



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

Statutory homelessness, January to March 2016, and homelessness prevention and relief 2015/16: England



Housing Statistical Release

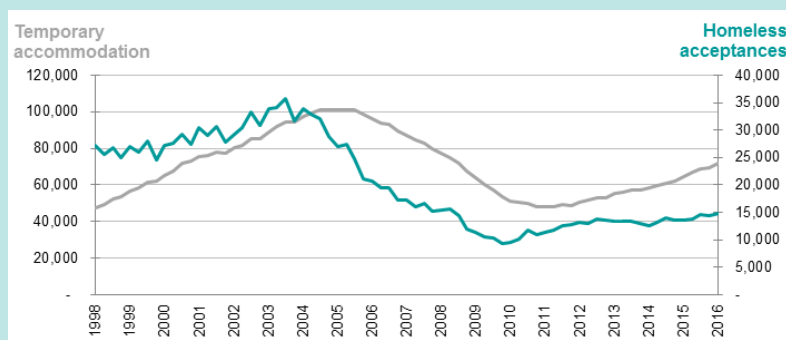
30 June 2016

This publication provides information on the number of households that reported being unintentionally homeless (or threatened with homelessness) to their local authority and were offered housing assistance.

- Local authorities accepted 14,780 households as being **statutorily homeless** between 1 January and 31 March 2016, up 2% on the previous quarter and 9% on the same quarter of last year.

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

- The total number of households in **temporary accommodation** on 31 March 2016 was 71,540, up 11 per cent on a year earlier, and up 49% on the low of 48,010 on 31 December 2010.



- Local authorities took action to **prevent** homelessness for 198,100 households in 2015/16, down from 205,000 in 2014/15.
- A further 14,400 non-priority households were helped out of homelessness (relieved) by local authorities in 2015/16, down from 15,700 in 2014/15.

| | |
|---|----|
| Introduction | 2 |
| Decisions | 3 |
| Acceptances | 3 |
| Immediate outcome | 9 |
| Temporary accommodation | 9 |
| Leaving temporary accommodation | 13 |
| Foreign nationals | 14 |
| Prevention and relief | 15 |
| Accompanying tables | 20 |
| Definitions | 23 |
| Technical notes | 24 |
| Notes | 27 |
| Enquiries | 32 |

Responsible Statistician:

Mike Young

Statistical enquiries:

office hours:

0303 444 4387

homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Media Enquiries:

0303 444 1201

press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Date of next publication:

Sept 2016

Introduction

The term “homelessness” is a broad one and has a number of interpretations. The Department for Communities and Local Government has until now published three separate statistical products which cover different aspects of the issue – statutory homelessness, homelessness prevention and relief, and rough sleeping. From this release onwards, statistics on both statutory homelessness and prevention and relief will be published in a single release each quarter. The annual count of rough sleeping will continue to be published separately and the latest statistics can be found at;

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2015>

For the purposes of this release, a household is homeless if they do not have accommodation that they have a legal right to occupy, which is accessible and physically available to them (and their household) and which it would be reasonable for them to continue to live in.

A **statutorily homeless** household is one that is unintentionally homeless and in a **priority need** category (such as having dependent children). Unintentionally homeless, priority need households are owed a main duty by their local authority to secure settled accommodation, and to ensure suitable accommodation is provided until settled accommodation becomes available. Such households are referred to as **acceptances**. Pages 3 – 8 of this release provide statistics on accepted households.

Homelessness **prevention and relief** activity may be carried out by local authorities on behalf of households whether they are in priority need or not. 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 homeless, which enable them to remain in their existing accommodation or obtain an alternative for at least the next 6 months. Relief refers to positive actions to secure accommodation for households that have already become homeless. Pages 15 – 19 of this release provide statistics on prevention and relief.

Statutory homelessness data have been collected from English local authorities on the quarterly P1E form since 1998. Prevention and relief data were added to the form in 2008. Publishing both datasets in a combined release is intended to give a better overall picture of homelessness. Some households may appear in both the statutory homelessness and prevention figures.

Decisions taken by local authorities on homelessness applications

Local housing authorities received 29,120 applications for housing assistance in January to March (Q1) 2016 under the homelessness legislation of the Housing Act 1996 (excluding those who were ineligible, such as recent arrivals to the UK). This is 5% higher than in the same quarter of 2015.

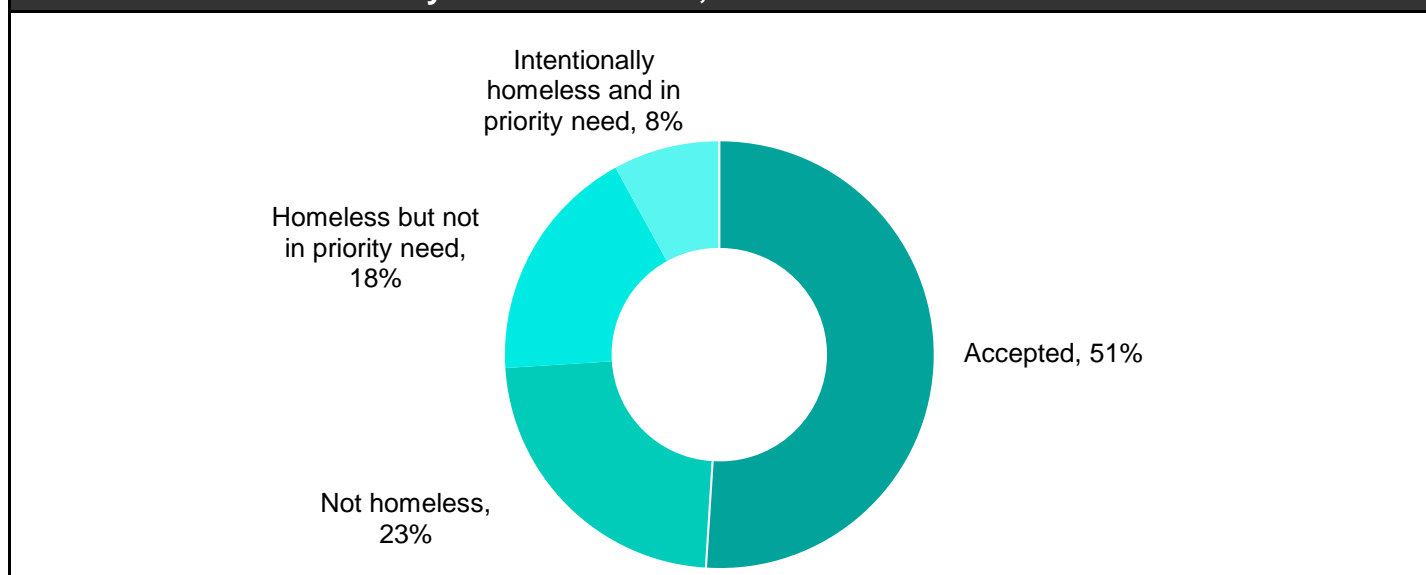
Of these;

- 51% were accepted (referred to as 'owed a main homelessness duty').

Of the remainder:

- 23% were found not to be homeless;
- 18% were found to be homeless but not in priority need; and
- 8% were found to be intentionally homeless and in priority need.

Chart 1: Decisions made by local authorities, Q1 2016



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

Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty

Local authorities accepted 14,780 households in England as 'Statutorily Homeless' in Q1 2016, up 9% compared to the same quarter last year and up 2% from the figure of 14,480 in the previous quarter.

Of these, 4,940 were in London, accounting for 33% of the England total.

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

Table 1: Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during Q1 2016 with comparisons to Q4 2015 and Q1 2015, England, London and Rest of England

| | Q1 2016 | Previous quarter: Q4 2015 | | Same quarter last year: Q1 2015 | |
|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Households Accepted | Households Accepted | Percentage change | Households Accepted | Percentage change |
| England | 14,780 | 14,480 | 2% | 13,520 | 9% |
| London | 4,940 | 5,160 | -4% | 4,390 | 13% |
| Rest of England | 9,840 | 9,310 | 6% | 9,140 | 8% |

There were 57,750 acceptances in financial year 2015-16, up 6% from 54,430 in 2014-15.

- Of these, 19,180 were in London, up 9% from 17,530 during 2014-15. These acceptances represent 33% of the England total
- In the rest of England the 2015-16 figure of 38,570 is up 5% on the 2014-15 figure of 36,900.

Chart 2 shows the number of acceptances in England since 1998.

Chart 2: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty each quarter, Q1 1998 to Q1 2016, England



The annual number of acceptances during a financial year peaked in 2003/04 at 135,420 before falling to a low of 40,020 in 2009/10. In 2015-16 the annual number of acceptances at 57,750 was 57% below the 2003/04 peak, and 44% higher than the 2009/10 low.

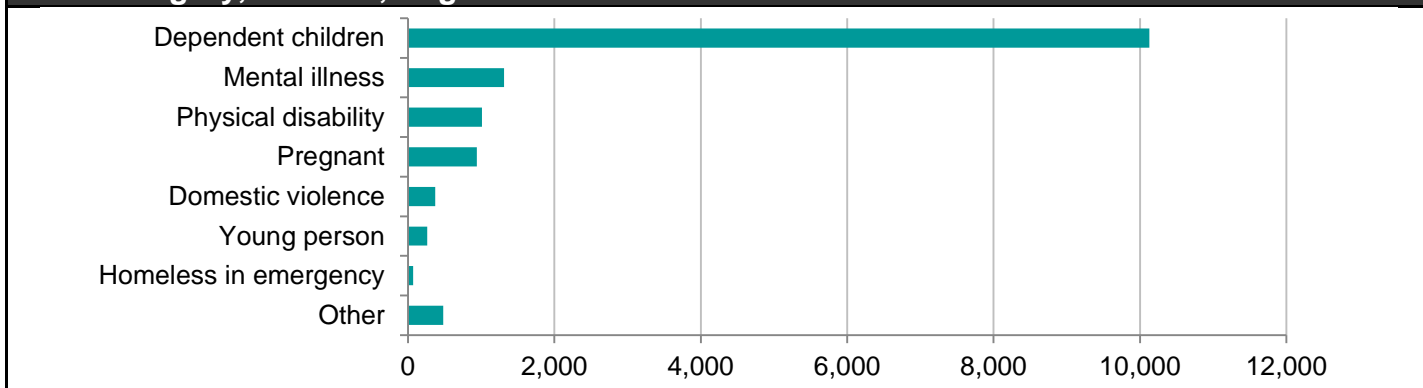
See Live Table 770: Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households, Live Table 774 London and Live Table 774 Rest of England.

Acceptances by priority need category

In Q1 2016, the presence of dependent children in the household was the primary reason for the household being classed as priority need in 10,130 cases, or 69% of acceptances. A further 940 households (6%) were in priority need because they included a pregnant woman.

Chart 3 shows a breakdown of acceptances by priority need category.

Chart 3: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty by priority need category, Q1 2016, England



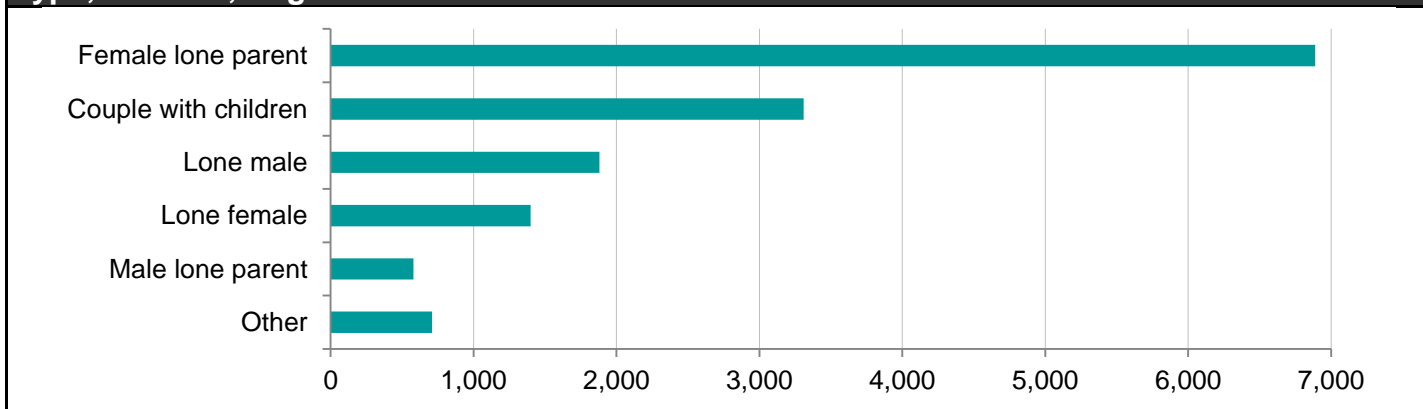
See Live Table 773: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by priority need category.

Acceptances by household type

Lone parent households were the most common household type accepted with 51% of all acceptances in Q1 2016 (4% male parent, 47% female parent), accounting for 7,480 acceptances in total.

Chart 4 shows the number of acceptances broken down by different household types.

Chart 4: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty by household type, Q1 2016, England



See Live Table 780: Homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities by household type.

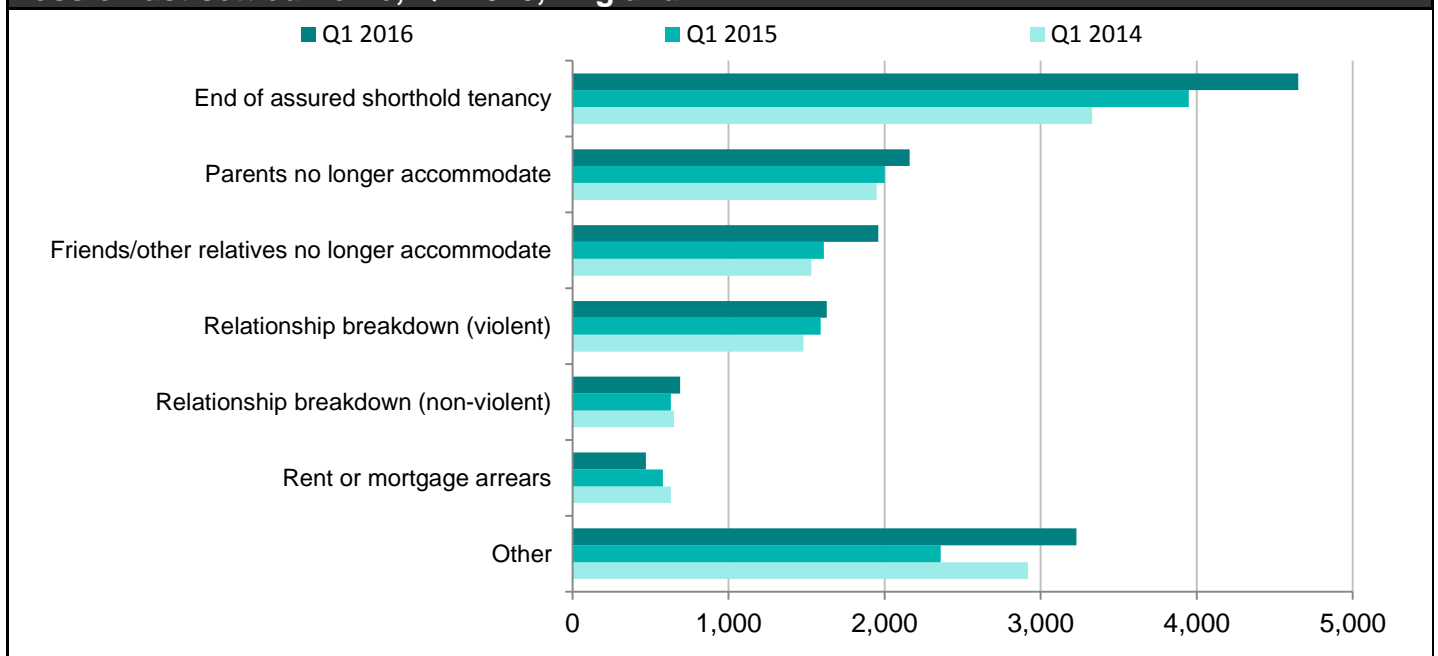
Acceptances by reason for loss of last settled home

'Ending of an assured shorthold tenancy with a private landlord' was the most common reason for the loss of the last settled home in Q1 2016. This represents 31% (4,650 households) of all acceptances in England and 41% of acceptances (2,040 households) in London.

The end of an assured shorthold tenancy has been an increasingly common cause of loss of last home over the last six years, rising from 4,580 (11% of all cases in 2009/10) to 17,900 (31% of cases in 2015/16). This has happened during a time when the private rented sector has doubled in size (since 2002) and now houses 4.3 million households (2015/16).

Chart 5 shows a breakdown of acceptances by reason for loss of settled home.

Chart 5: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty by reason for loss of last settled home, Q1 2016, England

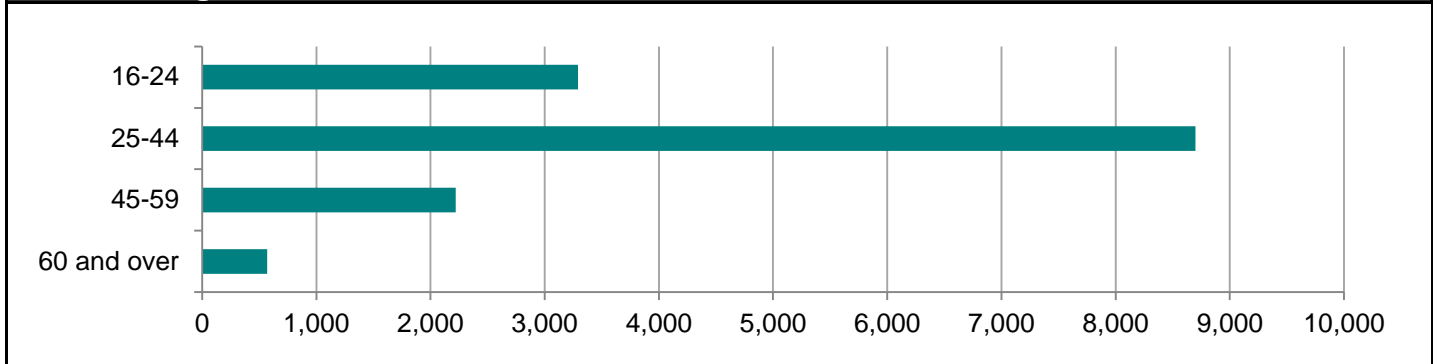


See Live Table 774: Homeless households accepted by local authorities, by reason for loss of last settled home.

Acceptances by age band

Households where the main applicant was under 45 made up 81% of all acceptances in Q1 2016: 59% (8,700) were aged between 25 and 44, and 22% (3,290) between 16 and 24. 4% of acceptances (570) were households where the main applicant was aged 60 or over.

Chart 6: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty by age, Q1 2016 England



See Live Table 781: Homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities by age of applicant.

Acceptances by ethnicity

In Q1 2016, 60% of applicants accepted (8,860) were of white ethnicity, 17% (2,470) were Black or Black British, 9% (1,400) were Asian or Asian British, 3% (510) mixed and 4% (660) another ethnic group. The ethnic origin of the remaining 6% was not stated.

The proportion of acceptances of Black and Minority Ethnic households is higher than their proportion of the overall population.

See Live Table 771: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty, by ethnicity.

Acceptances of households that have re-applied

The Localism Act 2011 allows authorities to place homeless households into the private rented sector and places a re-application duty on them if a household becomes unintentionally homeless again within two years.

There were 70 re-application decisions were made during Q1 2016. 40 of these were households accepted as being unintentionally homeless and in priority need.

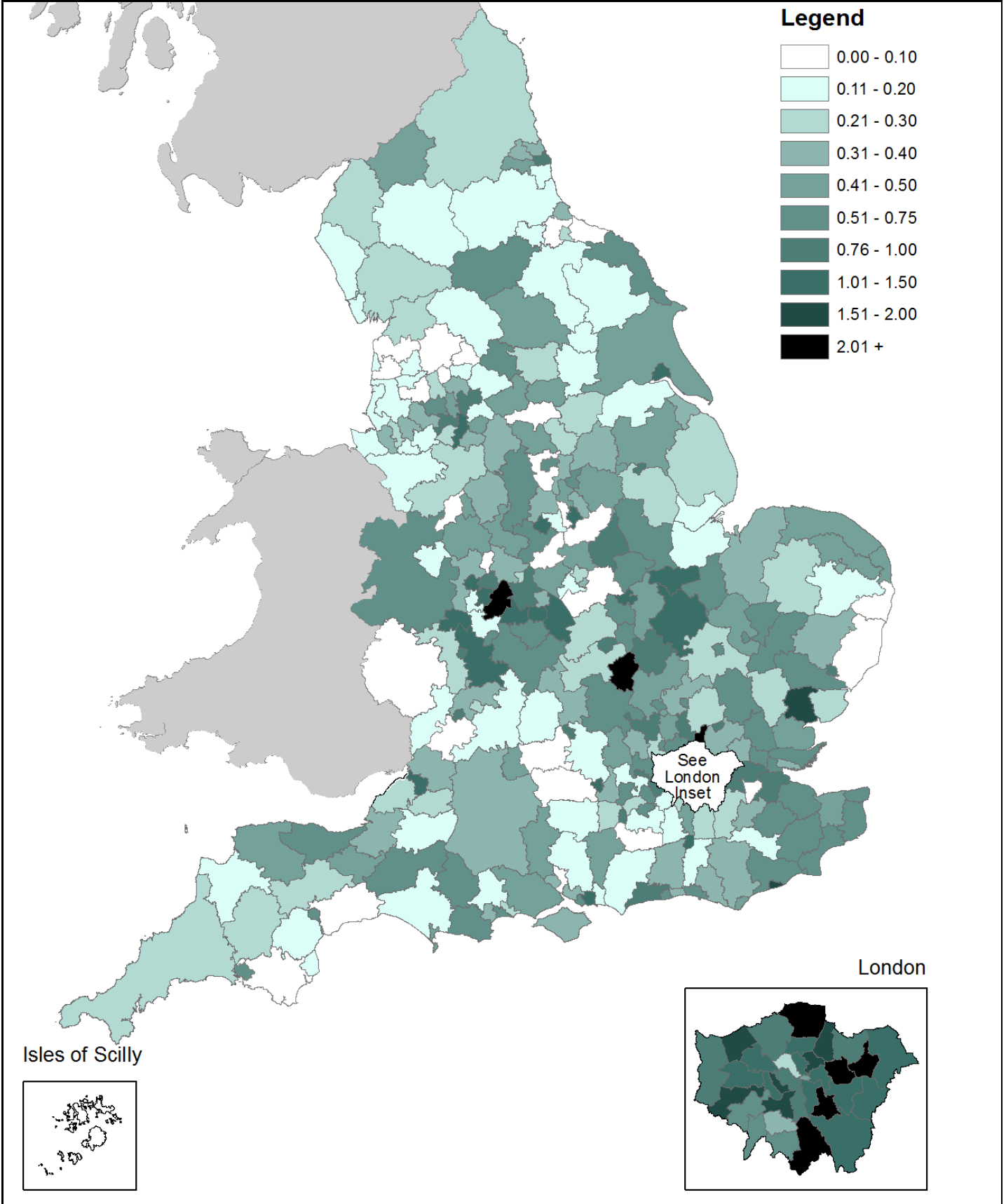
See Live Table 770a: Re-application Duty: Decisions taken by local authorities on eligible households owed the reapplication duty under Section 195a of the Localism Act 2011

Relative levels of homelessness

Comparing the number of acceptances to the population size in an area gives a measure of the level of homelessness.

The number of homeless acceptances was 0.64 per 1,000 households in England in Q1 2016. In London, the rate was 1.42 and in the rest of England (excluding London) it was 0.51 per 1,000 households. Map 1 illustrates the rates at local authority level.

**Map 1: Statutory Homelessness: Acceptances Rates per 1,000 households
Q1 2016, England**



Produced by the Local Policy Analysis Team, ADD

© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024857

Data Sources
OS Boundary-Line

Immediate outcomes for accepted households

When a household is accepted as homeless by a local authority, the authority has a duty to ensure that suitable accommodation is available. In some cases the household is provisionally able to remain in their existing accommodation to await an offer of alternative accommodation (referred to as 'duty owed, no accommodation secured'). In cases where this is not possible, the household will be housed in temporary accommodation arranged by the local authority.

Of the household acceptances in Q1 2016 (14,810 including re-applications):

- 9,160 (62%) were placed in some form of temporary accommodation,
- 4,430 (30%) were able to remain in their existing accommodation (with consent)
- 740 (5%) were provided with settled accommodation by being granted a secure tenancy in local authority or private registered social landlord accommodation
- 50 (less than 1%) accepted a qualifying offer of an assured shorthold tenancy

Local authorities can discharge their homeless duty by making an offer in the private rented sector; 100 households accepted such an offer and 30 rejected one.

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

Households in temporary accommodation

A snapshot of all households living in temporary accommodation is taken on the last day of each quarter.

The number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation on 31 March 2016 was 71,540. This was 11% higher than a year earlier and up 49% on the low of 48,010 on 31 December 2010. In London, the number of households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016 was 51,940, 73% of the total England figure.

Table 2: Households accommodated in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016 compared to previous quarter and year, England, London and Rest of England

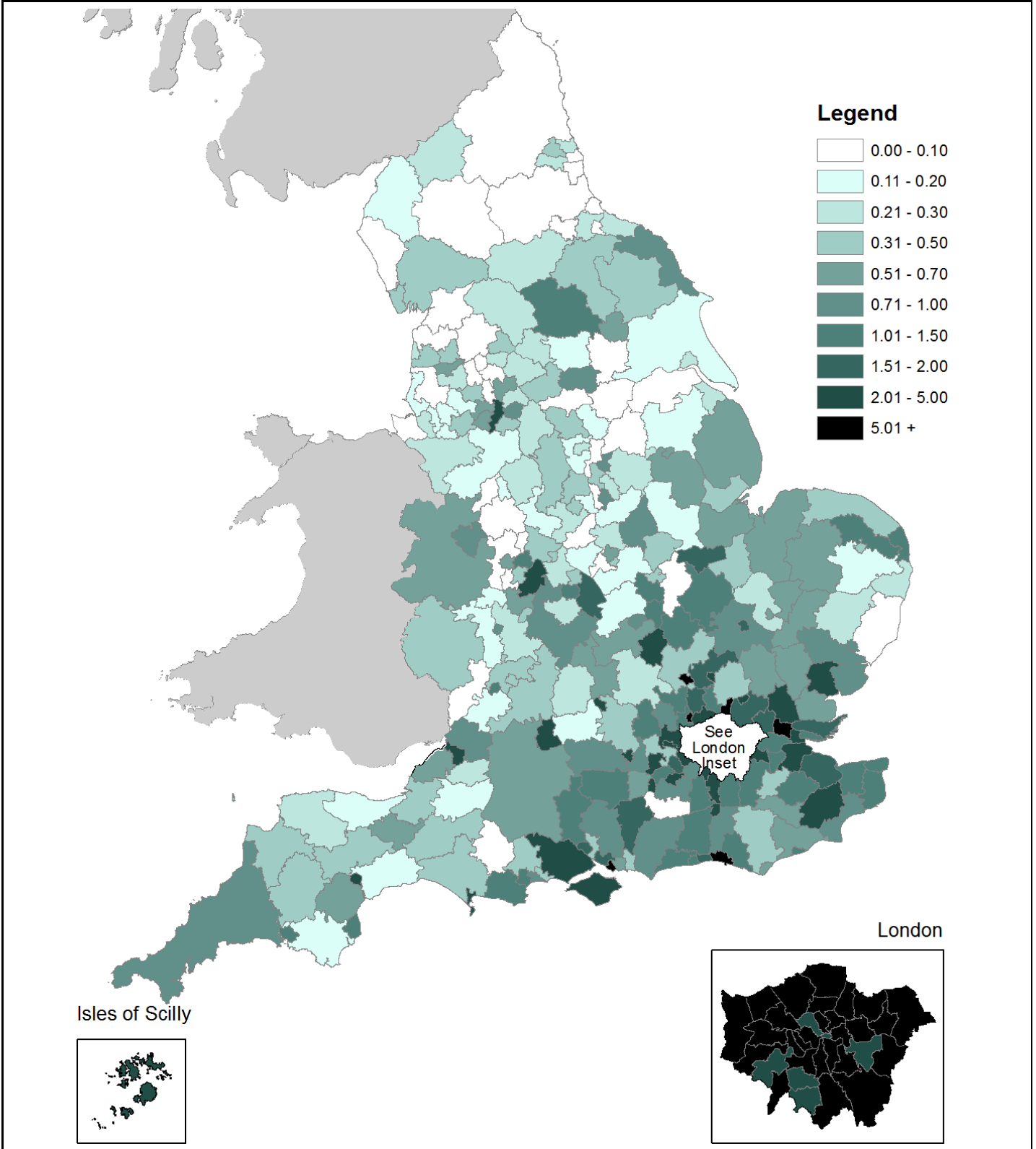
| | 31 March 2016 | Previous quarter: 31 Dec 2015 | | Same quarter last year: 31 March 2015 | |
|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Households | Households | Percentage change | Households | Percentage change |
| England | 71,540 | 69,140 | 3% | 64,710 | 11% |
| London | 51,940 | 50,970 | 2% | 48,240 | 8% |
| Rest of England | 19,610 | 18,180 | 8% | 16,470 | 19% |

Comparing the number of households in temporary accommodation to the population size in an area gives a measure of its use across England.

In England there were 3.12 households living in temporary accommodation per 1,000 households

at the end of March 2016. For London, there were 14.88 cases per thousand households in London and 1.01 cases per thousand households in the rest of England. The patterns at local authority level can be seen in Map 2 below.

**Map 2: Temporary Accommodation Rates per 1,000 households
31 March 2016, England**



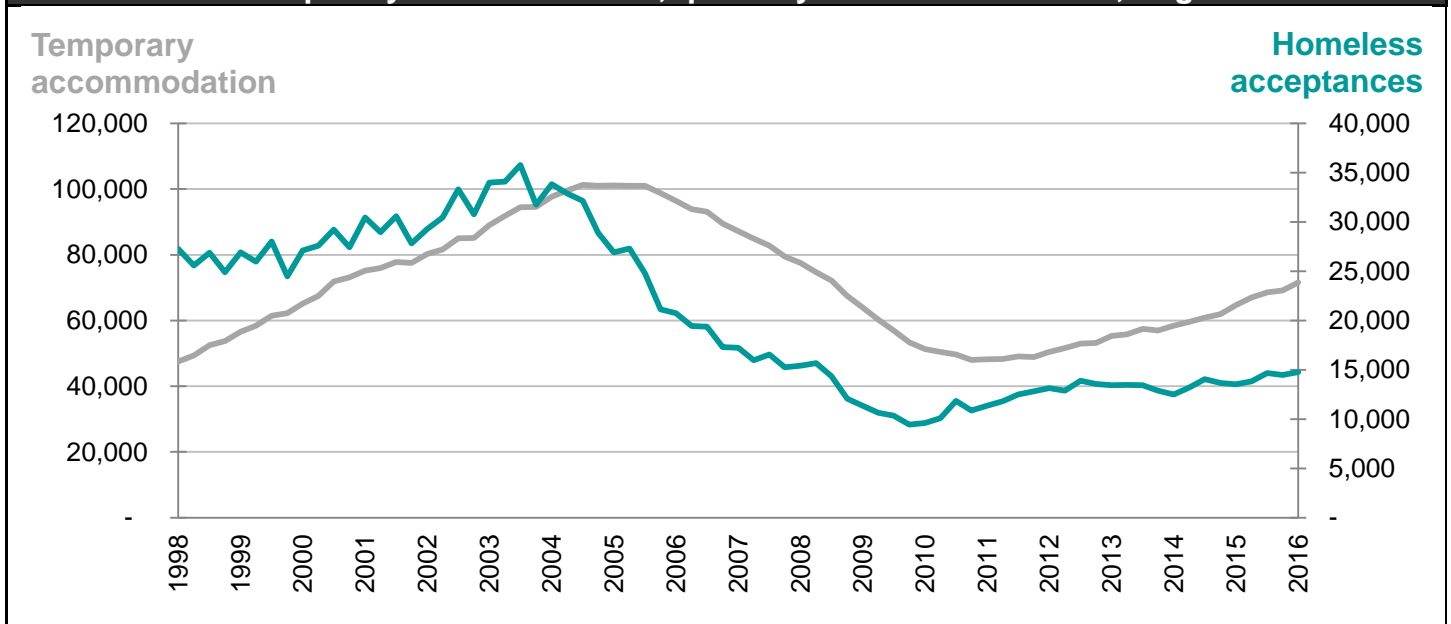
Produced by the Local Policy Analysis Team, ADD

© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024857

Data Sources
OS Boundary-Line

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 2 (on page 4) shows the increase in the number of acceptances that peaked in 2003 before falling off to 2009. Chart 7 shows that the number of households in temporary accommodation follows a similar pattern with a delay. The number of households in temporary accommodation peaked at 101,300 at the end of September 2004 before declining by half to 48,010 at the end of 2010.

Chart 7: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main duty, and households in temporary accommodation, quarterly Q1 1998 to Q1 2016, England



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.

Types of temporary accommodation

There were 59,990 households were in self-contained temporary accommodation in England at the end of March 2016, representing 84% of all households in temporary accommodation. The number of households in temporary accommodation with shared facilities (bed and breakfast accommodation or hostels/women's refuges) was 11,550. Of the number in shared facilities, there were 5,980 households living in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation (including those in shared 'annex' facilities), an increase of 13% from 5,270 as at 31 March 2015.

The number of households in nightly paid self-contained annexes was 17,050. This represents 24% of all households in temporary accommodation, up from 21% a year previously and 8% five years ago.

Chart 8 shows a breakdown of the type of temporary accommodation households are in.

Chart 8: Households in temporary accommodation by type of accommodation, 31 March 2016, London and Rest of England



Households in temporary accommodation by household type

Of the 71,540 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2016, 56,660 included dependent children and/or a pregnant woman (within which there were 112,080 children or expected children). The average number of children in those households in temporary accommodation with children is 2.0.

Of the 56,660 households with children, 49,800 (88%) were in self-contained accommodation.

There were 5,980 households in bed and breakfast style accommodation as at 31 March 2016. Of these 2,920 (49%) had dependent children or expected children of which 970 had been resident for more than 6 weeks. The corresponding figures for the previous quarter and same quarter the previous year, and percentage changes, are shown in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Households accommodated in Bed and Breakfast temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016 with comparisons to previous quarter and year, England

| | 31 Mar 2016 | Previous quarter: 31 Mar 2016 | | Same quarter last year: 31 Mar 2015 | |
|---|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| | Households | Households | Percentage change | Households | Percentage change |
| Total households | 5,980 | 5,120 | 17% | 5,270 | 13% |
| Households with dependent children or expected children | 2,920 | 2,270 | 29% | 2,560 | 14% |
| <i>Of which: resident for more than 6 weeks</i> | 970 | 910 | 6% | 920 | 5% |

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

Households in temporary accommodation in another local authority district

Of the 71,540 households in temporary accommodation on 31 March 2016, 19,290 (27%) were in accommodation in another local authority district. This is an increase of 15%, from 16,810 at the same date last year (26% of the total).

Of the 19,290 accommodated in another local authority district, 17,500 were from London authorities (91% of the England total). This is an increase of 12% from the same date last year when 15,620 such households were placed by London authorities.

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

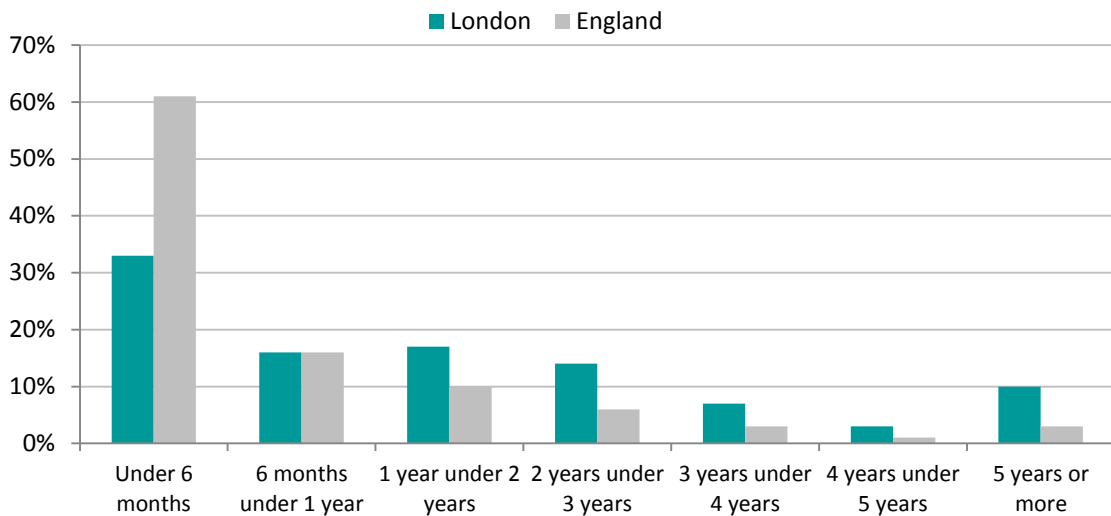
In Q1 2016 a main homelessness duty was ended for 9,320 households who had previously been in temporary accommodation or had remained, with consent, in their existing accommodation while awaiting the provision of alternative accommodation. This is a 10% fall from the previous quarter and a 9% fall from the same quarter in 2015.

Of these households, 6,470 (69%) were provided with settled accommodation by accepting a "Part 6" offer of a tenancy in local authority or housing authority accommodation, an fall of 8% on the figure of 7,020 in the previous quarter. A further 330 refused such an offer.

A further 320 households (3%) accepted an offer of settled rented accommodation in the private sector, made under the Localism Act power, down from 380 in the previous quarter, and 20 households rejected such an offer. There were 480 households (5%) which became intentionally homeless from temporary accommodation while 1,120 households (12%) voluntarily ceased to occupy temporary accommodation.

In England, 61% of those leaving temporary accommodation between 1 January and 31 March 2016 did so less than 6 months after acceptance, and 77% less than a year after acceptance. The corresponding percentages for London were 33% and 49%.

Chart 9: Households leaving temporary accommodation by length of stay, Q1 2016, London and England



See 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.

Foreign national households

2,690 foreign national applicants were accepted as homeless in Q1 2016, up 10% from 2,440 in the same quarter the previous year. Of these, 630 were European Economic Area (EEA) accession State nationals, 700 were from other EEA countries and 1,360 were from outside the EEA. During this period, foreign nationals accounted for 18% of all acceptances.

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

Prevention and relief activity

This section presents statistics on homelessness prevention and relief in England that took place outside the statutory homelessness framework in 2015/16. These statistics are not designated as National Statistics.

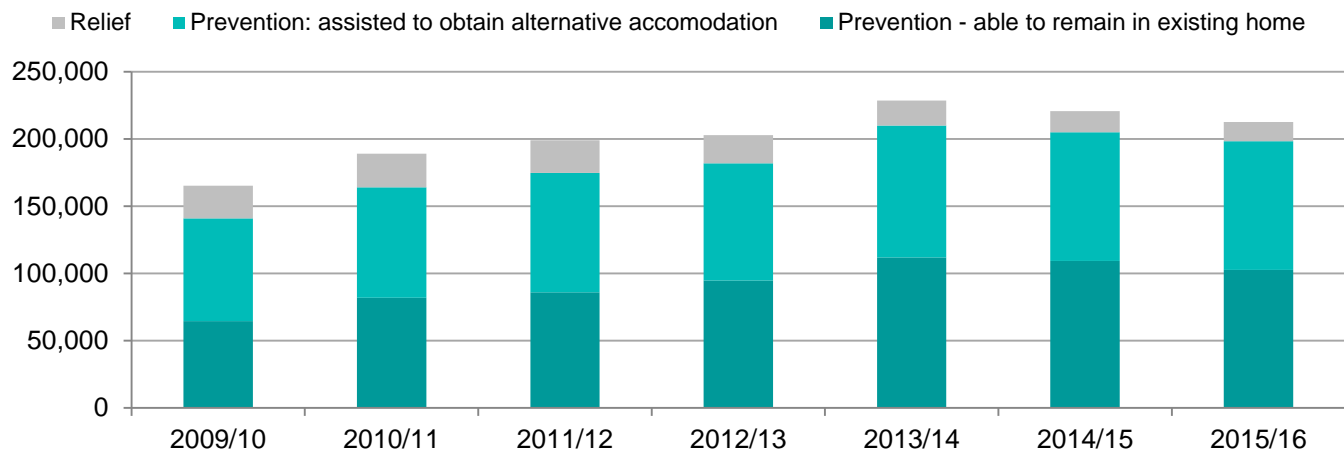
Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local housing authorities must have a strategy for preventing homelessness in their district. The strategy must apply to everyone at risk of homelessness, including cases where someone is found to be homeless but not in priority need and cases where someone is found to be intentionally homeless. 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.

An estimated total of 212,600 cases of homelessness prevention or relief took place outside the statutory homelessness framework in England during 2015/16, down 4% on 2014/15.

Of the total cases, 198,100 (93%) were preventions and 14,400 (7%) were cases of relief. Of the prevention outcomes, 95,700 households (48%) were assisted to obtain alternative accommodation whilst 102,500 (52%) were able to remain in their existing home.

Table 4 and Chart 10 set out the national trends for the period 2009/10 to 2015/16.

| | Total cases of prevention and relief | Relief | | Prevention | | Type of prevention | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|---------------------|--|-----|---------------------------------|-----|
| | | Number of cases | % of grand of total | Number of cases | % of grand of total | Assisted to obtain alternative accommodation | | Able to remain in existing home | |
| 2009/10 | 165,200 | 24,300 | 15% | 140,900 | 85% | 76,500 | 54% | 64,400 | 46% |
| 2010/11 | 188,800 | 24,800 | 13% | 164,100 | 87% | 82,300 | 50% | 81,800 | 50% |
| 2011/12 | 199,000 | 24,200 | 12% | 174,800 | 88% | 88,800 | 51% | 86,000 | 49% |
| 2012/13 | 202,900 | 21,000 | 10% | 181,900 | 90% | 87,200 | 48% | 94,700 | 52% |
| 2013/14 | 228,400 | 18,600 | 8% | 209,900 | 92% | 98,000 | 47% | 111,900 | 53% |
| 2014/15 R | 220,700 | 15,700 | 7% | 205,000 | 93% | 95,800 | 47% | 109,200 | 53% |
| 2015/16 | 212,600 | 14,400 | 7% | 198,100 | 93% | 95,700 | 48% | 102,500 | 52% |

Chart 10: Cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation (prevention and relief), 2015/16

The total number of cases of homelessness prevention and relief increased by 38% between 2009/10 and 2013/14 from 165,200 to 228,400, before falling back to 212,600 in 2015/16.

This decrease in 2015/16 comprises a 3% fall in the number of preventions from 205,000 to 198,100 and an 8% fall in the number of cases of relief from 15,700 to 14,400.

Of the prevention cases, those where the household was assisted to obtain alternative accommodation was 95,700, virtually unchanged from 95,800 in 2015/16, while the number of cases able to remain in their existing home fell to 102,500 from 109,200, a fall of 6%.

See Live Tables 787, 788 and 789 published alongside this release for further information on national totals. In particular, Live Table 787 comprises the information given in Table 1 and a quarterly breakdown for each year and Live Table 788 gives a breakdown by type of action taken. Live Table 789 gives a further breakdown into cases of prevention and relief of those cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation.

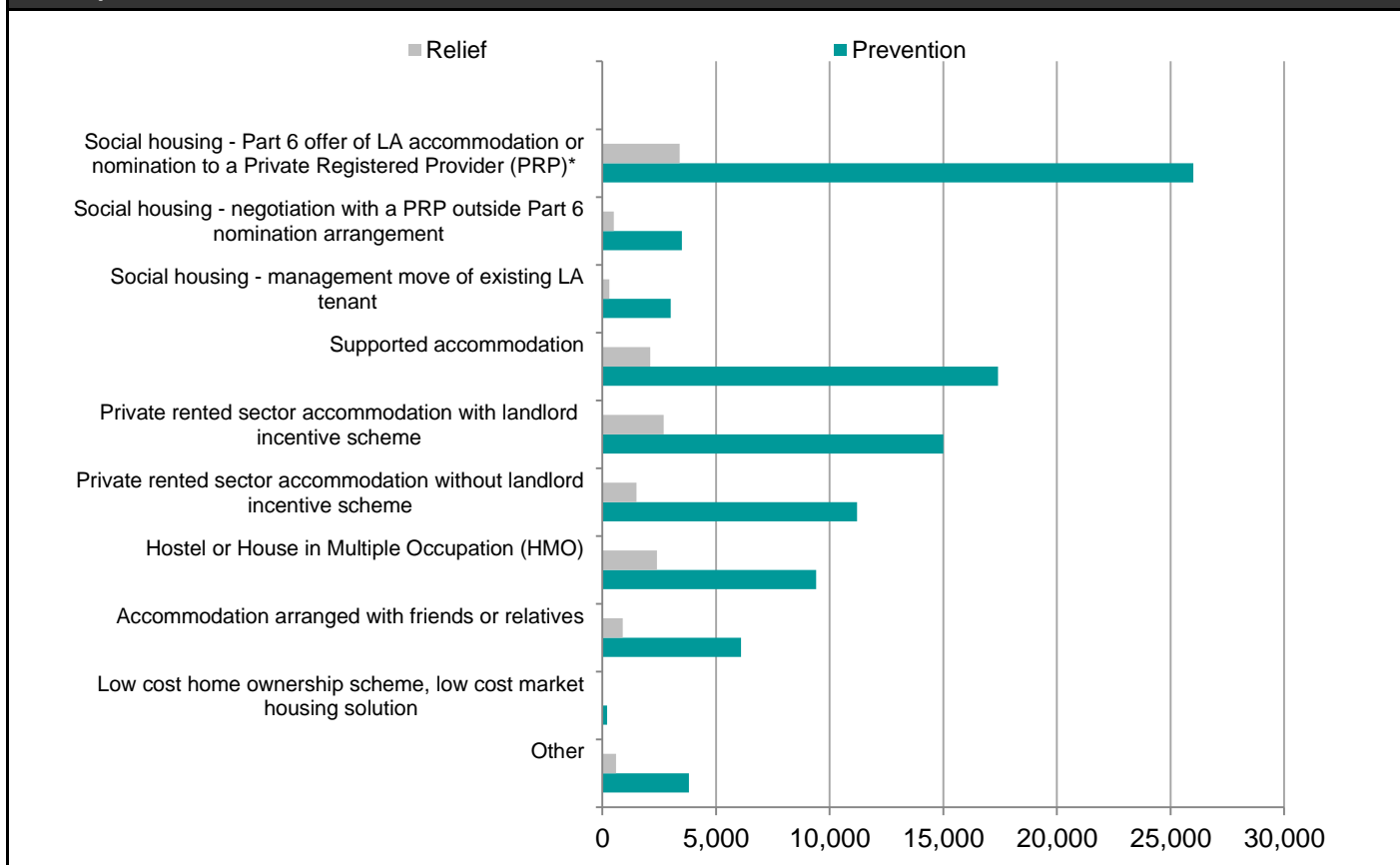
Type of homelessness prevention and relief activity

In 2015/16, prevention and relief numbers break down as following:

- 52% assisted to obtain alternative accommodation
- 48% able to remain in their own home.

In 2015/16 the number of prevention and relief cases that were assisted to obtain alternative accommodation decreased from 111,500 to 110,100, a fall of 1%. This represents 52% of all prevention and relief activity, compared to 51% in 2014/15. Chart 11 shows the actions taken to assist cases to obtain alternative accommodation.

Chart 11: Cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation (prevention and relief), 2015/16

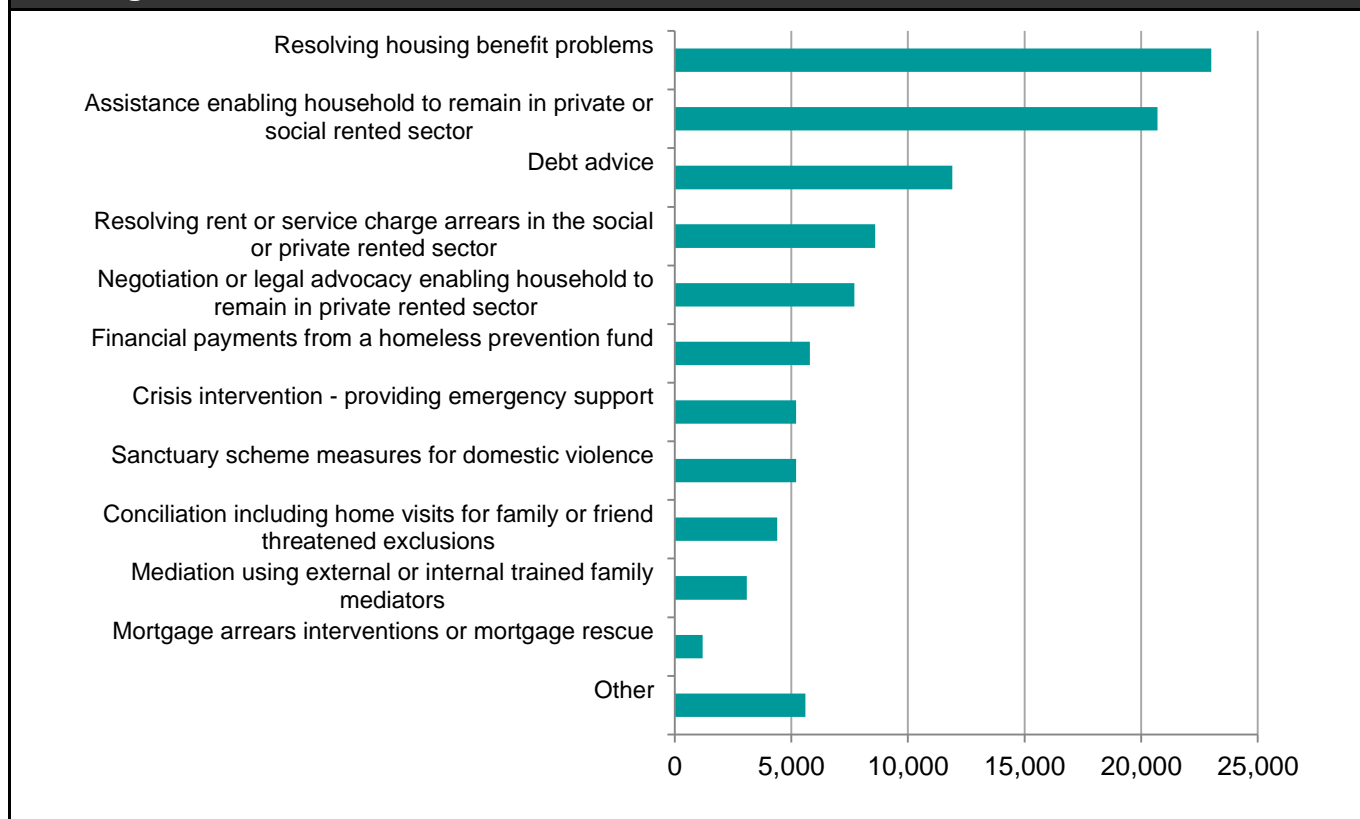


The most common type of alternative accommodation obtained was social housing in the form of a Part 6 offer of the local authorities' own accommodation or nomination to a Private Registered Provider (formerly known as a Registered Social Landlord). There were 29,500 such cases in 2015/16 (27% of the total, up from 25% in 2014/15).

The second most common type of alternative accommodation obtained was supported accommodation, which assisted 19,500 cases (18% of the total, up from 15% in 2014/15).

Chart 12 shows the different types of prevention activities which assisted cases to remain in their existing home.

Chart 12: Type of prevention actions taken in assisting cases to remain in their existing home, 2015/16



The most common action which assisted cases to remain in their existing home was resolving housing benefit problems (23,000 cases, 22% of the total, down from 24% in 2014/15).

Detailed descriptions of the different categories of prevention and relief can be found in section 10 of the P1E guidance document:

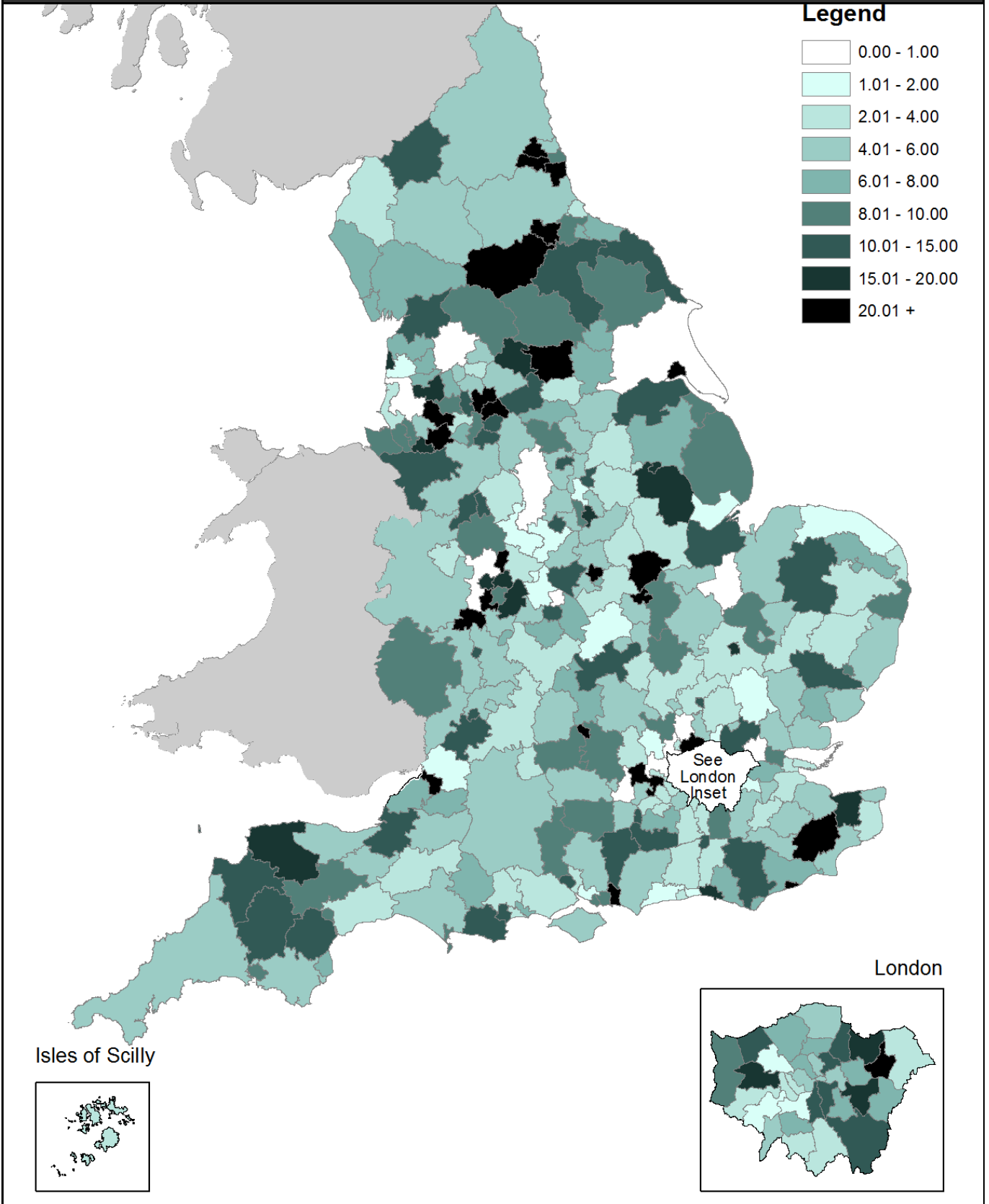
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/522169/P1E_Guidance_Q1_2016.pdf

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 activity average 8.64 cases per 1000 households in England, with a wide degree of variation between different authorities. Local authority data are given in Live Table 792.

Questions about cases where positive action was unsuccessful in preventing or relieving homelessness were removed from the P1E form for 2013/14 because response rates for these questions were lower than for other questions.

Map 3: Total cases of prevention and relief per 1,000 households by local authority, 2015/16



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

Produced by the Local Policy Analysis Team, ADD

© Crown copyright and database rights 2015 Ordnance Survey 100024857

Data Sources
OS Boundary-Line

Accompanying tables

Accompanying tables are available to download alongside this release. These are:

- Table 770** Decisions taken by local authorities under the 1996 Housing Act on applications from eligible households, England, 1998 to Q1 2016
- 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, Q2 2013 to Q1 2016
- Table 771** Ethnicity: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by ethnicity, England, 1998 to Q1 2016
- Table 773** Reason for acceptance: Households accepted by local authorities as owed a main homelessness duty by priority need category, England 1998 to Q1 2016
- 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 2016
- 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 2016
- Table 777** Immediate outcome of decision by local authority to accept household as unintentionally homeless, eligible and in priority need, England, 2003 to Q1 2016
- Table 778** Households leaving temporary accommodation (or no longer recorded "Duty owed, no accommodation secured"), by outcome, England 1998 to Q1 2016
- 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 2016
- Table 780** Accepted household type: Homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities by household type, England Q2 2006 to Q1 2016
- Table 781** Age of applicants: Homeless households in priority need accepted by local authorities by age of applicant, England Q2 2005 to Q1 2016
- Table 782** Household types in temporary accommodation, England Q2 2006 to Q1 2016

- Table 784** Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Acts: financial years 2004/05 to 2015/16
- Table 784a** Local authorities' action under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Acts: quarterly data for Q2 2014 to Q1 2016
- 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 2016
- 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 2016
- Table 787** Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2015/16
- Table 788** Type of homelessness prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2015/16
- Table 789** Cases assisted to obtain alternative accommodation broken down by prevention and relief, England, 2009/10 to 2015/16
- Table 792** Outcome of homelessness prevention and relief by local authority, England, 2009/10 to 2015/16
- Table 793** Families with children in Bed and Breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks excluding those pending review, by local authority, Quarterly data from 2012 Q4

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 2012 to Q1 2016.

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

* 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 DCLG statistical releases are available at:

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

Definitions

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.

Decisions: refers to decisions taken 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.

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: 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 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.

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 Official 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.

This statistical release does not include any totals for former government regions except London following the consultation on the publication of regional statistics in 2012. 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.

Data collection

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 Department for 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 form contains questions about decisions made about homelessness applications, immediate
24 Housing Statistical Release

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>.

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.

Rough sleeping figures are collected and published separately - see link on page 22. The devolved administrations publish their own statistics on statutory homelessness – see pages 30 and 31.

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 1 January to 31 March 2016, 95% of responding authorities reported some form of checking on the return. For sections 1 to 10 of the return, 40% of sections had periodic checks performed, 42% had random checks performed and 1% 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) apports totals based on ratios reported by these similar authorities.

The latest quarter's figures are based on full or partial returns for 318 out of 326 local authorities (97.5% response). Overall (for sections 1 to 7 and sections 9 and 10 of the form), 99% of cells were filled in by local authorities.

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.

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>.

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=&type=assessment-report>

The report gathered detailed feedback from a wide range of users. The Department will use the findings of the report to plan future developments, including building on the contacts made in preparing the report to strengthen user engagement.

The Department will publish homelessness prevention and relief statistics each quarter commencing from this statistical release. Previously homelessness prevention and relief statistics have been published annually.

Revisions policy

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

There are two types of revisions that the policy covers:

Non-Scheduled Revisions

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

Scheduled Revisions

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. This release revises 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".

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.

Revisions have been made to figures on children in temporary accommodation between Q1 2014 and Q4 2015. Please see [Live Table 775](#) for further details on the revisions made.

Uses of the data

The data in this statistical release form the basis of evidence on statutory homelessness and prevention and relief. The data are used for a variety of purposes. Ministers and officials in the Department for Communities and Local Government use this information 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, and are also used for international comparisons.

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 engagement

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

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

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 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.

Notes

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.

Methodology

1. Rates per 1,000 households have been calculated using the 2012-based household projections for 2015 (rather than the 2011-based household projections for 2014 previously used) produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government. These were published on 27 February 2015 and are available at Table 406 at the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/407641/Household_Projections_Published_Tables.ods

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.

Related links

The Department now has an official linked open data site, which provides a selection of statistics on a variety of [themes](#) including homelessness available at:

<http://opendatacommunities.org/>

Some homelessness data sets derived from Live Table 784a are available at:

<http://opendatacommunities.org/themes/homelessness>

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

The Department also releases information on Homelessness Prevention and Relief activity. The publication, relating to local authority actions in the 2014-15 financial year, can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/homelessness-statistics#homelessness-prevention-and-relief>.

Rough sleeping statistics can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/rough-sleeping-in-england-autumn-2015>.

Figures for Autumn 2015 were published on 25 February 2016.

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/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/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. Official Statistics are published at:

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

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

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/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics#pre-release-access-to-official-statistics>.

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 December 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.dsdni.gov.uk/topics/dsd-statistics-and-research-housing/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.

Enquiries

Media enquiries:

office hours: 0303 444 1157

0303 444 1159

out of hours: 0303 444 1201

Email: press@communities.gsi.gov.uk

Public enquiries and Responsible Statistician:

Mike Young

Email: homelessnessstats@communities.gsi.gov.uk

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

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/announcements>

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

www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics

© Crown copyright, 2016

Copyright in the typographical arrangement rests with the Crown.

You may re-use this information (not including logos) free of charge in any format or medium, under the terms of the Open Government Licence. To view this licence, www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/ or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: psi@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk.

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

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, email contactus@communities.gov.uk or write to us at:

Department for Communities and Local Government
Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF
Telephone: 030 3444 0000

June 2016

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

ISBN: 978-1-4098-4855-4