Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government

Statutory homelessness and prevention and relief, January to March (Q1) 2018: England (Revised)

Housing

Statistical Release

13 December 2018

This publication provides information on the number of households that reported being homeless (or threatened with homelessness) to their local authority and were offered housing assistance. It is a revision to that published on 29 June to reflect corrected data from several local authorities. Further details can be found in the Data Quality section on page 27. Where data has been revised, these are identified with an R.

- Between 1 January and 31 March 2018 local authorities accepted 13,320[R] households as being **statutorily homeless**, down 2% from 13,640 on the previous quarter and down 9% from 14,610 on the same quarter of 2017.

  These are households that are owed a main homelessness duty to secure accommodation as a result of being unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

- On 31 March 2018 the number of households in **temporary accommodation** was 80,720[R], up 5%[R] from 77,220 on 31 March 2017, and up 68%[R] on the low of 48,010 on 31 December 2010.

- Local authorities took action to **prevent** and **relieve** homelessness for 56,660[R] households between 1 January and 31 March 2018, down less than 1%[R] on 56,880 in the same quarter of 2017.

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Introduction

Coverage

This release presents data on statutory homeless decisions and acceptances and prevention and relief at the household level from 1 January 2018 to 31 March 2018. This release also includes a snapshot view, as at 31 March 2018 of local authority use of temporary accommodation. Aggregated data on households is collected from 326 local authorities with part 7 duties on the P1E form after the end of the reporting quarter.

Purpose

These statistics are used to understand the long and short term trends of statutory homelessness. Statutory homelessness covers a sub-set of homeless households who approach and are assessed or granted assistance by their local authority.

Data included in this release

This release includes data on the actions of local authorities as guided by their legal duties, in particular the Housing Act 1996, the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011 (see notes on page 30). A household is considered homeless if the local authority deems that they do not have a legal right to occupy accommodation that is accessible, physically available, which it would be reasonable for the household to continue to live in. For households which are unintentionally homeless and in a **priority need** category (such as having dependent children) the local authority has a main duty to secure settled accommodation. The local authority has a duty to ensure suitable temporary accommodation is provided until settled accommodation is available. These households are referred to as **statutorily homeless acceptances**. Pages 5 – 17 of this release provide statistics on accepted households and the types of **temporary accommodation** provided to them since 1998.

As well as the statutory duties to priority need households, local authorities also have a duty to provide free advice and assistance to all households threatened with homelessness. Local authorities often go beyond this to proactively attempt to **prevent** or **relieve** homelessness. These actions are discretionary and approaches may therefore vary considerably between authorities. Variations in levels of prevention activity may reflect differences in local authority policy, demand, availability of resources, or a combination of these. The level of prevention and relief activity may affect the number of acceptances.

In this release, **prevention** refers to positive actions taken by local authorities (or partner organisations funded by them) to provide assistance to households who consider themselves to be at risk of homelessness. Prevention enables households to remain in their existing accommodation or obtain an alternative for at least the next 6 months. A small number of households may appear in both the prevention and acceptances figures – see page 27. **Relief** refers to positive actions to secure accommodation for households that have already become homeless. Pages 17 – 21 provide statistics on prevention and relief since 2009.

Future developments

This is the last statistical release based on the P1E return. Following implementation of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, on 3rd April 2018, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) changed the way of collecting data from local authorities on statutory homelessness. In April 2018 the new Homelessness Case Level Information Collection (H-CLIC) replaced the P1E aggregated data return. H-CLIC is a household level data collection. It includes more information on the people in a homeless household, more detailed information on their support needs, reasons for becoming homeless, length of time in temporary accommodation (whilst still living there) and the outcomes of each prevention case whether successful or not.
Southwark adopted the Homelessness Reduction Act in April 2017, one year in advance of other local authorities, and provided data for quarter ending June 2017 to quarter ending December 2017 using P1E return.

A significant change in the new legislation is the integration of prevention and relief into a local authority's statutory duty. From April 2018 prevention and relief are available to any household vulnerable to homelessness in 56 rather than 28 days. This broader definition of homelessness beyond priority need groups means that more information will be available on some households that are currently considered the 'hidden homeless.' In the longer term, it will enable MHCLG to report on what prevention activities actually work for those at risk of homelessness. Once enacted the duties in the Act will have a significant effect on the homelessness activities performed by local authorities and in consequence on the statistical categories presented in this release.

We will continue to collect data on homelessnes s on a quarterly basis. Local authorities will submit their first April–June 2018 case level H-CLIC returns to MHCLG over summer 2018.
The next update to this statistical release, based on the H-CLIC rather than P1E return was published 13 December 2018.

Further information on the future developments of this statistical release is available from the MHCLG Homelessness Statistics User Forum: https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/guidances/mhclg-homelessness-statistics-user-forum/

Homelessness in England

The data in this release are used to identify the broad characteristics and circumstances of those households affected by statutory homelessness. Statutory homeless data does not directly provide a definitive number of people or households affected by homelessness in England. The term “homelessness” is much broader than statutory homeless and has a number of interpretations. These statutory homeless data do not cover the population living in hostels, rough sleeping or those described as “hidden homeless” who may meet the definition above, but either have not approached or not received assistance from their local authority. Hidden homeless includes overcrowded, sharing or concealed households.

It is difficult to provide an accurate estimate of homelessness across England. Data used to compile any estimate is collated from different datasets, which sample different subsets of the population over different time frames. Any estimate of homelessness in England will collate datasets that are not discrete from one another, which means some individuals may have been included more than once in the estimated total. In addition to this calculating ‘hidden homeless’ by definition is difficult and so have to be estimated from survey data.

MHCLG produce other statistics releases that can help build up the wider homelessness picture. The English Housing Survey publishes data on the number of concealed households in England. The annual rough sleeping counts and estimates data provides an annual estimate of rough sleepers in England.

The EHS provides an estimate of concealed households. These are additional adults in a household who wanted to rent or buy but could not afford to do so. The EHS 2015-16 report can be found here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627151/Future_home_owners_full_report.pdf

Rough sleeping is separate from statutory homelessness. MHCLG conduct an annual single night snapshot of rough sleeping each autumn and publish this separately. The latest 2017 statistics show that rough sleeping in England is estimated at 4,751 individuals. Further breakdowns can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2017

Decisions taken by local authorities on homelessness applications

Decisions on homelessness include all decisions made during the quarter on homelessness where the local authority had reason to believe the applicant was homeless or threatened with homelessness. This means that only those households who have been assessed under Section 184, rather than all households who present themselves to a local authority, are reported in this decisions section. Data in this section is reported in section E1 of the P1E form.

Local housing authorities made 25,750[R] decisions on homeless applications in January to March (Q1) 2018 (excluding those who were ineligible, such as recent arrivals to the UK). This is 10%[R] lower than in the same quarter of 2017.

Of these:

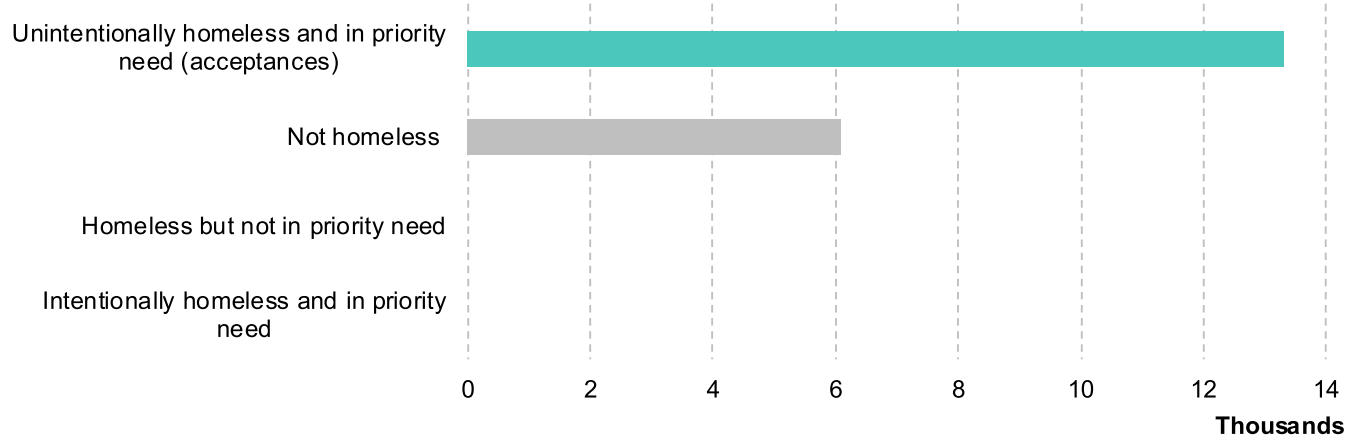
- 13,320[R] (52%) were accepted (referred to as 'owed a main homelessness duty').

Of the remainder:

- 6,110[R] (24%) were found not to be homeless;
- 4,420[R] (17%) were found to be homeless but not in priority need; and
- 1,900[R] (7%) were found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need.

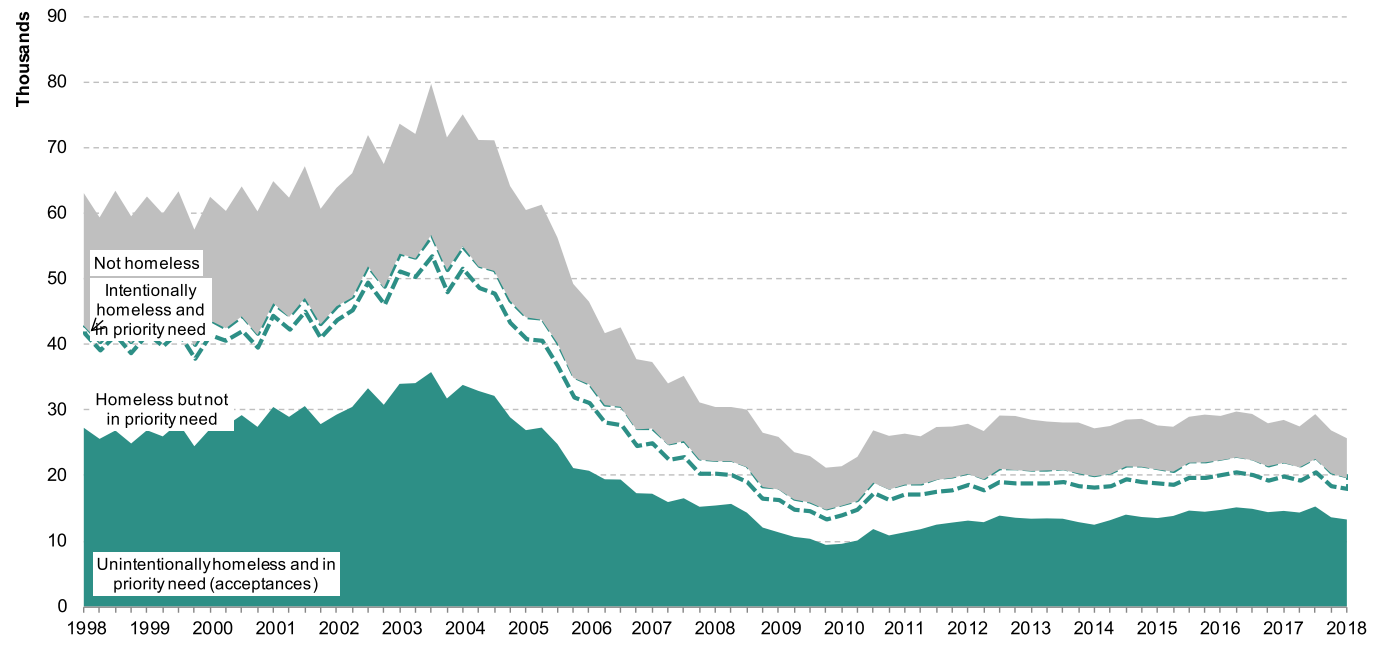
Since 1998 the proportions of decisions that have been acceptances and intentionally homeless have increased slightly, and the proportions that have been found not in priority need and not homeless have fallen slightly.

Chart 1[1]: Decisions made by local authorities, Q1 2018, England



[1] See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households.

Chart 2[1]: Decisions made by local authorities each quarter, Q1 1998 to Q1 2018, England



Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty

A 'main homelessness duty' is owed where a local authority is satisfied that the applicant is eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falls within a priority need group. Priority need groups include those with disabilities, formerly in care, at risk of domestic violence, former asylum seekers, ex armed forces, formerly in custody and those with dependent children, drug or alcohol dependencies. These statutorily homeless households are referred to as 'acceptances'. Data in this section is reported through section E1, E2 and E3 of the P1E form.

Local authorities in England accepted 13,320[R] households as statutorily homeless in Q1 2018, down 2% from the figure of 13,640 in the previous quarter and down 9% compared to the same quarter of 2017. Of these, 3,380[R] were in London, accounting for 25% of the England total.

The corresponding figures for London and Rest of England and the percentage changes are shown in Table 1.

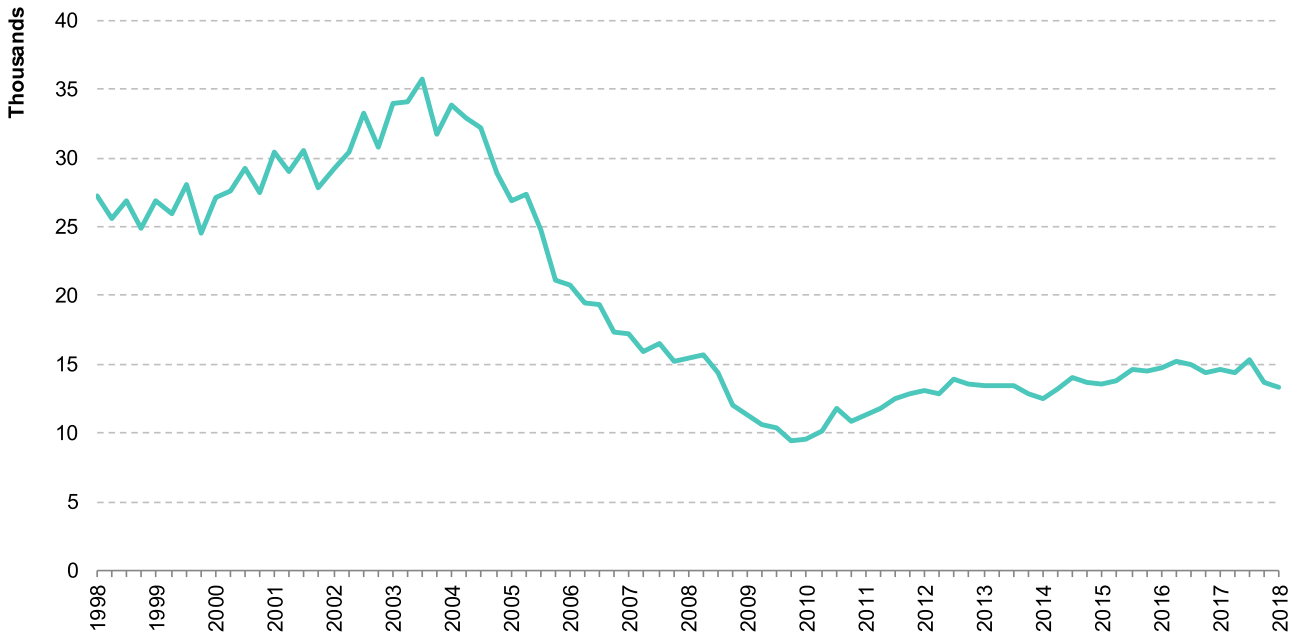
Table 1[2]: Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during Q1 2018 with comparisons to previous quarter and year, England, London and Rest of England

	Jan - Mar 2018	Previous quarter: Oct – Dec 2017		Same quarter last year: Jan - Mar 2017	
	Households Accepted	Households Accepted	Percentage change	Households Accepted	Percentage change
England	**13,320**[R]	13,640	-2%	14,610	-9%
London	**3,380**[R]	3,690	-8%[R]	4,060	-17%
Rest of England	**9,950**	9,950	n/c	10,550	-6%

[2] See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households, Live Table 774 London and Live Table 774 Rest of England.

Chart 3 shows the number of acceptances in England since 1998.

Chart 3[2]: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty each quarter, Q1 1998 to Q1 2018, England



The number of acceptances peaked in Q3 2003 at 35,770 before falling to a low of 9,430 in Q4 2009. This quarter the number of acceptances at 13,320[R] is 63% below the peak (a difference of 22,450[R]) and 41% higher than the low (a difference of 3,890[R]).

The steep fall in acceptances seen in Chart 3, from 2004 to 2010, is likely to have been largely driven by the encouragement from central government to local authorities to strengthen their prevention activities and to provide comprehensive housing options services to local residents.

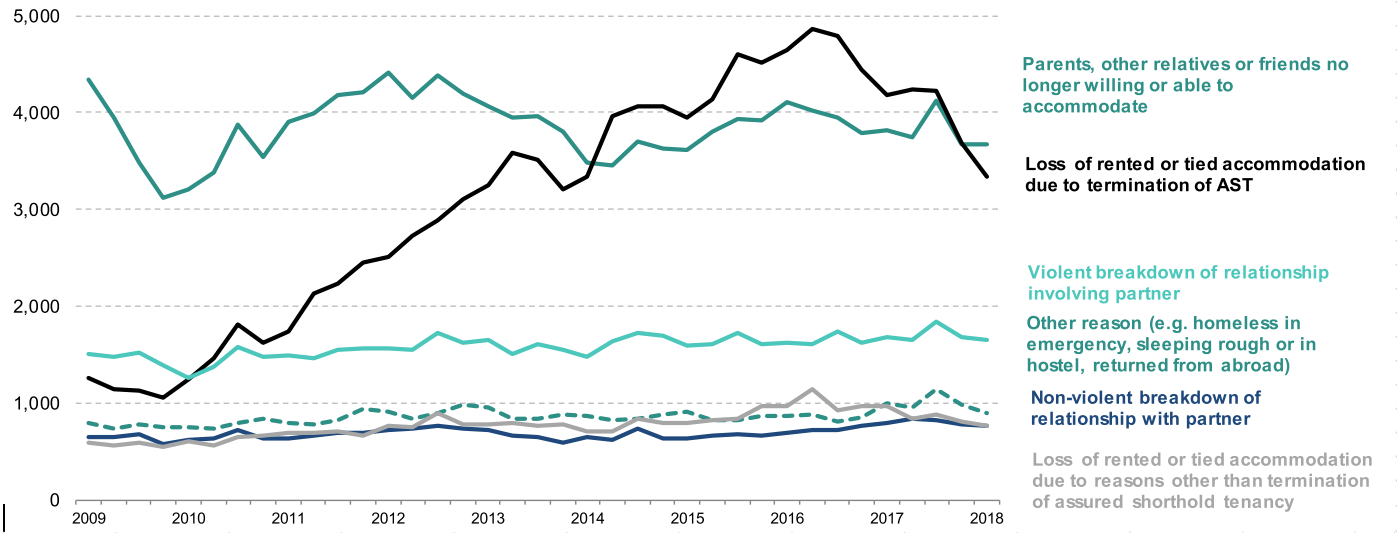
Acceptances by main reason for loss of last settled home

In quarter ending March 2018 the most common reasons for loss of last settled home were: Parents, other relatives or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate (28%), Loss of rented or tied accommodation due to termination of assured shorthold tenancy (25%), Violent breakdown of relationship involving partner (12%), Other reason (e.g. homeless in emergency, sleeping rough or in hostel, returned from abroad) (7%), Non-violent breakdown of relationship with partner (6%) and Loss of rented or tied accommodation due to reasons other than termination of assured shorthold tenancy (6%). The remaining reasons accounted for 16% of all acceptances and included smaller categories listed below Chart 4.

The end of an assured shorthold tenancy (AST) has been an increasingly important cause of loss of last home over the last eight years, rising from a low of 1,060 (or 11%, of accepted households) in Q4 2009 to 3,360[R] (25%) in Q1 2018. Assured shorthold tenancies can end for a range of reasons, such as tenant difficulty budgeting, rent increase, reduction in employment income, changes to benefit entitlement, and changes to personal circumstances. Specific reasons for the

end of AST are not collected under the P1E return but will be reported in the future under H-CLIC (see page 3). It is possible that End of AST might be favoured over other reasons as Section 21 notices are easier to evidence. Section 21 notices are issued to end any tenancy, or at the end of the contract period or to give notice during a rolling contract. The serving of a notice is the evidence that an applicant needs to be accepted as unintentionally homeless. The increase may be also related to the expansion of the private rented sector, which has doubled in size since 2002 and now houses 4.7 million households (2016/17)[3]. Chart 4 shows a breakdown of acceptances by main reason for loss of settled home.

Chart 4[4]: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty by reason for loss of last settled home, Q1 2009 to Q1 2018, England



In Q1 2018:

'Parents, other relatives or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate' included: Parents not providing accommodation - 2,040^{R} households and Other relatives or friends not providing accommodation – 1,630^{R} households.

'Loss of rented or tied accommodation due to termination of AST' was the main reason for loss of last settled home for 3,340^{R} households.

'Violent breakdown of relationship with partner' – 1,650^{R} households.

'Other reasons (e.g. Homeless in emergency, Sleeping rough or in hostel, Returned from abroad)' – 900^{R} households

'Non-violent relationship breakdown with partner' – 770^{R} households.

'Loss of rented or tied accommodation due to reasons other than termination of assured shorthold tenancy' – 770^{R}

Remaining categories are not shown on the chart and include (in descending order): Rent arrears on private sector dwellings – 350^{R}, Required to leave accommodation provided by Home Office as asylum support – 290^{R}, Other forms of violence – 280, Other forms of harassment – 240^{R}, Violent breakdown of relationship involving associated persons – 210^{R}, Left hospital – 220, Left other institution or LA care – 180^{R}, Left prison/on remand – 160, Rent arreas on local authority or other public sector dwellings – 90, Rent arrears on Registered Provider dwellings – 70^{R}, Mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home) – 70, Left HM-Forces – 30, Racially motivated harassment – 20, Racially motivated violence – 10.

[3] Source: English Housing Survey 2016-17: https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/english-housing-survey

[4] See Live Table 774: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home.

Foreign national household acceptances

Data on nationality of foreign households is collected in section E9 of the P1E form.

2,210[R] foreign national applicants were accepted as homeless in Q1 2018, down 13%[R] from 2,540 in the same quarter of 2017. Of these, 420 were European Economic Area (EEA) accession State nationals, 510[R] were from other EEA countries and 1,280[R] were from outside the EEA. During this period, foreign nationals accounted for 17% of all acceptances, with 7% being EEA nationals and 10% being non EEA nationals.

Table 2[5]: Foreign national households acceptances during Q1 2018, England

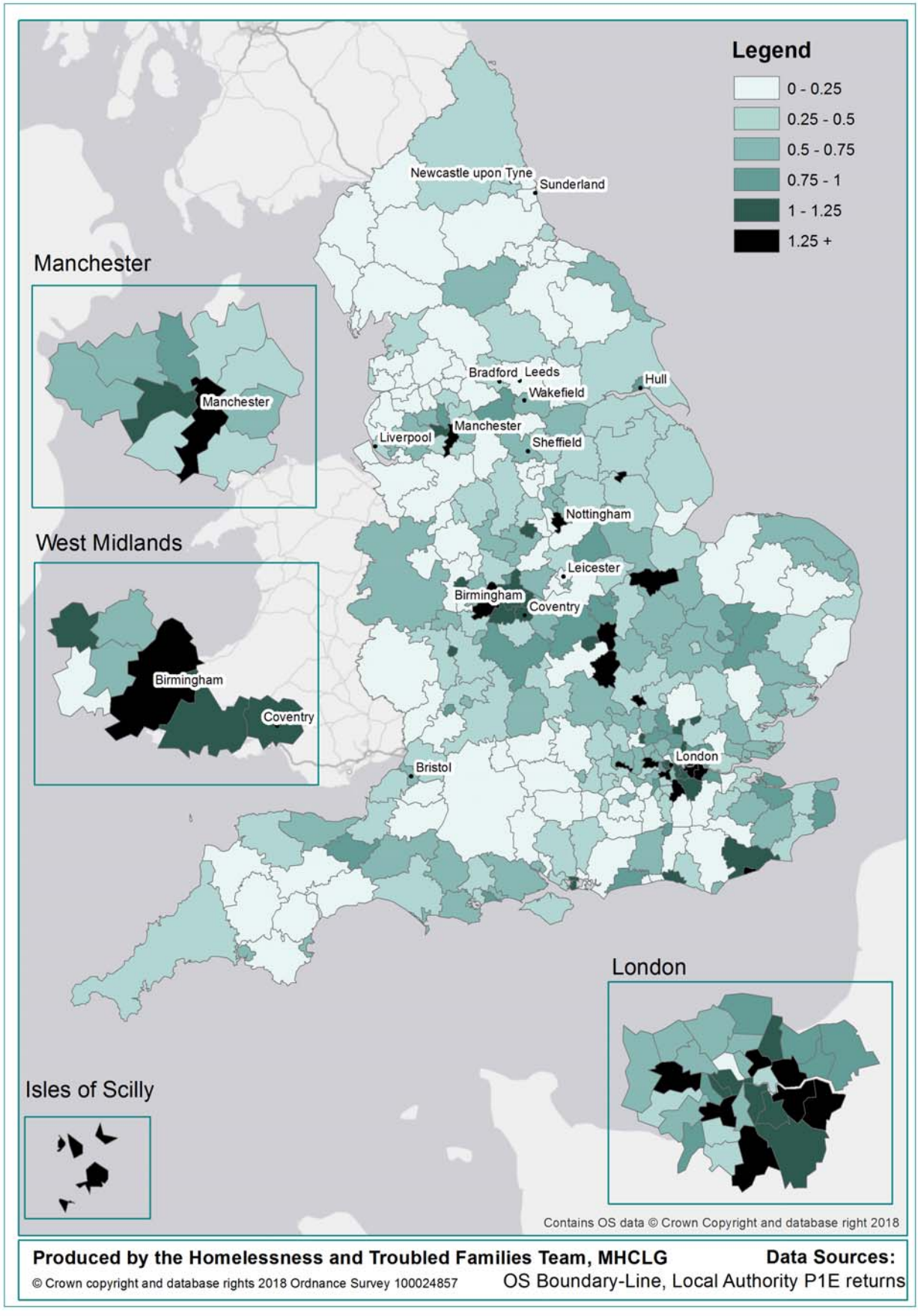
	Jan - Mar 2018	As % of total acceptances
	Households Accepted	%
Total foreign nationals	**2,210[R]**	17
Total EEA nationals	**930[R]**	7
EEA accession State nationals	**420**	3
Other EEA nationals	**510[R]**	4
Outside the EEA nationals	**1,280[R]**	10
UK nationals	**11,110[R]**	83
Total acceptances	**13,320[R]**	100

Relative levels of homelessness

Comparing the number of acceptances to the population size in an area gives a measure of the level of homelessness. In Q1 2018 the number of homeless acceptances was 0.57 per 1,000 households in England. In London, the rate was 0.93[R] and in the rest of England (excluding London) it was 0.50 per 1,000 households. Map 1 illustrates the rates at local authority level.

[5] See Live Table 785 Foreign Nationals decisions: Local authority assistance to foreign nationals under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act: decisions on applications for assistance, England; and Live Table 786 Foreign Nationals reason for eligibility: Local authority assistance to foreign nationals under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act: reason for eligibility of accepted households, England

Map 1: Statutory Homelessness: Acceptances Rates per 1,000 households Q1 2018, England

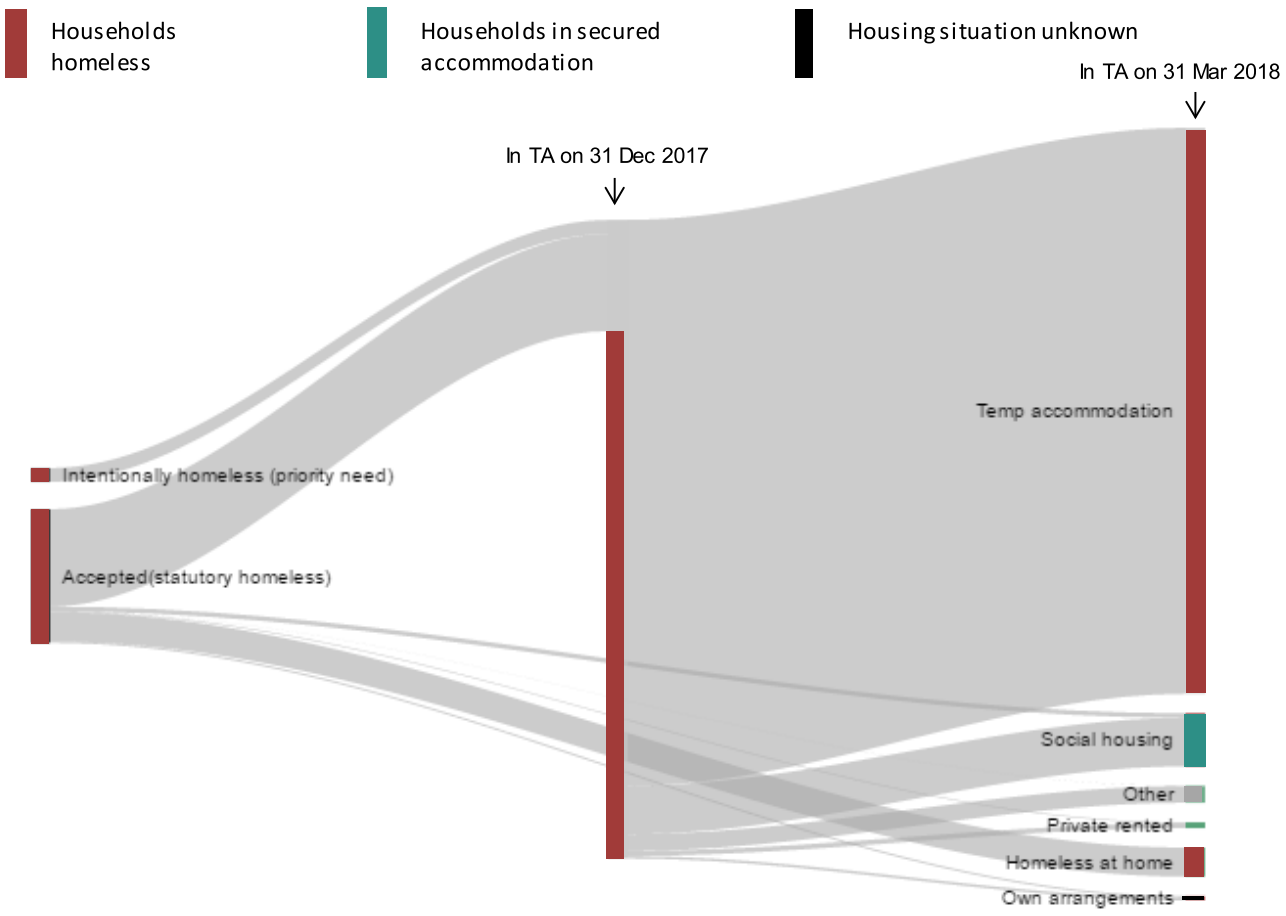


Note: Please note that some local authority figures include estimates where data has not been submitted.

Accommodation outcomes

When a household is accepted by a local authority, or is found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need, the authority has a duty to ensure that suitable accommodation is available. Chart 5 shows the various paths that may be followed by households when entering and leaving homelessness. The widths of the lines are proportionate to the numbers of households in each category based on the data in this release. The upper lines show households newly entering temporary accommodation, while the other lines show destinations of households, whether directly from being accepted, or leaving temporary accommodation. The chart shows that most households in temporary accommodation at 31 December 2017 remain there three months later.

Chart 5: Flows in and out of temporary accommodation and statutory homelessness, Q1 2018, England



Source: P1E data on immediate outcomes and those leaving temporary accommodation

The most common immediate outcome for new acceptances is to be placed in temporary accommodation. This was the outcome for 63% (8,390[R]) of the acceptances during the quarter. In 30%[R] of cases (3,950[R]) the household was provisionally able to remain in their existing accommodation to await an offer of alternative accommodation (referred to as 'duty owed no accommodation secured' or 'homeless at home').

Some households accepted during Q1 2018 moved into settled accommodation by the end of the quarter. 5% of all acceptances (640) were given a secure tenancy in local authority or private registered social landlord. In addition to such tenancies, under the Localism Act 2011 local authorities were given the power to discharge their homeless duty by making an offer in the private rented sector; 80 households (1%) accepted such an offer and 20 (less than 1%) rejected one. For households accepted prior to changes made in the Localism Act, local authorities can make a qualifying offer of an assured shorthold tenancy which the applicant can refuse. 60 households, less than 1%, accepted such an offer.[6]

Households in temporary accommodation

Households in temporary accommodation are reported as a snapshot at the end of the quarter, rather than cumulative over the quarter. Households in temporary accommodation include only those households being dealt with through the Part 7 legislation. This includes those accepted as homeless but yet to find suitable alternative accommodation, those awaiting a homeless decision under a new application or reapplication duty, those undergoing an LA review or county court appeal and those intentionally homeless and in priority need who are being accommodated for a limited period. Data in this section is captured through section E6 of the P1E form.

On 31 March 2018, the total number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation was 80,720[R]. This was 5%[R] higher than a year earlier and up 68% on the low of 48,010 on 31 December 2010. In London the number of households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2018 was 55,440[R], 69%[R] of the total England figure.

The corresponding figures for London and Rest of England and the percentage changes are shown in Table 3.

Table 3[7]: Households accommodated in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2018 compared to previous quarter and year, England, London and Rest of England

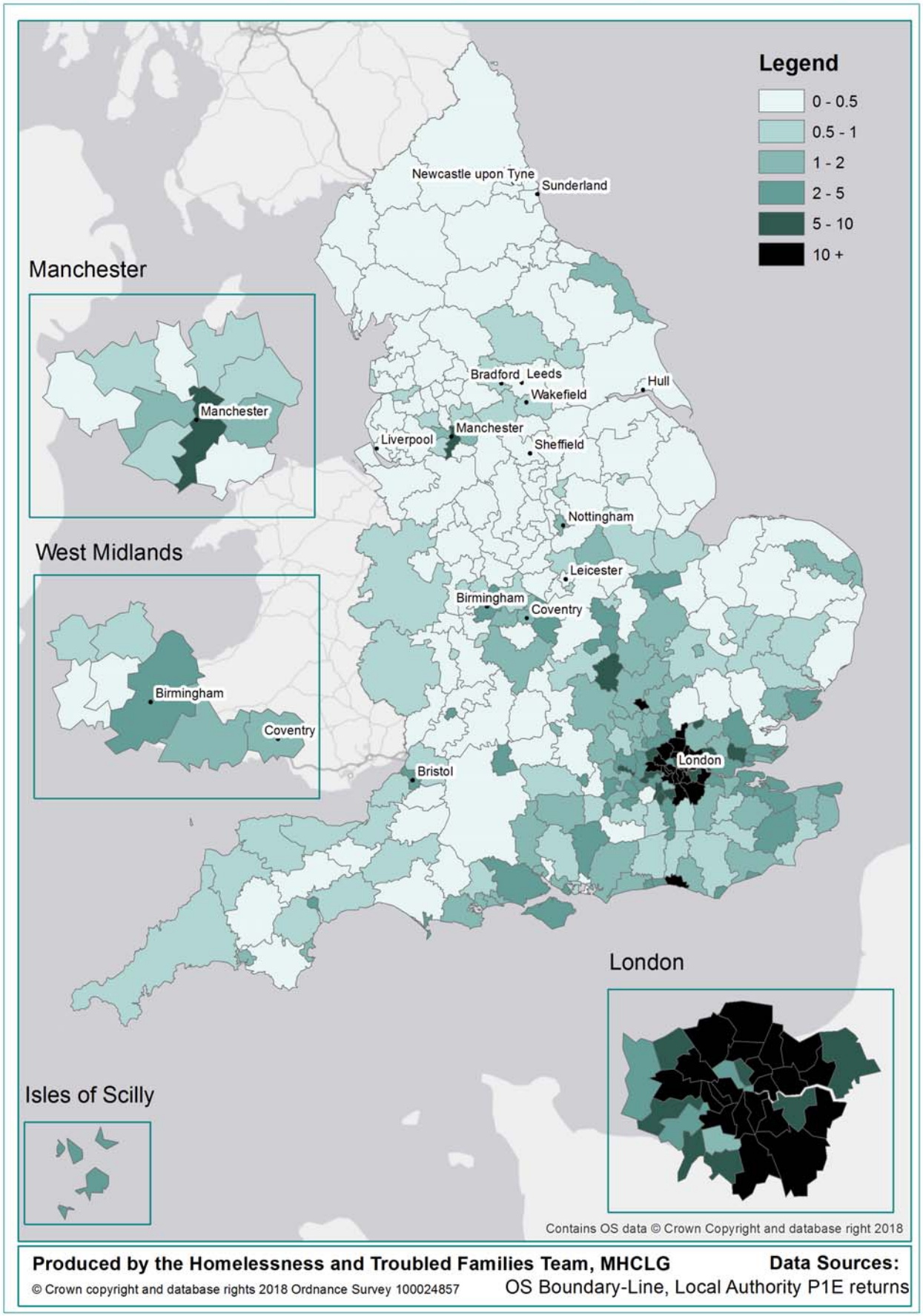
	31 March 2018	Previous quarter: 31 December 2017		Same quarter last year: 31 March 2017	
	Households in TA	Households in TA	Percentage change	Households in TA	Percentage change
England	**80,720**[R]	79,720[R]	+1%	77,220	+5%[R]
London	**55,440**[R]	55160[R]	+1%	54,280	+2%[R]
Rest of England	**25,280**[R]	24,560	+3%	22,940	+10%

Comparing the number of households in temporary accommodation to the population size in an area gives a measure of its use. In England there were approximately 3 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households at the end of March 2018. There were approximately 15 cases per 1,000 households in London and 1 case per 1,000 households in the Rest of England. The patterns at local authority level can be seen in Map 2.

[6] See Live Table 777: Immediate outcome of decision by local authority to accept household as unintentionally homeless, eligible and in priority need.

[7] See Live Table 775: Type of temporary accommodation, Households in temporary accommodation by type of accommodation, and cases where duty owed but no accommodation has been secured at the end of each quarter, England, London and Rest of England.

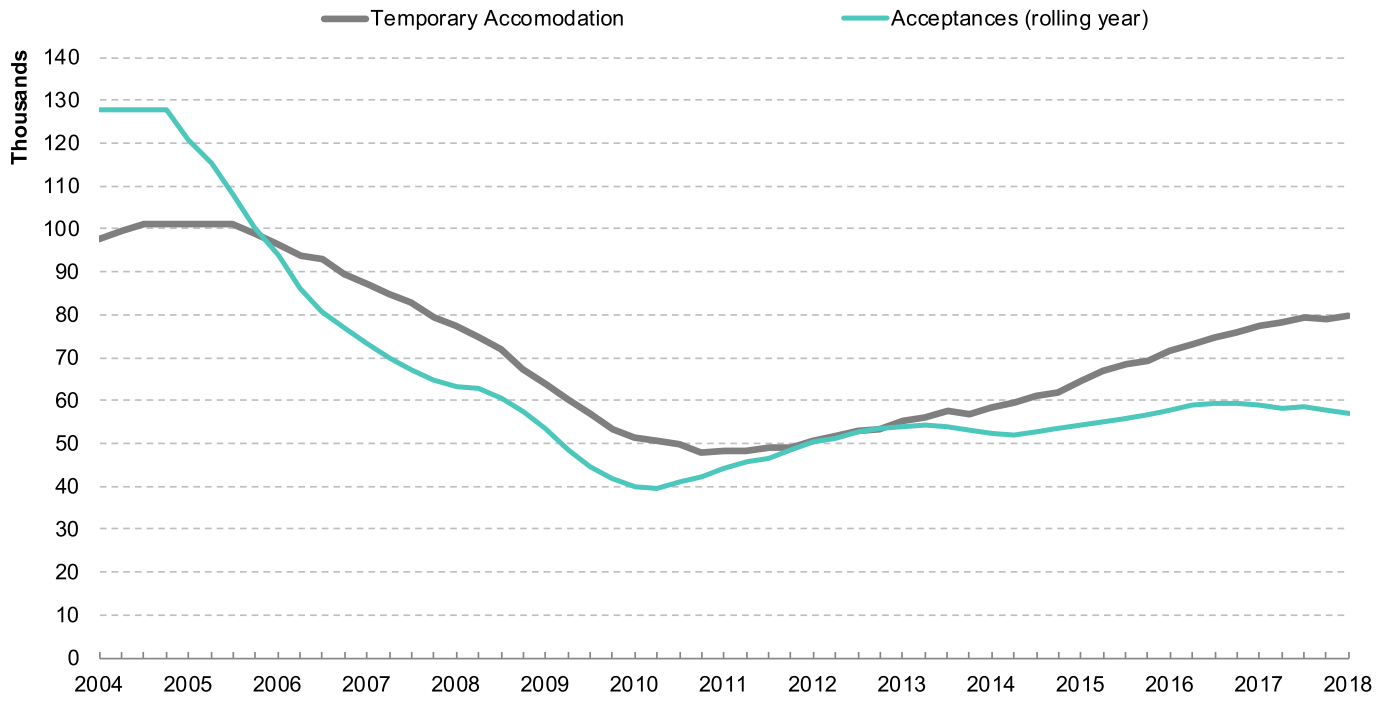
Map 2: Temporary Accommodation Rates per 1,000 households 31 March 2018, England



Note: Please note that some local authority figures include estimates where data has not been submitted.

Historically, there tends to be a lag between changes in the number of acceptances and changes to the number of households in temporary accommodation. Chart 3 (on page 7) shows the number of acceptances each quarter, which peaked in 2003 before falling off to 2009 and then rising again. Chart 6 shows the stock of households in temporary accommodation and the rolling 12 month total number of acceptances. The number of households in temporary accommodation follows a similar trajectory to the number of acceptances, although with a delay. The number of households in temporary accommodation peaked at 101,300 at the end of September 2004 before declining by over half to 48,010 at the end of 2010.

Chart 6[7]: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty, and households in temporary accommodation, quarterly Q1 2004 to Q1 2018, England

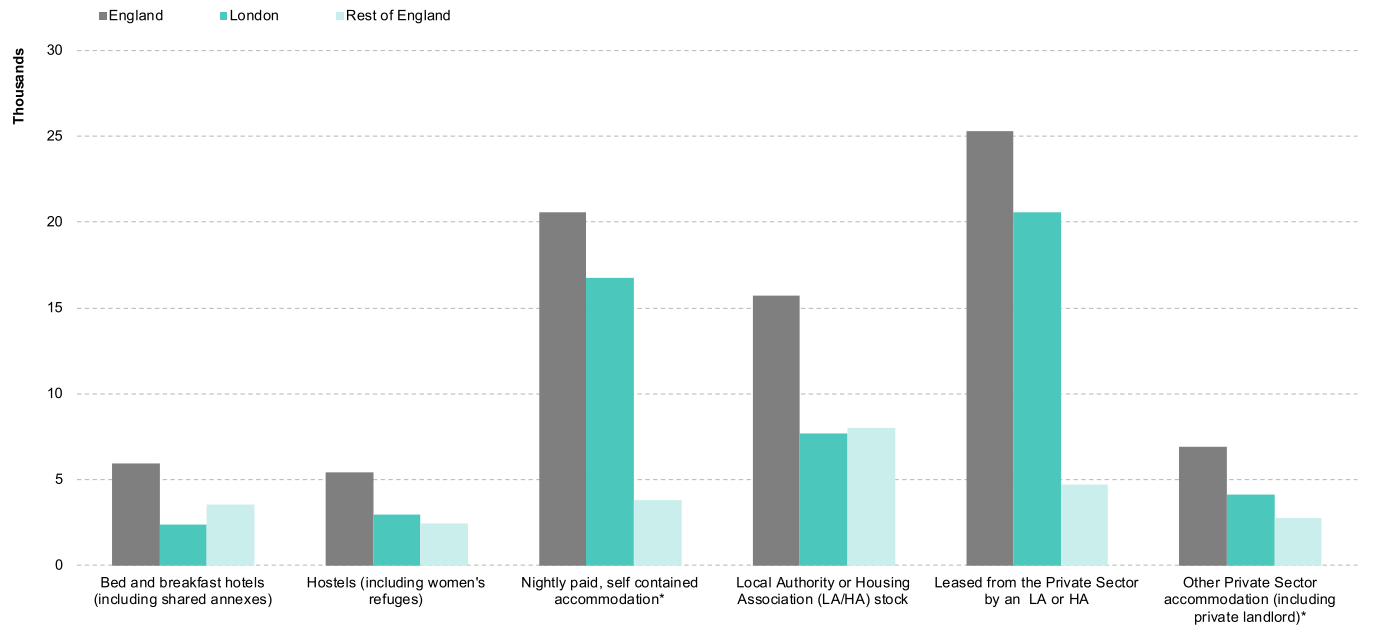


Types of temporary accommodation

Of the total 80,720[R] households living in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2018, 68,900[R] (or 85%[R]) were in self-contained accommodation. The number of households in temporary accommodation with shared facilities (Bed and breakfast and hostels including women's refuges) was 11,820[R], or 15%[R] of all households. Of the households in shared facilities, there were 6,130[R] households living in Bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation (including those in shared 'annex' facilities), which is a decrease of 7%[R] from 6,580 at the same time last year.

The number of households in Nightly paid self-contained annexes was 21,000[R]. This represents 26% of all households in temporary accommodation, up from 25% a year ago and 13% five years ago. Chart 7 shows a breakdown of households by temporary accommodation type.

Chart 7[7]: Households in temporary accommodation by type of accommodation, 31 March 2018, England, London and Rest of England



Households in temporary accommodation by household type

Of the 80,720[R] households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2018, 61,610[R] included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman. There were 123,520[R] children or expected children in temporary accommodation. The average number of children in households in temporary accommodation is 2 children. Of the 61,610[R] households with children, 55,780[R] (91%) were in self-contained accommodation.

There were 6,130[R] households in bed and breakfast (B&B) style accommodation as at 31 March 2018. The B&B style accommodation category includes hotels where households share at least some basic facilities. Of the 6,130[R] households in B&B, 2,190[R] (36%[R]) had dependent children or expected children. The number of households with children in B&B is down 27%[R] from 3,010 in the same quarter last year.

790[R] of the 2,190[R] households with children in B&B had been resident for more than 6 weeks. This is down 9% from 880 on the 31 December 2017 and down 39%[R] from 1,300 on the same time last year.

The corresponding figures for the previous quarter and same quarter the previous year, and percentage changes, are shown in Table 4.

Table 4[8]: Households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation at 31 March 2018 with comparisons to previous quarter and year, England					
	31 March 2018	Previous quarter: 31 December 2017		Same quarter last year: 31 March 2017	
	Households in B&B	Households in B&B	Percentage change	Households in B&B	Percentage change
Total households	**6,130**[R]	5,780	+6%	6,580	-7%[R]
Households with dependent children or expected children	**2,190**[R]	2,050	+7%	3,010	-27%[R]
Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks	**790**[R]	880	-10%	1,300	-39%[R]

Households in temporary accommodation in another local authority district

Of the 80,720[R] households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2018, 22,080[9R], or 27%[R], were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 1%[R], from 21,950 at the same date last year (28% of the total).

Of the 22,080[R] accommodated in another local authority district, 19,770[R] were from London authorities (90%[R] of the England total). This is unchanged from the same date last year.

Further breakdowns of households in temporary accommodation can be found in several of the live tables at the link provided in the accompanying live tables section of this release.

Households leaving temporary accommodation and other temporary arrangements

A main homelessness duty was ended for 10,080[R] households in Q1 2018. This includes those 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 a 2% increase from the same quarter in 2017.

Of the 10,080[R] households, 6,710[R] (67%) were provided with settled accommodation by accepting a "Part 6" offer of a tenancy in local authority or housing authority accommodation. This is up 3%[R] from the figure of 6,490 in the same quarter last year. A further 440[R] refused such an offer.

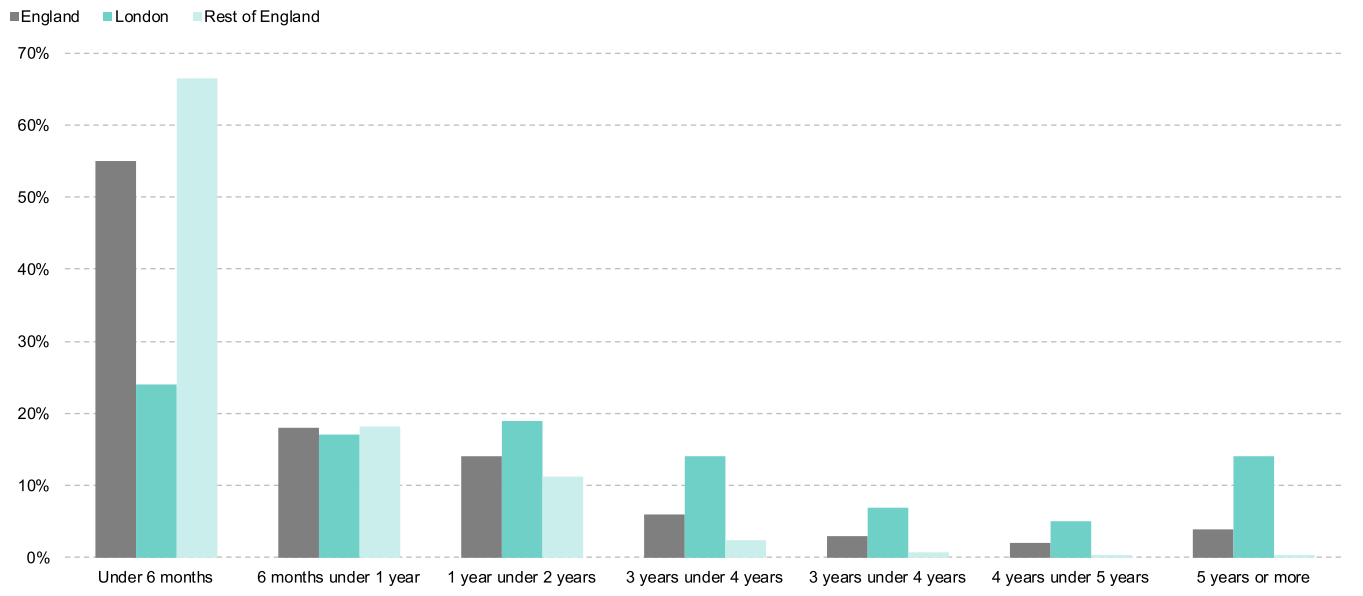
470 households (5%) accepted an offer of settled rented accommodation in the private sector, made under the Localism Act power and 40 households rejected such an offer. There were 350 households (3%) which became intentionally homeless from temporary accommodation while 1,310[R] households (13%) voluntarily ceased to occupy temporary accommodation.

In England, 55% of those leaving temporary accommodation between 1 January and 31 March 2018 did so less than 6 months after acceptance, and 73% less than a year after acceptance. The corresponding percentages for London were 24% and 40%[R].

[8] See Live Table 793: Families with children in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks excluding those pending review, by local authority

[9] See Live Table 775: Type of temporary accommodation, Households in temporary accommodation by type of accommodation, and cases where duty owed but no accommodation has been secured at the end of each quarter, England, London and Rest of England.

Chart 8[10]: Households leaving temporary accommodation by length of stay, Q1 2018, England, London and Rest of England



Prevention and relief activity

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local housing authorities must have a strategy for preventing homelessness in their district. The strategy must apply to everyone at risk of homelessness, including cases where someone is found to be homeless but not in priority need and cases where someone is found to be intentionally homeless. This means that prevention can be offered to any household, rather than a subset of the population considered eligible for assistance under the statutory homeless legislation. Homelessness prevention refers to positive action taken by the local authority which provides someone who considers themselves at risk of homelessness with a solution for at least the next six months. This is done by either assisting them to obtain alternative accommodation or enabling them to remain in their existing home.

Homelessness relief occurs when an authority has been unable to prevent homelessness but helps someone to secure accommodation, even though the authority is under no statutory obligation to do so.

Homelessness prevention and relief activities are carried out as part of a local authority strategy unlike acceptances which fall under a specific legal framework. This means there are variations in the way prevention and relief activity is carried out and reported across local authorities (see page 32 for more information). Variations in levels of prevention activity may reflect differences in availability of resources, demand, local authority policy or a combination of these. These statistics are not designated as National Statistics.

[10] See Live Table 778: Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded "Duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome and Table 779: households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded as “duty owed, no accommodation secured”) during each quarter, by length of stay for England and London

Prevention and relief activity between January and March 2018

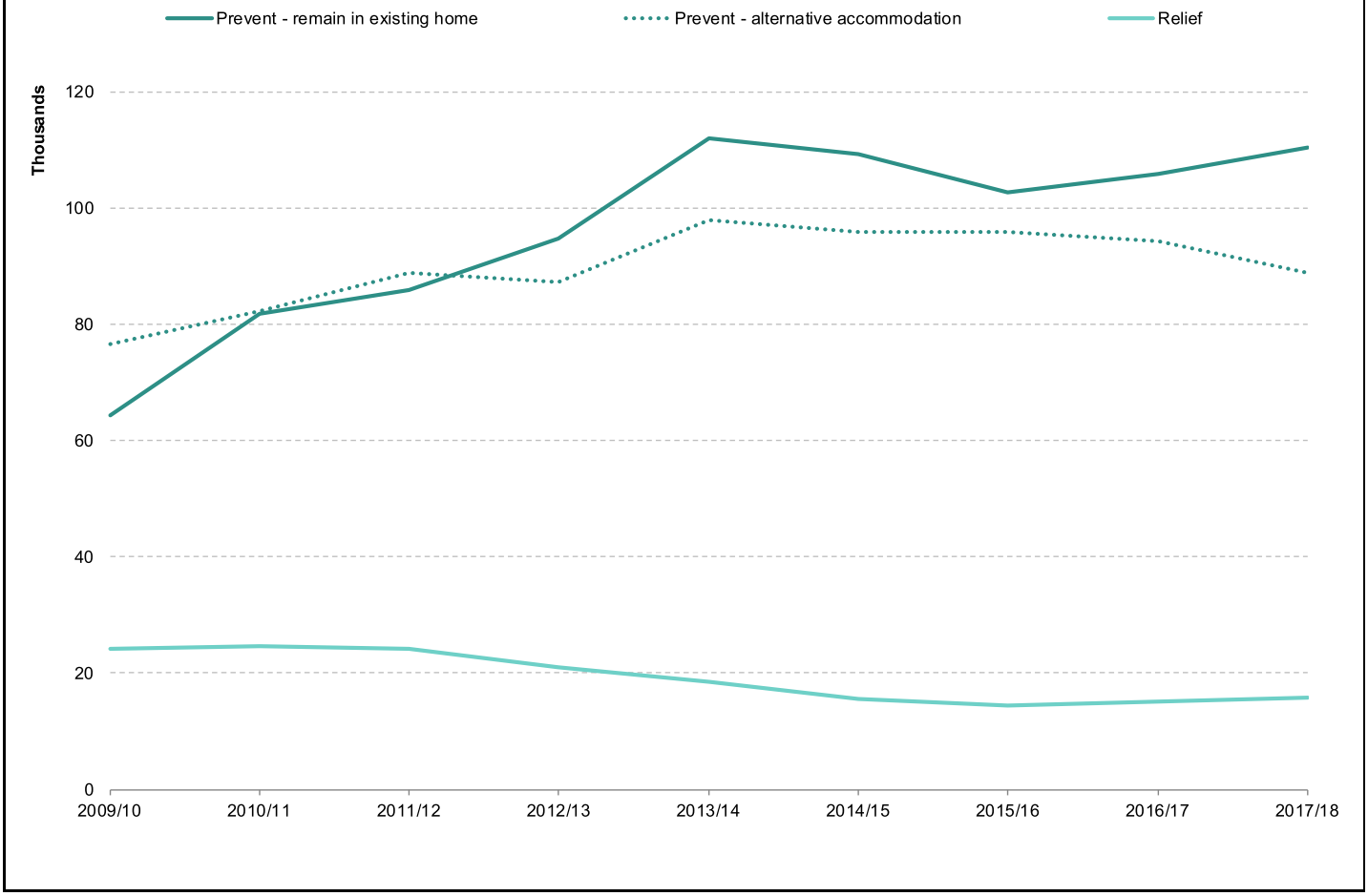
There were 56,660[R] successful cases of homelessness prevention or relief outside the statutory homelessness framework in England during Q1 2018, down less than 1%[R] from 56,880 in the same quarter of 2017. Of these cases, 52,430[R] (93%[R]) were preventions and 4,220[R] (7%[R]) were cases of relief. 29,810[R] (57%) of preventions enabled households to remain in their existing home, whilst 22,620[R] households (43%) were assisted to obtain alternative accommodation.

Table 5[11]: Prevention and relief during Q1 2018 with comparisons to previous year, England

	Jan - Mar 2018	Same quarter last year: Jan - Mar 2017	
	Actions	Actions	Percentage change
Prevention – remain in existing home	**29,810**[R]	29,100	+2%[R]
Prevention – alternative accommodation	**22,620**[R]	24,130	-6%[R]
Relief	**4,220**[R]	3,650	+16%[R]

Longer term, Chart 9 shows that the total number of cases of homelessness prevention and relief increased by 38% between 2009/10 and 2013/14 (from 165,180 to 228,410) before falling back to 213,260 in 2015/16. In 2016/17 prevention and relief cases increased slightly - by 1% - to 215,220 and decreased by less than 1% in 2017/18, to 215,530[R].

Chart 9[11]: Prevention and relief activity by final accommodation outcome, 2009/10 to 2017/18, England



[11] See Live Table 787: Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief.

Type of homelessness prevention and relief activity

Chart 10 shows the actions taken to assist the 26,840[R] households who obtained alternative accommodation. 22,620[R] were cases of prevention and 4,220[R] were cases of relief. The most common type of alternative accommodation obtained was social housing in the form of a Part 6 offer of the local authorities' own accommodation or nomination to a private registered provider. There were 5,620 such prevention cases in Q1 2018 (11% of total preventions). There were 1,130[R] such relief cases in Q1 2018, 27% of total relief.

Chart 10[12]: Cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation (prevention and relief), Q1 2018, England

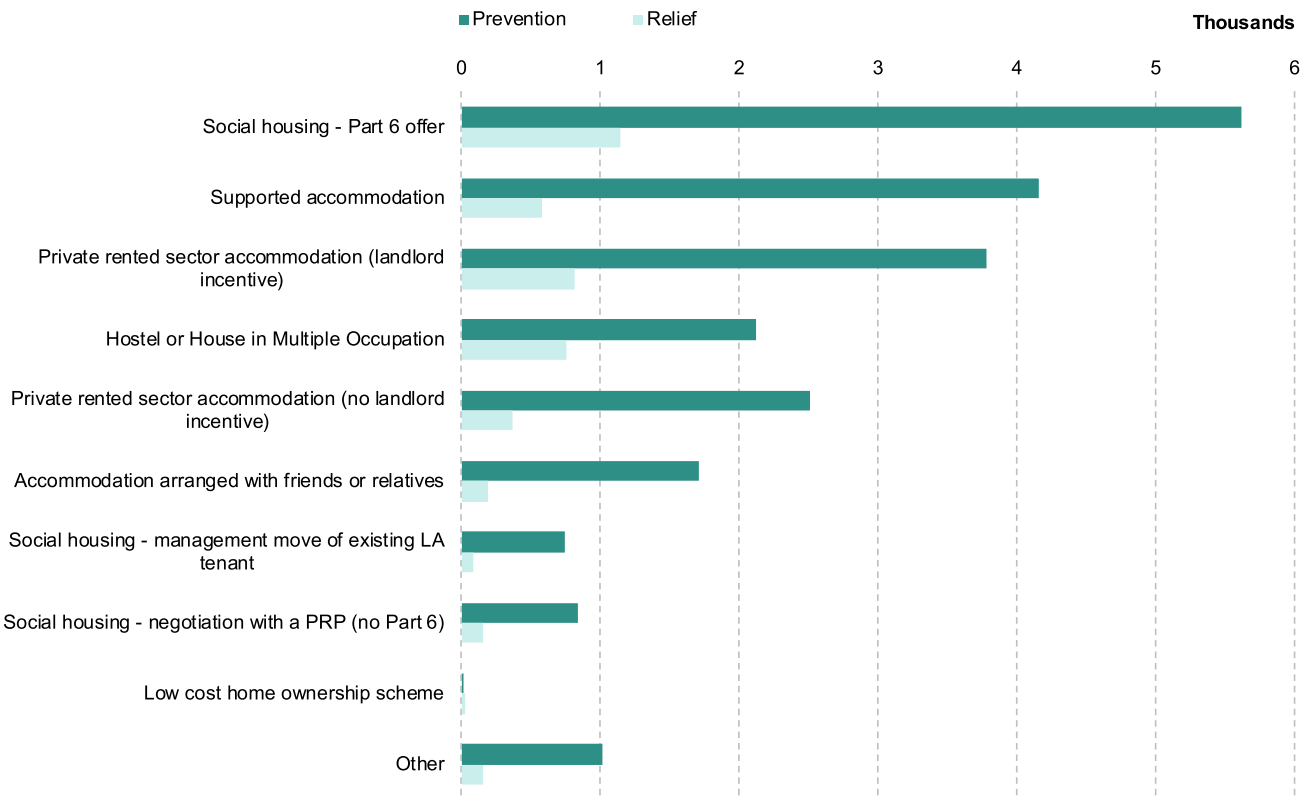
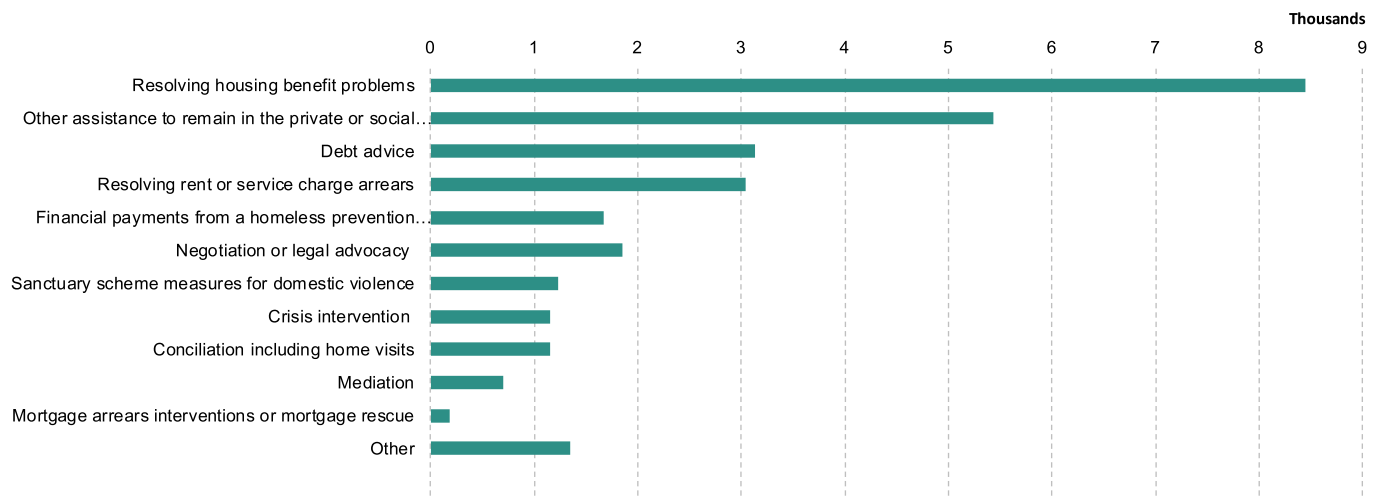


Chart 11 shows the different types of prevention activities which assisted 29,810[R] households to remain in their existing home. The first category "Other assistance to remain in the private or social sector" covers a range of actions such as resolving anti-social behaviour, tackling disrepair and adaptations to property. The most common action which assisted cases to remain in their existing home was resolving housing benefit problems (8,350[R] cases, 16% of the total).

[12] See Live Tables 788 and 789: types of homelessness prevention actions taken and types of alternative accommodation secured.

Chart 11[12]: Type of prevention actions taken in assisting cases to remain in their existing home, Q1 2018, England



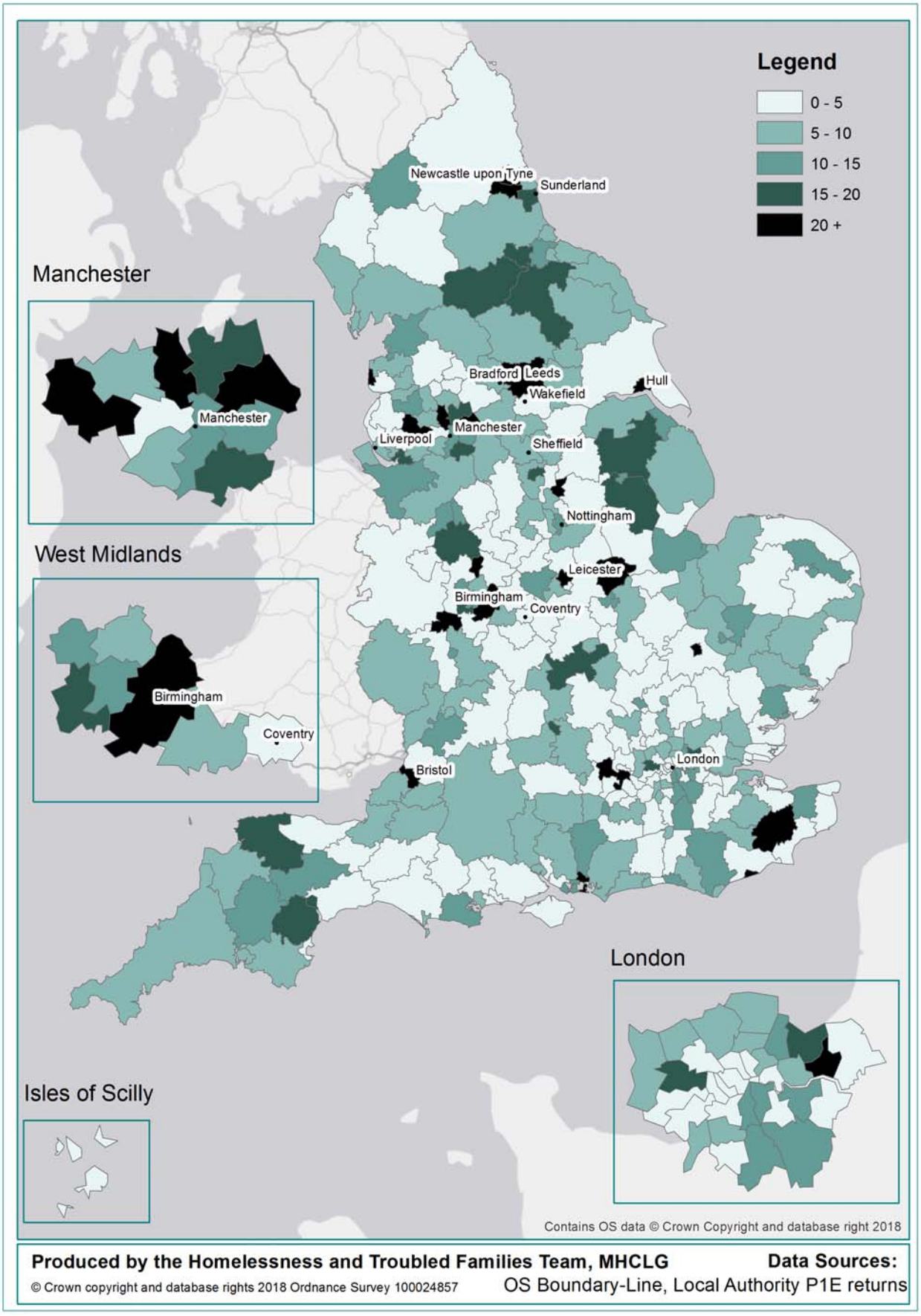
Detailed descriptions of the different categories of prevention and relief can be found in section 10 of the P1E guidance document:
https://www.gov.uk/guidance/homelessness-data-notes-and-definitions

Map 3 maps the rates of prevention and relief activity in each local authority, expressed as a number of cases per 1,000 households.

Rates of prevention and relief activity averaged approximately 2 cases per 1,000 households in England in Q1 2018 and 9 cases per 1,000 households in year ending March 2018, with a wide degree of variation between different authorities.[13]

[13] See Live Tables 792 and 792a.

Map 3: Total cases of prevention and relief per 1,000 households by local authority, 2017/18



Note: Please note that some local authority figures include estimates where data has not been submitted.

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release.

Table 770 Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households, England, 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 770a Re-application Duty: Decisions taken by local authorities on eligible households owed the reapplication duty under Section 195a of the Localism Act 2011, England, Q4 2013 to Q1 2018

Table 771 Ethnicity: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by ethnicity, England, 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 773 Reason for acceptance: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by priority need category, England 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 774 Reason for loss of last settled home: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by reason for loss of last settled home, England, London and rest of England, 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 775 Type of temporary accommodation: Households in temporary accommodation by type of accommodation, and cases where duty owed but no accommodation has been secured at the end of each quarter, England, London and Rest of England 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 777 Immediate outcome of decision by local authority to accept household as unintentionally homeless, eligible and in priority need, England, 2003 to Q1 2018

Table 778 Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded "Duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome, England 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 779 Length of time in temporary accommodation: 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, 1998 to Q1 2018

Table 780 Household type: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by household type, England Q2 2006 to Q1 2018

Table 781 Age of applicants: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by age of applicant, England Q2 2005 to Q1 2018

Table 782 Household types in temporary accommodation, England Q2 2006 to Q1 2018

Table 784 Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Acts: financial years 2004/05 to 2017/18

Table 784a Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Acts: quarterly data for Q2 2014 to Q1 2018

Table 785 Foreign Nationals decisions: Local authority assistance to foreign nationals under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act: decisions on applications for

assistance, England, Q2 2004 to Q1 2018

Table 786 Foreign Nationals reason for eligibility: Local authority assistance to foreign nationals under homelessness provisions of the 1996 Housing Act: reason for eligibility of accepted households, England, Q2 2004 to Q1 2018

Table 787 Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief, England, Q2 2009 to Q1 2018

Table 788 Type of homelessness prevention and relief - relief, England, Q2 2009 to Q1 2018

Table 789 Type of homelessness prevention and relief - prevention, England, Q2 2009 to Q1 2018

Table 792 Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by local authority, England, 2009/10 to 2017/18

Table 792a Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by local authority, England, Q2 2016 to Q1 2018

Table 793 Families with children in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks excluding those pending review, by local authority, Q4 2012 to Q1 2018

Detailed local authority level homelessness figures - Spreadsheets containing detailed figures at local authority level from sections E1 to E7 and E10 of the P1E return for each quarter from Q2 2009 to Q1 2018 and year ending March 2018.

Figures for individual local authorities are included in Tables 784, 784a, 792, 792a and 793.

* The following tables giving regional totals have been frozen so as not to include figures for any periods after Q2 2012:

Table 772 * Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by region

Table 776 * Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by region

Table 783 * Homeless households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter, by type of accommodation and region

Table 790 * Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by region, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12

Table 791 * Total cases of homelessness prevention and relief by type and region, England, 2009/10 to 2011/12

The above tables can be accessed at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-homelessness

Related MHCLG statistical releases are available at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics

Open Data

These statistics are available in fully open and linkable data formats at Open Data Communities:http://opendatacommunities.org/

The Open Data mobile app provides a range of statistics published by MHCLG for the locality and is available for download free of charge from the Windows App Store and Google Playstore. Any enquiries about the app should be sent to ODC@communities.gov.uk.

Technical notes

The United Kingdom Statistics Authority has designated the statutory homelessness statistics in this release as National Statistics, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007 and signifying compliance with the Code of Practice for Statistics. Designation can be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics:

• meet identified user needs;

• are well explained and readily accessible;

• are produced according to sound methods; and

• are managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Definitions

Acceptances: households found to be eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and falling within a priority need group (as defined by homelessness legislation - see 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.

Decisions: refers to decisions taken during the quarter in respect of all eligible households that apply for assistance under the Housing and Homelessness Acts. These do not therefore include households found to be ineligible for assistance (some persons from abroad are ineligible for assistance).

Foreign nationals: The accession States are countries whose nationals may be subject to the Home Office Worker Authorisation schemes for a transitional period: Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Separate figures for decisions made on Croatian applicants were collected on the P1E form, following Croatia becoming an accession country on 1 July 2013. The ‘other EEA’ countries are Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, France, German, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain and Sweden.

The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017: once implemented, will result in changes to the current homelessness legislation contained in Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 ("the 1996 Act"), and to the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012. It places duties on local

housing authorities to intervene at earlier stages to prevent homelessness and to take reasonable steps to help those who become homeless to secure accommodation. It requires local housing authorities to provide some new homelessness services to all people in their area and expands the categories of people who they have to help to find accommodation. Details can be found here:http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/homelessnessreduction/documents.html

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”. Before the second quarter of 2005, figures were also collected on those potentially in this category but whose application was still under consideration pending a decision.

Priority need groups: includes 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 to 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, some local authorities would have accepted households that fell 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. 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.

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).

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.

Data collection and methods

Local housing authorities report their activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2011) to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government by completing the quarterly P1E statistical return. The P1E is a form designed by the Department to ask local authorities questions about statutory homelessness and the authority's activities both within and outside the legislative framework.

The P1E form contains questions about decisions made about homelessness applications, immediate outcomes, households in temporary accommodation, and prevention and relief activity, amongst other things. A recent form and guidance notes can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/homelessness-data-notes-and-definitions.

1. Rates per 1,000 households have been calculated using the 2014-based household projections for 2017 produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government. These were published on 12 July 2016 and are available at Table 406 at the following link: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-household-projections

2. National figures in the text and accompanying tables are presented rounded to the nearest 10 households or applicants. Local authority figures provided in the accompanying Live Tables are unrounded.

3. Imputed data, where local authorities failed to complete a valid return are highlighted. Homelessness statistics are published around 50 working days after the end of each quarter, on a pre-announced date in accordance with the Statistics Code of Practice.

Rough sleeping figures are collected and published separately - see link on page 31. The devolved administrations publish their own statistics on statutory homelessness – see pages 31 - 32.

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, which includes omissions and any categories that change by our defined % change and value exceedance triggers, are highlighted and verified by contacting the local authority. Any large changes have to be justified with further explanation or amended and resubmitted where it has been agreed there was an error in the data supplied. We then work with the local authority to resolve this where this was due to incorrect or inconsistent application of our guidance. We update our guidance notes where we identify that these could be improved.

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 1 January to 31 March 2017, 95% of responding authorities reported some form of checking on the return. For sections 1 to 10 of the return, 52.6% of sections had random checks performed, 42.1% had periodic checks performed and 0.4% had undergone

an LA audit.

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 former government region they are in and by type of authority. For example, the West Midlands area 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) apportions totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities.

A release was published as planned 27 June 2018. In the afternoon the MHCLG were alerted by a Local Authority that some of their statistical return was incorrect. The release and associated statistical live tables were withdrawn, revised and re-published 29 June 2018. A Non-Scheduled Revisions was made and published in this revised version of the release. Not all tables were affected by the revision. For instance, the number of households in temporary accommodation and the number of actions taken to prevent and relieve homelessness did not change. The main changes were to the number of households being statutorily homeless. Statutorily homeless between 1 January and 31 March 2018 was revised down from 13,740 households to 13,300 households. This affected a key message on the front page of the release. Page 1 had reported that "Between 1 January and 31 March 2018 local authorities accepted 13,740 households as being statutorily homeless, up 1% from 13,640 on the previous quarter and down 6% from 14,610 on the same quarter of 2017." This revised release now reports on Page 1 that "Between 1 January and 31 March 2018 local authorities accepted 13,300 households as being statutorily homeless, down 2% from 13,640 on the previous quarter and down 9% from 14,610 on the same quarter of 2017."

This release is a scheduled revision to the version published 29 June 2018. Nine local authorities were not able to provide their P1E returns in time to be included in the June publication and their data was imputed. Most of these local authorities have since provided their Q1 2018 return which has now been included. As part of this updating process it became apparent that one of these local authorities had also provided incorrect totals for their numbers of households in temporary accommodation for Q2 2017, Q3 2017 and Q4 2017. The totals for households in temporary accommodation for these three quarters have been estimated and included in this release and accompanying statistical tables.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government's statistical quality guidelines are published here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statistical-notice-MHCLG-quality-guidelines.

Data limitations

Reason for loss of last settled home in section E3 of the P1E form is reported by main category, one reason per household, i.e. if more than one reason applies, the local authority makes their decision on which reason is considered the main one and recorded on the P1E. Some categories may be favoured over other reasons as they are easier to evidence – see page 8.

It is possible that the homelessness prevention and relief figures include some under-recording of

these activities in cases where local authorities have been able to accurately collate and report their own activity but do not have systems in place to comprehensively record activity by partner organisations (i.e. any organisation who assists the authority in tackling and preventing homelessness, and is either funded by the authority or has clients referred to them by the authority). However, there is some evidence that recording of partner organisation activity by local authorities has improved since data collection started for 2008/09.

There may be a small number of households recorded in both the prevention and acceptance statistics within the same quarter – for example where an authority reasonably expected that successful prevention action had been taken but this subsequently fell through leading to acceptance. However, it is broadly correct to add together the acceptance, prevention and relief figures to assess the number of households assisted within a quarter.

Preventions are often carried out by third parties on behalf of the local authority. Without a link to local authority homeless case systems, there will be a small number of households recorded as preventions where the activity failed who are later recorded under homeless acceptances. In contrast there will be some households in the prevention data that would not have become homeless if the positive intervention hadn't occurred.

Acceptances apply to a much smaller subset of the population than preventions. This is because all acceptances undergo the priority needs assessment as qualifying criteria for assistance. Prevention strategies also differ across local authorities. Caution should be taken when comparing prevention to acceptances, especially across local authorities. The inconsistent approach to preventions mean that acceptances and number of households living in temporary accommodation are considered a more consistent measure of whether or not homelessness reduction strategies, including prevention programmes are actually working.

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-MHCLG-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

Local authorities can update their P1E returns following publication of the data. At the end of each financial year, the figures for the eight quarters of the previous two years are routinely reviewed for revision. Q1-3 releases revise figures for the previous two quarters. Provisional figures are labelled in the tables with a "P". Revised figures are labelled in the tables with "R". These revisions are kept to a minimum wherever possible by encouraging local authorities to submit their data early. This allows MHCLG to run validation checks on data and check any unusual movements in

data with affected local authorities. Where larger revisions are made more information will be provided in the footnotes of the statistical tables and the updated release, where changes impact on the headline numbers.

Revisions to historic data (all data older than that currently due for scheduled revision) will 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

These data form the basis of evidence on statutory homelessness and prevention and relief. Ministers and officials in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government use this information to understand the scale and causes of homelessness and to consider possible policy responses. 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. They are also used to allocate resources, monitor performance and to support bids for funding from the Treasury. For example the data was used in December 2015 to allocate £5m of funding towards areas with the highest use of temporary accommodation.

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. These statistics along with our annual rough sleeping count regularly feature in reports from Homelesslink, Crisis, Shelter and other homeless organisations.

User engagement

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

A website has been created to keep users up to date with all the latest developments in MHCLG's homelessness statistics. It contains details of user events and information about planned developments such as the redesign of the P1E form. Users can also feedback their comments through this forum:
https://gss.civilservice.gov.uk/statistics/working-with-users/MHCLG-homelessness-statistics-user-forum/

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/MHCLG-draft-statistics-plan-for-2011-to-2012) sets out the Department's intention to reduce the detail of the statutory homelessness quarterly 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 July to 3 December 2011 and the final version of the plan was published on 7 March 2012.

The UK Statistics Authority has published an assessment of the Department's homelessness and rough sleeping statistics at:
https://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publications-list/?keyword=homelessness+assesment&type=assessment-report&theme=&producer=&date=&number

The report gathered detailed feedback from a wide range of users. The Department is using the findings of the report to plan future developments.

Notes

Pre-release access

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/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

Legislation

Each local housing authority is required to consider housing needs within its area, including the needs of homeless households. Legislation places a statutory duty on local housing authorities to ensure that advice and assistance to all households is available free of charge.

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1996/52/contents), as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2002/7/contents) and the Localism Act 2011 (http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted), places 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 the definitions section above provides a summary.

In 2002 an Order made under the 1996 Act extended the priority need categories to include applicants who: are aged 16 or 17; are aged 18 to 20 and previously in care; were previously in custody; were previously in HM Forces; or were forced to flee their home because of violence or the threat of violence.

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.

Local authorities are encouraged to offer prevention assistance to everyone who seeks housing assistance and considers they are at risk of homelessness in the near future, including single person households and others who may not appear to the authority to fall within a priority need category (however local authorities cannot use such prevention assistance to avoid their obligations under the homelessness legislation). Prevention assistance involves providing people with the means to address their housing and other needs to avoid homelessness. It includes activities which enable a household to remain in their current home, where appropriate, or which enable a planned and timely move and help sustain independent living.

Additionally, local authorities are encouraged to take steps to relieve homelessness and to record these cases where someone has been accepted as homeless but is not owed a duty to secure accommodation under the homelessness legislation (Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996). These are cases where the authorities have been unable to prevent homelessness, but nevertheless decide to ensure the applicant secures accommodation (although under no statutory obligation to do more than ensure the provision of advice and assistance) – for example, cases where someone is found to be homeless but not in priority need and/or intentionally homeless. In this release, 'cases' refers to households or individuals.

Related links on wider homelessness

The Department previously released statistics Homelessness Prevention and Relief activity separately. The publication, relating to local authority actions prior to the 2015-16 financial year, can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/homelessness-prevention-and-relief-england-2014-to-2015.

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2017

Figures for Autumn 2017 were published on 25 January 2018.

Statistics on local authority revenue expenditure and financing in England can be found at the following link. 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/collections/local-authority-revenue-expenditure-and-financing

Information on lettings of local authority and private registered provider properties in England are collected on the CORE (COntinuous REcording of Lettings and Sales in Social Housing) system. This includes information on whether lettings have been made to statutorily homeless households and homeless households not covered by a local authority's statutory duty. Official Statistics are published at:
https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/rents-lettings-and-tenancies

An on-line analysis tool is available at: https://core.communities.gov.uk/

The English Housing Survey (EHS) is a national survey of people's housing circumstances This includes breakdowns on the additional adults in a household who wanted to rent or buy but could not afford to do so. As part of the EHS interview, households are asked some questions about all members of the household, including the circumstances of additional adults in the household such as grown-up children, nieces and nephews, adult siblings, or parents or grandparents who might otherwise be living elsewhere. There are many possible reasons that additional adults might be living as part of a household, including caring responsibilities, being cared for by another household member, waiting to move into their own property, and simply preferring to live as part of the household. Data on concealed households, a subset of hidden homeless can be found in MHCLG's English Housing Survey Statistics here:
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/627151/Future_home_owners_full_report.pdf

Devolved administration statistics

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 was the most significant. The target states that, by 31 March 2012, everyone assessed as being unintentionally homeless would be 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, the 2003 Act has removed or substantially amended 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.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/RefTables

In **Wales**, local authorities were until recently bound by the same statutory duties as those in England. The Housing Act (Wales) 2014 contained a number of changes to statutory homelessness legislation which were introduced on 27 April 2015. One of these was a new duty to

help anyone threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days. The Welsh Government advises that data before and after the legislative changes are not comparable, as explained here: http://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2015/150923-statutory-homelessness-legislative-changes-27-april-2015-en.pdf

The most recent homelessness statistics for Wales are available at: http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/homelessness/?lang=en

In **Northern Ireland** statistics on homelessness are obtained 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: https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing-statistics

Comparing between countries

Statutory homelessness statistics for 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, and changes to the legislation in Wales from 2015, mean that caution should be exercised when comparing these figures to England or deriving a UK figure over that time period.

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Information on Official Statistics is available via the UK Statistics Authority website: https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements

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

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