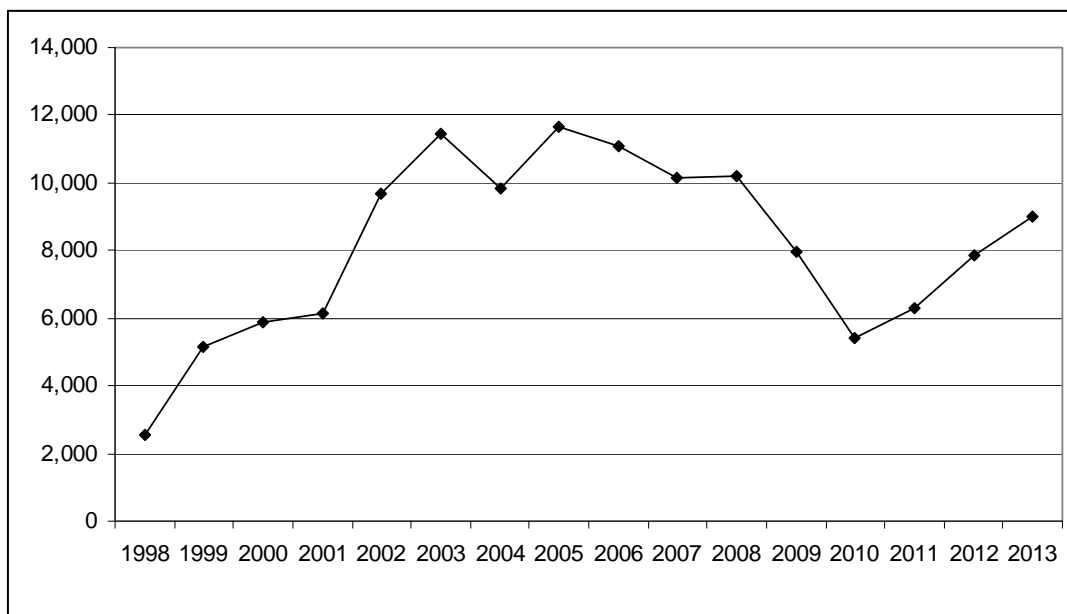


See Live Table 782: homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by household type and applicant characteristics

**Households in temporary accommodation in another local authority district**

Of the 55,300 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, 9,000 were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 14 per cent, from 7,870 at the same date last year.

**Chart 9: Households in temporary accommodation in another local authority district: England, as at 31 March 1998 to 2013**



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## Households in temporary accommodation: London and the rest of England

London had 40,230 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2013, accounting for 73 per cent of the England total.

As at 31 March 2013, England had an average rate of 2.4 households in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households. This can be broken down into 11.9 per thousand households in London and 0.8 in the rest of England.

## Households leaving temporary accommodation and other temporary arrangements

Between 1 January and 31 March 2013, a main homelessness duty was ended for 10,510 households who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is an increase of less than 1 per cent compared to the same quarter last year.

7,570 (72 per cent) of these households were provided with settled accommodation, by accepting a "Part 6" offer of a secure tenancy in local authority or housing authority accommodation, although a further 5 per cent refused such an offer. A further 4 per cent accepted alternative offers of rented accommodation.

13 per cent of households voluntarily left the temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangement. The remaining 6 per cent of households ceased to be eligible, or became intentionally homeless from the temporary accommodation provided for them.

*See the second part of Live Table 778: homeless households accepted by local authorities and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as "duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome.*

## Length of time in temporary accommodation (and other temporary arrangements), between acceptance and duty being ended

Of the 10,510 households who left temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements during the quarter, 66 per cent had been in these temporary arrangements for less than six months, up from 65 per cent for the same quarter last year. The percentage of households that spend two or more years in temporary accommodation had fallen from 12 per cent to 9 per cent.

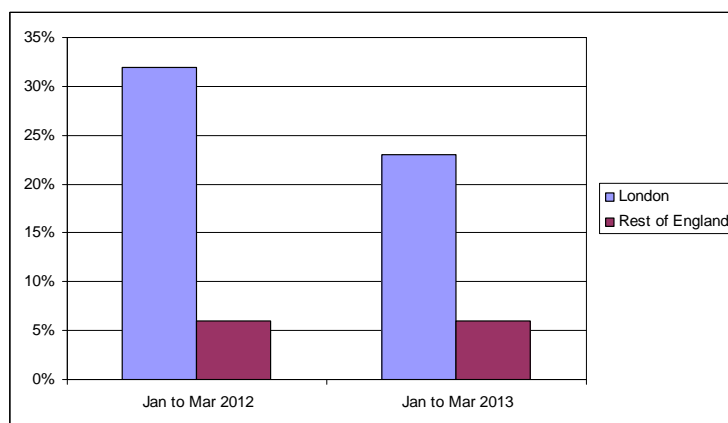
Lengths of time in temporary arrangements vary across England, with the biggest differences being between London and the rest of the country. Chart 10a compares the proportion of those spending two years or more in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, for the most recent quarter and the same quarter last year for London and the rest of England and Chart 10b compares the proportion of those spending less than six months in temporary arrangements for London and the rest of England.

In London between 1 January and 31 March 2013, 23 per cent of households that left temporary arrangements had previously spent two or more years in such temporary arrangements. This is a decrease from 32 per cent in the same quarter last year. Conversely, in the rest of England, this figure is 2 per cent, down from 3 per cent compared to January to March 2012

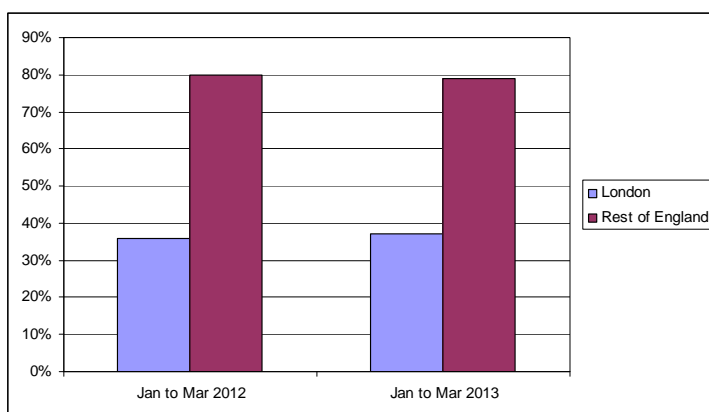
In London between 1 January and 31 March 2013, 37 per cent of households that left temporary arrangements had previously spent less than six months in such temporary arrangements. This is a small increase from 36 per cent in the same quarter last year. Conversely, in the rest of England, this figure was 79 per cent, down slightly from 80 per cent in January to March 2012

*See Live Table 779: households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of stay, England and London.*

**Chart 10a: Proportion of households that spent two years or more in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, London and the rest of England: January to March, 2012 and 2013**



**Chart 10b: Proportion of households that spent less than six months in temporary arrangements before the main duty was ended, London and the rest of England: January to March, 2012 and 2013**



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## Accompanying live tables

The following live tables on homelessness can be found at the following link:

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

- Table 770 Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households (including a map at local authority level)
- Table 771 Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by ethnicity
- Table 772 \* Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by region (including a map)
- Table 773 Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category
- Table 774 Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home
- Table 775 Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation (including a map at local authority level)
- Table 776 \* Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by region (including a map)
- Table 777 Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, London and England
- Table 778 Homeless households accepted by local authorities, and households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”), by outcome
- Table 779 Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of time since acceptance, England and London
- Table 780 Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by household type
- Table 781 Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by age of applicant
- Table 782 Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by household type and ethnicity
- Table 783 \* Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation and region

Table 784	Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by local authority: financial years 2004-05 to 2012-13
Table 784a	Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the 1985 and 1996 Housing Acts, by local authority (each quarter of 2012-13)
Table 785	Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible foreign national households
Table 786	Homeless foreign national households accepted by local authorities, by reason for eligibility
Table 793	Families with children in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks, excluding those pending review, by local authority

\* Tables giving regional totals have been frozen so as not to include figures for any periods after Q2 2012.

A table supplementing Table 793, giving figures at local authority level for families in bed and breakfast accommodation for over six weeks, for 2007 to 2012, is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/families-in-bed-and-breakfast-accommodation-for-more-than-6-weeks>.

## Definitions

1. **Decisions:** all households that apply for assistance under the Housing and Homelessness Acts. However, these do not include households found to be ineligible for assistance (some persons from abroad are ineligible for assistance).
2. **Acceptances:** households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group (as defined by homelessness legislation - see paragraph 3 below), *during the quarter*, are referred to as “acceptances”. These households are consequently owed a main homelessness duty by a local housing authority. The main duty is to secure settled accommodation.
3. **Priority need groups:** include households with dependent children or a pregnant woman and people who are vulnerable in some way e.g. because of mental illness or physical disability. The priority need categories were extended by Order in January 2002 to include, additionally: applicants aged 16 or 17; applicants aged 18 to 20 who were previously in care; applicants vulnerable as a result of time spent in care, in custody, or in HM Forces, and applicants vulnerable as a result of having to flee their home because of violence or the threat of violence (in addition domestic violence which is one of the original priority need groups). It is not possible to establish precisely how much of the changed profile of acceptances is attributable to the Order. Previously,



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some local authorities would have accepted households who fall within the new categories as having a priority need because of "another special reason". This applies in particular to applicants such as vulnerable young people, and people fleeing domestic violence. Note: where applicants are accepted as homeless because of an emergency, for example fire or flood, this will always be recorded as the main priority need category.

4. **Temporary accommodation:** households in temporary accommodation (excluding those for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured) *on the last day of the quarter*, as arranged by a local housing authority as a discharge of their statutory homelessness functions. In most cases, the authority is discharging a main homelessness duty to secure suitable accommodation until a settled home becomes available for the applicant and his/her household. However, the numbers also include households provided with accommodation pending a decision on their homelessness application, households pending a review or appeal to the county court of the decision on their case, or possible referral to another local authority, and households found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need who were being accommodated for such period as would give them a reasonable opportunity to find accommodation for themselves.

5. **Self-contained accommodation:** this includes all temporary accommodation where the household has sole use of kitchen and bathroom facilities, including property held by local housing authorities, registered social landlords and private sector landlords. A distinction is made between this type of accommodation and accommodation where such facilities are shared with other households (i.e. bed and breakfast, hostels and women's refuges).

6. **Households for whom a duty is owed, but no accommodation has been secured:** These are households who have been accepted as being owed a main homelessness duty and for whom arrangements have been made for them, with consent, to remain in their existing accommodation (or to make their own arrangements) for the immediate future. This was previously referred to as "Homeless at Home".

## Legislation

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents>) and the Homelessness Act 2002 (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents>) place statutory duties on local housing authorities to provide assistance to people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. Authorities must consider all applications from people seeking accommodation or assistance in obtaining accommodation. A main homelessness duty (see below) is owed where the authority is satisfied that the applicant is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falls within a priority need group. The priority need groups are specified in the legislation, although definition 3 above provides a summary.

Where a main duty is owed, the authority must ensure that suitable accommodation is available for the applicant and his or her household until a settled home becomes available for them. Where households are found to be intentionally homeless or not in priority need, the authority must make

an assessment of their housing needs and provide advice and assistance to help them find accommodation for themselves. Where the applicant is found to be intentionally homeless but falls in a priority need category the authority must also ensure that accommodation is available for long enough to give the applicant a reasonable opportunity to find a home.

## Methodology

1. The **seasonally adjusted** estimates have been produced using the X12-ARIMA model, in accordance with Official Statistics practices, which have then been constrained so that they are consistent with the unadjusted financial year totals. Historically, the number of decisions and acceptances tends to be lower in the second quarter than in the first and third quarters, and will also be affected by seasonal holiday periods, especially Christmas and the New Year. From the second quarter of 2009, seasonal adjustments were included for the households in temporary accommodation series, as this series was also found to be affected by seasonality.
2. **Rates per 1,000 households** have been calculated using the 2008-based household projections for 2012 produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These are consistent with the projections published on 26 November 2010 at the following link:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/household-projections-2008-to-2033-in-england>
3. National and regional figures in the text and accompanying tables are presented rounded to the nearest ten households or applicants. Local authority figures provided in the live tables are unrounded.
4. The maps are based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office:

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## Data Source and Scope

Local housing authorities report their activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 to the Department for Communities and Local Government by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. A recent form and guidance note can be found in the “Notes and Definitions” section of the Department’s homelessness statistics pages at: <https://www.gov.uk/homelessness-data-notes-and-definitions>.

The following uses are made of data from particular sections of the P1E statistical return:

- Sections 1 – 7: data are used in this statistical release and live tables 770 to 784a and 793
- Section 8: this has been discontinued
- Section 9: data on foreign nationals - used in this statistical release and Live tables 785 and 786
- Section 10: prevention and relief data - used in the annual statistical release on

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## homelessness prevention and relief and live tables 787 to 792

Statutory homelessness statistics are published around 50 working days after the end of each quarter, on a pre-announced date in accordance with the Official Statistics Code of Practice.

The scope of this data collection and statistical release is limited to English local housing authorities' activities under homelessness legislation. This release does not contain data on other forms of homelessness, for example, rough sleeping. The devolved administrations publish their own statistics on statutory homelessness.

In **Scotland**, local authorities' homelessness duties under the Housing (Scotland) Act 1987 have been substantially amended by the Housing (Scotland) Act 2001 and the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003. The 2001 Act extended the duties towards non-priority homeless households, ensuring they are provided with a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance. The 2003 Act introduced many changes, of which the target to abolish the priority need test by 2012 is the most significant. The target states that by 31 December 2012 everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless was entitled to settled accommodation.

The framework of the assessment process is similar to that in England. Local authorities currently make enquiries as to whether the person is homeless, whether they have a priority need, whether they made themselves homeless intentionally, and whether they have a local connection with the local authority. However, when fully enacted, the 2003 Act will remove or substantially amend the priority need, intentionality and local connection stages.

Data on applications are collected on the HL1 return, a continuous case level electronic data capture system. This case level data allows analysis of applications and breakdowns by combinations of characteristics which are not possible from the English local authority level P1E return. Cases can also be grouped to household level to identify instances of repeat homelessness.

Data on households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter are collected on the HL2 form which is completed by local authorities and records summary snapshot details in a similar way to the P1E. The HL2 return also contains information on households at risk of homelessness as defined under Section 11 of the Homelessness etc. (Scotland) Act 2003.

The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Scotland are available at:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/RefTables>

In **Wales**, local authorities are bound by the same statutory duties as those in England. The data are collected on a quarterly local authority level WHO12 return, similar to the P1E form in England. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Wales are available at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/theme/housing/homeless/?lang=en>

In **Northern Ireland** statistics on homelessness are sourced from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Under the Housing (NI) Order 1988, NIHE has a similar statutory responsibility to secure permanent accommodation for households who are unintentionally homeless and in priority need; to secure temporary accommodation in a variety of circumstances and to provide advice and assistance to those who are homeless or threatened with homelessness. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Northern Ireland are available at:

[http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/housing\\_bulletins.htm](http://www.dsdni.gov.uk/index/publications/housing_bulletins.htm)

## Comparing between countries

Statutory homelessness statistics for Wales and Northern Ireland are comparable with the English figures. However, actions taken by Scottish authorities since the 2003 Act to meet the target to abolish priority need by the end of 2012 mean that caution should be exercised when comparing Scotland and England figures or deriving a UK figure over that time period.

## Related links

The Department also releases information on Homelessness Prevention and Relief. The most recent publication, relating to local authority actions in the 2011-12 financial year, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/homelessness-prevention-and-relief-england-2011-to-2012>

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2012>.

Statistics on local authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the link below. The RO4 return within the Revenue Outturn suite relates to housing services and includes information on local authorities' expenditure on homelessness activities:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing>

## Data quality

All P1E returns submitted by local housing authorities undergo thorough validation and cross-checking, and late returns are pursued to ensure overall response is as complete and accurate as possible. Anomalous data are highlighted and verified by contacting the local authority.

Local authorities also provide details of any data checks they undertake. These can take the form of audits (by either internal or external auditors), periodic quality checks on data extracts, or random quality checks. For the period January to March 2013, most authorities reported some form of checking on all data items in the return.

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The validation process typically takes around six weeks, after which estimates for missing data are calculated. Local authorities are split into groups based on the region they are in and by type of authority. For example, the West Midlands is split into two groups, one group of district and unitary authorities, the other of metropolitan districts. London is split into Inner and Outer London. Estimates are then calculated by an automated grossing procedure which either (i) updates previously reported data based on the changes observed in other authorities in the same group or (ii) apports totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities.

The latest quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 320 out of 326 local authorities (98 per cent response). Section 7 of the form, covering households leaving temporary accommodation or other temporary arrangements had the lowest rate of return, with 20 local authorities not providing any figures. Overall, 96 per cent of cells were filled in by local authorities.

The Department for Communities and Local Government's statistical quality guidelines are published here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-dclg-quality-guidelines>

## 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 revision 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**

Local authorities can update their P1E returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year the figures for the four quarters of the previous year will be reviewed for revision. A decision on whether to revise will be made based on the impact of any change and the effect it has on the interpretation of the time series. No revisions were made this quarter to the 2012/13 figures. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P".

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) should be made only where there is a substantial revision, such as a change in methodology or definition.

Where there are small changes that do not substantially change historic data, internal updates are maintained.

## Uses of the data

The data in this Statistical Release form the basis of evidence on statutory homelessness. Acceptances, decisions, and numbers in temporary accommodation are core series describing homelessness in England, and are key series for international comparisons. They are used by ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government in the formulation and monitoring of policy, the allocation of resources, performance monitoring and to support bids for funding from the Treasury. The data are used to ensure democratic accountability in answers to Parliamentary Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public.

The Departmental Business Plan, first published on 8 November 2010 and refreshed on 31 May 2012, includes an impact indicator on households in temporary accommodation. As at 31 March 2013, there were 55,300 households in temporary accommodation. This is 10 per cent higher than at the same date last year. After seasonal adjustment, the number of households in temporary accommodation was 55,310, an increase of 3 per cent over the figure of 53,710 in the previous quarter. The refreshed Business Plan can be seen at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dclg-business-plan-2012-to-2015>

Other Government departments also use the statistics, including DWP (monitoring those in temporary accommodation in receipt of housing benefit), DH (Public Health Outcomes Framework), DfE (Child poverty needs assessment toolkit for local authorities) and Defra (sustainable development indicators). Local housing authorities are both providers and users of the statistics and use the data extensively to plan services, allocate resources, monitor performance and benchmark against other authorities. The voluntary sector also uses the statistics to monitor and evaluate housing policy and for campaigning and fundraising purposes.

## User consultation

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>.

The Department's *Statistics Plan for 2011/12* (available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/dclg-draft-statistics-plan-for-2011-to-2012>) sets out the Department's intention to reduce the detail of the statutory homelessness quarterly

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releases to include only the most high profile and volatile data, with a more detailed publication at year end. This approach is now being followed. The Statistics Plan was available for user consultation from 13 April to 3 December 2011 and the final version of the plan was published on 7 March 2012.

## Other information

Details of officials who receive pre-release access to the Department's quarterly Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release up to 24 hours before release can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics#pre-release-access-to-official-statistics>.

The publication date for the second quarter (April to June) 2013 Statutory Homelessness Statistical Release will be **Thursday 5 September 2013**.

## Enquiries

This Statistical Release, as well as previous Releases, can be accessed and all text, tables and charts downloaded electronically, from the Department's website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/homelessness-statistics>

Further details on this Statistical Release are available from:

### Media Enquiries:

office hours: 0303 444 1159

out of hours: 0303 444 1201

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

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>.

Information about DCLG is available via the Department's website:

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

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