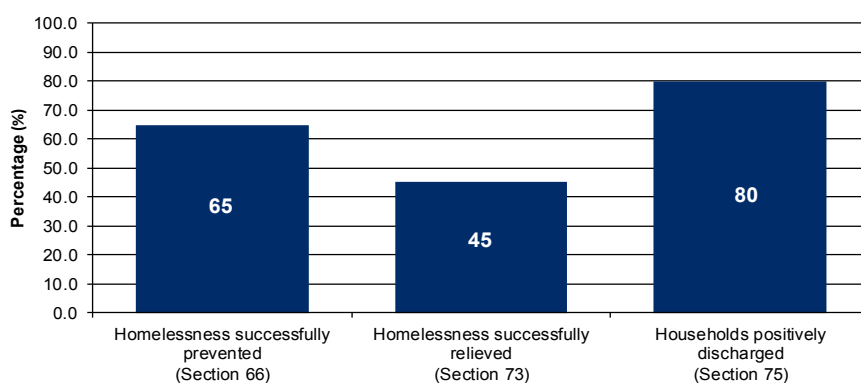


24 August 2016
SFR 106/2016

Homelessness in Wales, 2015-16

The Housing Act (Wales) 2014 included a number of changes to statutory homelessness legislation which were introduced on 27 April 2015. It is not possible to directly compare the information collected under the current and previous legislations due to differences in the way cases of homelessness and threatened homelessness are assessed and recorded.



Prevention and relief of homelessness

- During 2015-16 a total of 7,128 households were assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days and for 4,599 households (65 per cent) homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months (Table 1).
- A total of 6,891 households were assessed as being homeless and owed a duty to help secure accommodation during 2015-16. Of these, 3,108 households (45 per cent) were successfully relieved of their homelessness and helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months, following intervention by the local authority (Table 2).
- During 2015-16, 1,563 households were assessed to be unintentionally homeless and in priority need and qualified for the duty to have accommodation secured for them. Of these, 1,245 (80 per cent) households were positively discharged and accepted an offer of permanent accommodation (Table 3).

Households in temporary accommodation

- At the end of March 2016 there were 1,875 households in temporary accommodation (Table 9, Chart 4).
- At the end of March 2016 there were 108 households in temporary bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation. Of these, 3 households (4 per cent) were families with children (Table 9).

About this release

This release is the first to provide summary information on local housing authorities' activities under the new homelessness legislation, introduced in the Housing Wales Act 2014, and collected through quarterly statistical returns.

The information covers the prevention and relief of homelessness as well information on the number of homeless households in temporary accommodation. Homelessness prevention is a Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator.

In this release

[Introduction and data limitations](#) [p2](#)

[Homelessness prevention](#) [p8](#)

[Relief of homelessness](#) [p13](#)

[Temporary accommodation](#) [p29](#)

[Key quality information](#) [p34](#)

[Glossary](#) [p43](#)

1. Introduction

This is the first in a series of annual statistical releases relating to statutory homelessness under the new homelessness legislation introduced on 27th April 2015 (Part 2 of the [Housing \(Wales\) Act 2014](#)). Advice on the duties under this legislation (Parts VI of the Housing Act 1996 and Part 2 of the 2014 Act) is given in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance revised 2016](#).

The main aim of the new legislation is to reduce levels of homelessness by placing prevention at the centre of local authority duties to help everyone at risk rather than just those in priority need groups. The main changes to homelessness legislation which came in to effect in April 2015 include:

- a new duty to help anyone threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days
- a duty to provide help to any homeless person to help them secure a home
- a power rather than a duty to apply the intentionality test
- new powers for local authorities to discharge their homelessness duties through finding accommodation in the private rented sector
- stronger duties on Housing Associations to support Local authorities in carrying out their homelessness duties.

The changes to statutory homelessness legislation arising from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 were introduced on 27 April 2015.

Following informal discussion with key stakeholders, between 4 March and 1 April 2015, a consultation was conducted on proposed changes to the amount and frequency of information collected and published on statutory homelessness, in line with the legislative changes arising from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The proposals were designed to enable the collection of more detailed annual data relating to the new legislation, while reducing the data collected and published quarterly to headline information, in order to ensure the information being collected is proportionate and minimises the burden on providers.

Following this consultation, new quarterly and annual data collection forms were introduced for April 2015 onwards. The consultation also included proposals for changes to the dissemination of statutory homelessness information. From the start of 2015-16 onwards, we will publish three quarterly headlines covering summary data for April to June, July to September and October to December each year and an annual release covering the January to March quarter and the financial year as a whole. This release is, therefore, the first to show information collected under the new version of the data collection return covering the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. We will continue to publish all data collected quarterly and annually on Stats Wales.

Further information is available in the key quality information section of this release.

1.1 Structure of release

The first section of this release provides important information about the limitations of the 2015-16 data. This includes information about comparability with earlier data published on statutory homelessness and information on quality and accuracy issues.

The second section covers the outcomes of assessments made by local authorities, under Section 62 of the Housing Wales Act 2014, about households applying for accommodation or help in retaining or obtaining accommodation which the local authority had reason to believe were homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days. It provides all final outcomes reached during the financial year, regardless of when the application was made. The outcomes of assessments made by local authorities fall into the following categories:

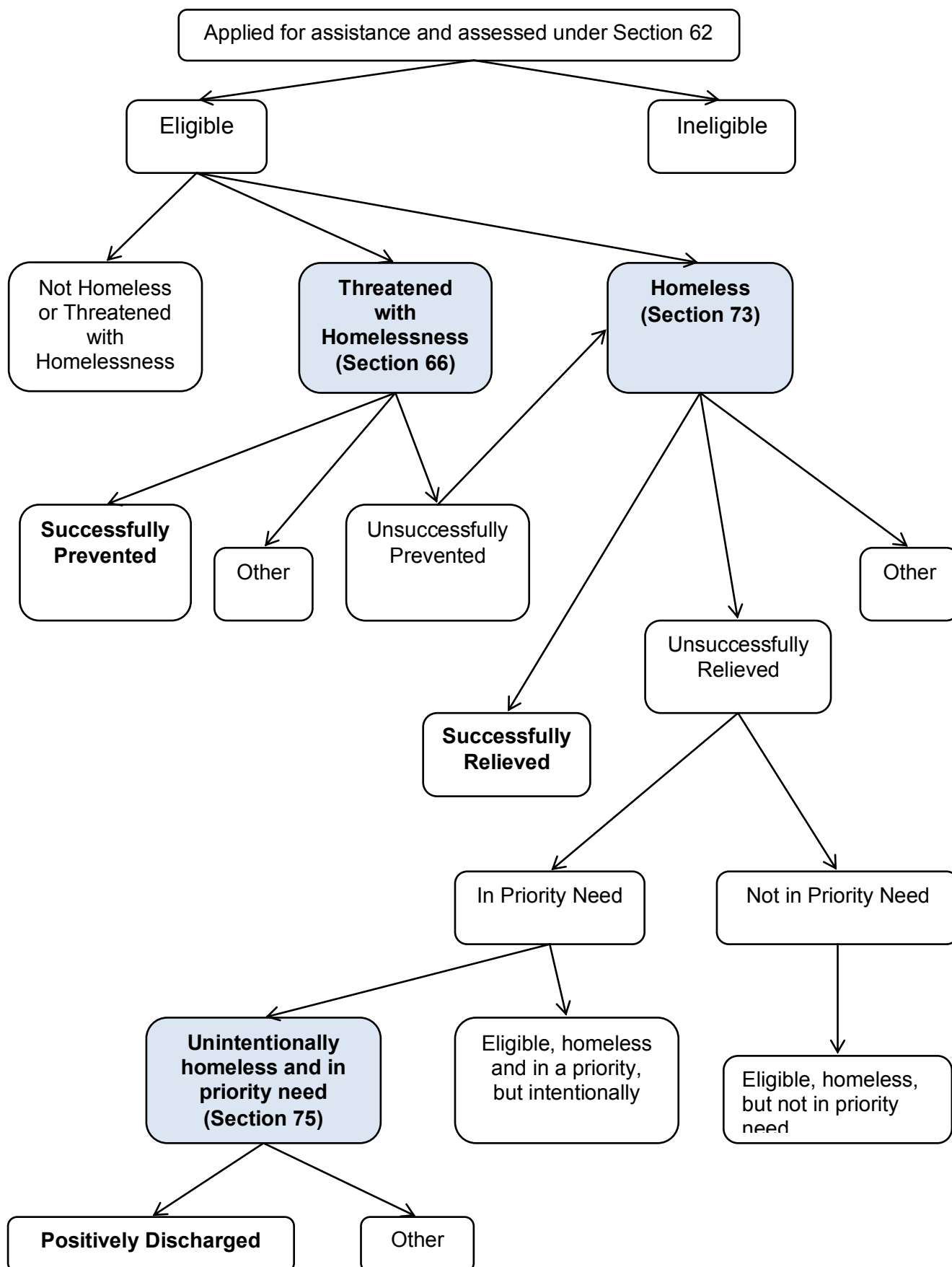
- Ineligible household
- Eligible, but not homeless or threatened with homelessness
- Eligible, threatened with homelessness, prevention assistance provided (Section 66)
- Eligible, homeless, subject to duty to help to secure (Section 73)
- Eligible, homeless but not in priority need
- Eligible, homeless and in priority need but intentionally so
- Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75)

Further information is available in the [Homelessness Code of Guidance \(revised 2016\)](#)

The third section of this release looks at households that are in temporary accommodation at the 31st March 2016. Information is provided on the different type of temporary accommodation provided, as well as the length of time spent in that accommodation.

Disclosure control has been applied to the figures in this release and to accompanying data on StatsWales. All figures less than 3, and percentages based on less than 3 have been suppressed and shown as a '*'. All other figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total. All percentages quoted in this report were calculated using the unrounded data.

This release presents information on the outcomes following assessments and the ending of duties by local authorities under Section 62 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. It is possible for a single household to have up to three separate outcomes under this process depending on the results of the duty owed. A brief outline of the assessment process is shown in the flowchart below.



2. Limitations of data for 2015-16

2.1 Comparability

The data collected under the previous legislation (Part VII of the Housing Act 1996) was based only on the final assessment decision made by local authorities on households who applied for assistance with housing. From April 2015 onwards, local authorities are required to record all the outcomes of assessments made about households who apply for assistance with housing and receive an assessment under Section 62 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. It is possible for a single household to have up to three separate outcomes under this process depending on the outcomes of each duty within the legislation.

It is not possible to directly compare the number of 'homeless households' collected under the current and previous legislations. Under the previous legislation, households accepted as homeless (i.e. were eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need) were owed a main homelessness duty by the local authority to secure suitable accommodation. Under the new legislation, households owed a main homelessness duty to secure accommodation (under Section 75) would meet the same criteria as those under the previous legislation (under Section 193). However, the data cannot be compared because, under the new legislation, in some cases, homelessness for households who met the same criteria may have been relieved through earlier intervention (Section 73). It is not possible to quantify the number of homeless households (that were eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need) that were successfully relieved through earlier intervention (Section 73) because an assessment of intentionality or of priority need had not have been made at this point in the process.

Whilst it's not possible to quantify the change in the number of 'homeless households' between pre and post April 2015, it is possible to consider the number of households that were owed a main homelessness duty (pre April 2015) alongside the number that are owed a main homelessness duty to secure accommodation post April 2015.

The data on homeless households in temporary accommodation are no longer directly comparable due to changes to those cases qualifying for the provision of temporary accommodation, with the removal of the automatic priority need for prisoners.

More generally, the new legislation extended the time limit for being threatened with homelessness to 56 days which will impact on the overall numbers recorded on the statutory homelessness data collection returns for April 2015 onwards.

2.2 Quality and accuracy issues

There are a number of factors, outlined below, which have impacted on the quality and accuracy of the data collected and published on statutory homeless during 2015-16. These are mainly due to the legislative changes introduced in April 2015 and the time needed for the local authority data providers to fully absorb the impact of these changes and to adjust their internal systems and processes accordingly.

Whilst we have worked closely with local authorities to improve the quality of the data there is a limit to the improvements that can be made retrospectively to the 2015-16 data and some concerns over the quality and accuracy of the data remain. Although the pre April 2015 statutory homelessness statistics

were designated as National Statistics, given the concerns over data quality a temporary de-designation of the Homelessness Statistics data for 2015-16 has been agreed with the UK Statistics Authority. The 2015-16 data as published within this release and on Stats Wales are therefore not classified as National Statistics. [Further information on the designation of National Statistics is available here.](#)

We are confident that the issues outlined below will be resolved going forward and are therefore aiming to re designate the data for 2016-17 onwards as National Statistics once they have been fully quality assured.

(i) Timing issues

The new legislation was introduced on 27 April 2015 which was three weeks into the first quarter of 2015-16. This led to an overlap in the number of cases being managed under both the previous and the new legislation. Local authorities were required to provide data for the whole quarter under the new legislation only. However they were asked where possible to include those cases managed prior to 27th April (under the old legislation) using a 'best fit' approach. This may have impacted on the accuracy of the outcome data recorded during the first quarter of 2015-16.

In the case of households placed in temporary accommodation, the overlap may also be an issue with all quarterly 2015-16 data returns and with the annual returns where households in temporary accommodation at the end of each period were assessed and placed in that temporary accommodation under either the old legislation or the new legislation.

Under the new legislation from 27 April 2015 onwards, the time limit for being threatened with homelessness was extended from 28 to 56 days. This will have also impacted on the numbers recorded as threatened with homelessness particularly during the first quarter of 2015-16.

(ii) Outcomes

The data collected under the previous legislation was based [only](#) on the final assessment made, whilst under the new legislation it is possible for a single household to have up to three separate outcomes depending on the results of each stage of the legislation.

However, during the first two quarters of 2015-16, there were inconsistencies across the individual authorities in the way outcomes were being recorded on the quarterly returns. Some authorities were only recording the final outcome and not each separate outcome. For some authorities there was the added issue of the IT system they used for recording data only allowing for one final outcome to be recorded.

This issue has since been addressed and changes have been made to the guidance accompanying the data collection form to ensure a more consistent interpretation of data requirements under the new legislation. However not all authorities have been able to successfully revise the data previously reported due to both resource and IT issues and it is therefore recognised that inconsistencies may remain in the number of outcomes shown for some quarters of 2015-16 and for the year as a whole.

In one case, a local authority data provider was able to provide accurate outcomes data for the whole year, but was unable to break this down by quarter. In this case, the quarterly breakdown has been estimated in agreement with the local authority concerned.

(iii) Reporting systems

A major factor impacting on their ability to provide consistent, timely and accurate information was the delays experienced by a number of local authority data providers in the change over of IT reporting systems to cover the new legislation. This has also limited the level of retrospective adjustments to the data by local authority data providers to ensure accuracy across all quarters and the year as a whole.

Further details on data quality are provided in the Key Quality Information section of this release.

3. Homelessness prevention

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced a new duty (Section 66) for all local authorities in Wales to help anyone threatened with homelessness within the next 56 days.

In its broadest terms, 'homelessness prevention' is where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the authority considers is threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Prevention work can also be undertaken before meeting the statutory definition, but would not be recorded against Section 66 prevention outcomes.

A case is recorded as 'homelessness prevention' where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the authority is satisfied is threatened with homelessness within 56 days and has been notified that the duty under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act applies to them

For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being prevented for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

Under the new legislation the outcome of a duty is recorded at each stage following the Section 62 assessment. It is therefore possible for up to 3 different outcomes to be recorded for each individual household; this may result in a household being recorded in Table 1, Table 2 and Table 3 below.

The assessment process will not always result in a household being found to be eligible for assistance nor will it always result in a household being found to be either threatened with homelessness within 56 days or homeless. During 2015-16, following assessment, 279 households were found to be ineligible¹, and in a further 4,734 cases the household was assessed as being neither homeless nor threatened with homelessness.

¹ Housing authorities need to satisfy themselves that applicants are eligible before providing housing assistance. The provisions on eligibility are complex and housing authorities need to ensure that they have procedures in place to carry out appropriate checks on housing applicants.

Table 1: Households found to be eligible and threatened with homelessness (Section 66), 2015-16 (a) (b) (c)

| Outcomes | Number | Percentage (%) |
|--|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Eligible, threatened with homelessness, prevention assistance provided (Section 66)</i> | | |
| Successful prevention | 4,599 | 65 |
| Unsuccessful prevention | 1,119 | 16 |
| Assistance Refused | 189 | 3 |
| Non co-operation | 570 | 8 |
| Other Reasons | 651 | 9 |
| Total Outcomes | 7,128 | 100 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) As the new legislation was introduced on 27 April 2015, three weeks into the first quarter of 2015-16, there may be an overlap in the number of cases assessed under both the previous and the new legislation during the first quarters of 2015-16.

(c) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

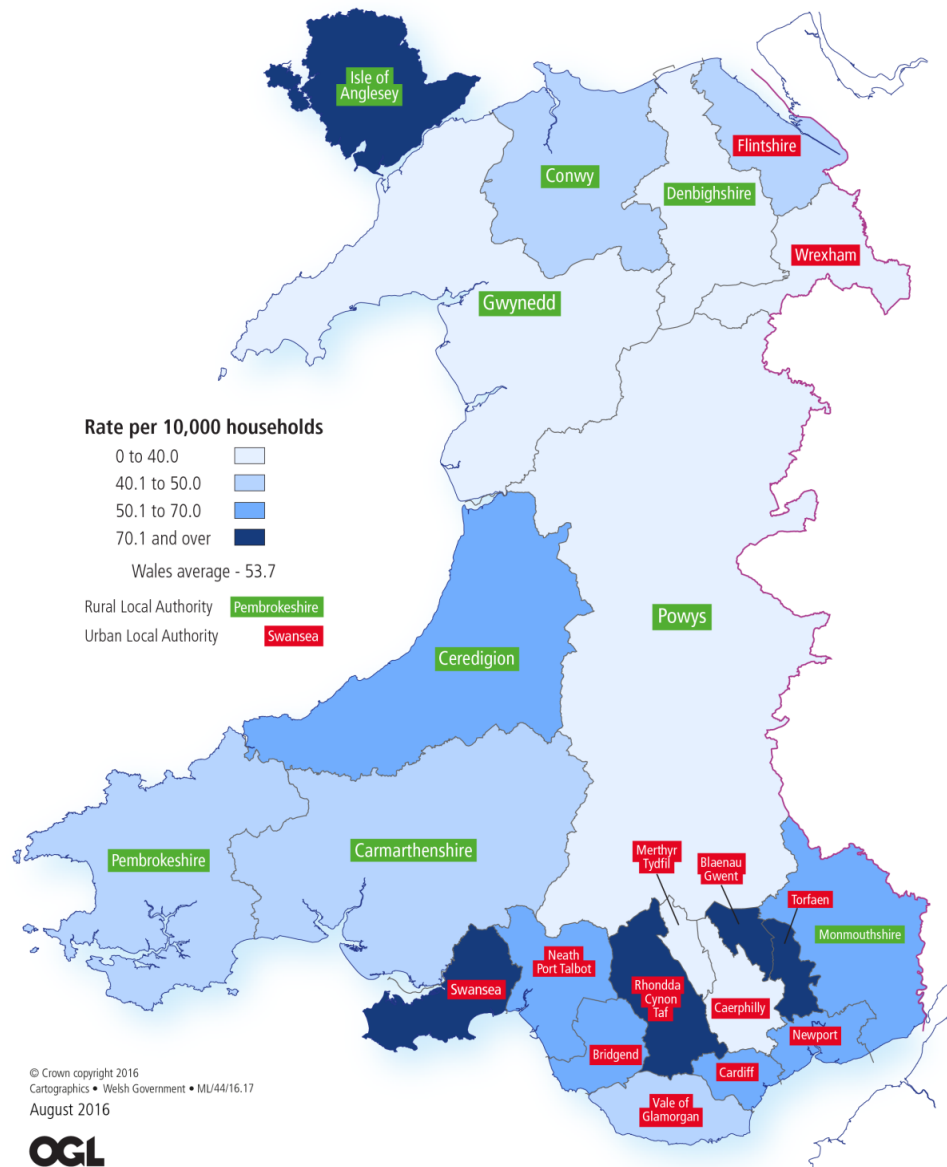
- During 2015-16, 7,128 households in Wales were assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days. For 4,599 households (65 per cent), homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months.
- For a further 1,119 households (16 per cent of those threatened with homelessness), prevention for at least 6 months was unsuccessful. In these cases, the applying households have been discharged and have become statutorily homeless² and may be owed a duty under Section 73.
- In 189 cases (3 per cent of those threatened with homelessness), the household refused assistance under the prevention duty and the duty was brought to an end.
- In a further 570 cases (8 per cent of those threatened with homelessness), the household unreasonably failed to co-operate whilst being supported under the prevention duty and the duty was brought to an end.
- 651 households (9 per cent of those threatened with homelessness) were also discharged for other reasons including a mistake of fact, a change of eligibility status or a withdrawn application.

Further information on how these terms should be interpreted is available on the guidance and definitions section of the data collection forms available on the [Welsh Government statistics and research website](#).

² Statutorily homeless as defined within Section 55 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Homelessness

MAP 1: Households found to be eligible and threatened with homelessness (Section 66), 2015-16 - Rate per 10,000 households



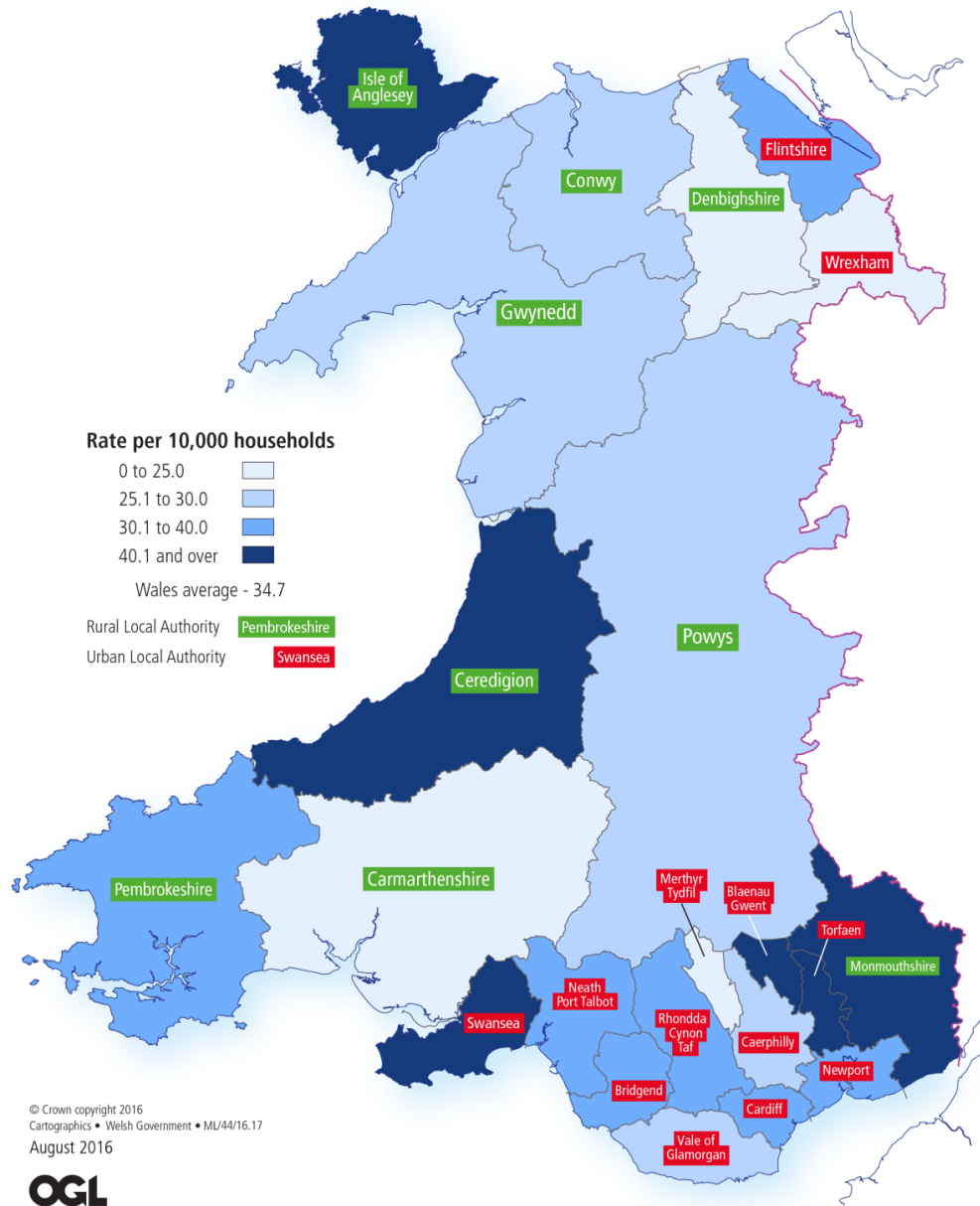
- At an individual local authority level during 2015-16, Swansea reported the highest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days at 834 households. However, taking into account the number of households in each area, the highest rate was seen in Blaenau Gwent at 86.7 per 10,000 households³.
- Methyr Tydfil reported both the lowest number of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days during 2015-16 at just 45 households and the lowest rate at 18.4 per 10,000 households.

³ The household estimates used in this release are the Welsh Government mid-2014 household estimates available from the [StatsWales website](http://stats.wales.gov.uk).

- During 2015-16, 9 of the 22 local authorities recorded rates of households threatened with homelessness above the Wales average of 53.7 per 10,000 households.

Homelessness

MAP 2: Households successfully prevented from homelessness during 2015-16 - Rate per 10,000 households



The number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months, as a rate per 10,000 households is a Well Being of Future Generations National Indicator (see Key Quality Information for further information).

The rate will vary at an individual local authority level depending on the number of households that are assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Information is also shown in Table 4 on the number of households successfully prevented from homelessness for at least 6 months, expressed as a percentage of the numbers assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

- During 2015-16, at an individual local authority level, Swansea recorded the highest number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months at 630 households, and, taking into account the number of households in each area, Swansea also had the highest rate of successful prevention outcomes at 59.7 per 10,000 households.
- Merthyr Tydfil reported both the lowest number of successful prevention outcomes during 2015-16 at just 21 and also the lowest rate at 8.2 per 10,000 households.
- During 2015-16, 9 of the 22 local authorities had rates of successful prevention above the Wales average of 34.7 per 10,000 households.

4. Relief of homelessness

The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 introduced a new duty for all local authorities in Wales to provide help to any homeless person to help them secure a home.

Positive action to prevent homelessness cannot be taken once the authority is satisfied that someone is, or has become, homeless (for example, the authority has notified the person of a decision and owes a duty under Section 73). Following notification that an applicant is homeless the local authority will be under a duty to take reasonable steps to help to secure accommodation. For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being relieved for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

During the first two quarters of 2015-16, some local authorities only recorded the final outcome due to misinterpretation of the guidance or due to issues with their recording systems. Where possible, the figures have subsequently been revised to include all outcomes; however, this was not possible for all local authority data providers and will impact on the overall annual figures shown for 2015-16.

Table 2: Relief of homelessness during 2015-16 under duty to help secure accommodation (Section 73) (a) (b) (c)

| Outcomes | Number | Percentage (%) |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Eligible, homeless, subject to duty to help to secure (Section 73)</i> | | |
| Successfully relieved | 3,108 | 45 |
| Unsuccessful relieved | 2,019 | 29 |
| Assistance Refused | 162 | 2 |
| Non co-operation | 735 | 11 |
| Other Reasons | 864 | 13 |
| Total Outcomes | 6,891 | 100 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) As the new legislation was introduced on 27 April 2015, three weeks into the first quarter of 2015-16, there may be an overlap in the number of cases assessed under both the previous and the new legislation during the first quarter of 2015-16.

(c) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

4.1 Relief of homelessness under duty to help secure (Section 73)

Following notification that a household is assessed as homeless and owed a duty under Section 73 of the new legislation, it is the duty of the local authority to provide assistance to help that household to secure accommodation.

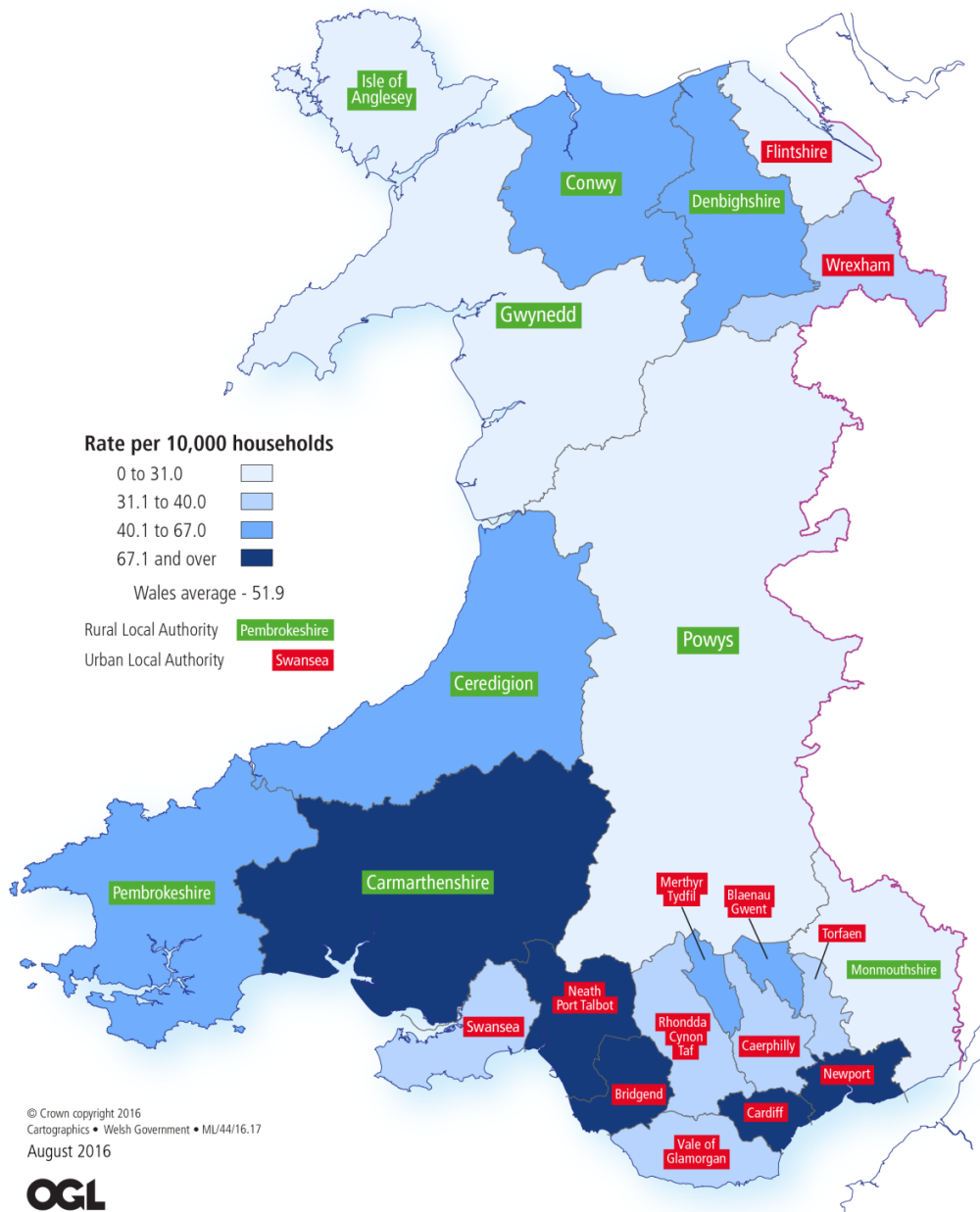
- During 2015-16, a total of 6,891 households were assessed as being homeless and owed a duty to help to secure accommodation (under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014). Of these, 3,108 households (45 per cent) were relieved of homelessness following intervention by the local authority and helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months as shown in Table 6 of this release.

- In a further 2,019 cases (29 per cent), homelessness was not relieved and the duty was ended⁴ and the assessments were reviewed to establish if a duty was owed under Section 75.
- In 162 cases (2 per cent) the household refused assistance and the relief duty ended.
- Unreasonably failing to co-operate led to the duty ending in 735 cases (11 per cent), and for 864 cases (13 per cent) the duty ended due to other reasons including a mistake of fact, a change of eligibility status or a withdrawn application.

⁴ Under Section 74.2 or 74.3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Homelessness 2015-16

MAP 3: Number of households assessed as homeless (Section 73) -
Rate per 10,000 households



- During 2015-16, Cardiff reported the highest number of households assessed as homeless under Section 73 of the new legislation, at 1,275 households. Taking into account the size and number of households within each local authority areas however the highest rate of homeless households was in Neath Port Talbot at 88.0 per 10,000 households. This was followed by Cardiff and Newport at 86.3 per 10,000 households.
- The Isle of Anglesey and Monmouth both reported the lowest number of households assessed as homeless at 96 households and Monmouthshire also reported the lowest rate at 24.4 per 10,000 households.

- The rate of homeless households was lower than the Wales average of 51.9 per 10,000 households in 13 of the 22 authorities, though 5 of the 9 rural authorities had rates above the Wales average.

4.2 Relief of homelessness under final duty (Section 75)

Under Section 75 of the new legislation, where households were owed a duty under Section 73 because they were homeless and this had ended (either through Section 74.2 or 74.3) the assessment would be reviewed. If the household is homeless, has a priority need and is unintentionally homeless, the local authority will be under a duty to secure suitable accommodation. The successful relief of homelessness under Section 75 is referred to as a 'positive discharge', and the local authority must secure suitable accommodation. The categories of priority need are as follows:

- a pregnant woman;
- a person with whom dependent children reside;
- a person who is vulnerable as a result of old age, mental illness or handicap or physical disability or other special reason;
- a person who is homeless or threatened with homelessness as a result of an emergency such as flood, fire or other disaster;
- a care leaver or person at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation, 18 years or over but under the age of 21;
- a 16 or 17 year old;
- a person fleeing domestic abuse or threatened domestic abuse;
- a person homeless after leaving the armed forces; and
- a former prisoner who is vulnerable as a result of having served a custodial sentence.

Where more than one priority need category applies the one category which was most crucial in determining priority need should be recorded.

Table 3: Relief of homelessness under final duty (Section 75), 2015-16 (a) (b) (c)

| Outcomes | Number | Percentage (%) |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75)</i> | | |
| Positively discharged | 1,245 | 80 |
| Assistance Refused | 99 | 6 |
| Non co-operation | 60 | 4 |
| Other Reasons | 156 | 10 |
| Total Outcomes | 1,563 | 100 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- (b) As the new legislation was introduced on 27 April 2015, three weeks into the first quarter of 2015-16, there may be an overlap in the number of cases assessed under both the previous and the new legislation during the first quarter of 2015-16.
- (c) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

- During 2015-16, a total of 1,563 households were accepted as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and were owed a duty for accommodation to be secured (under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014). Of these, 1,245 households (80 per cent) were positively discharged/relieved through accepting an offer of suitable accommodation.
- In 99 cases (6 per cent), the household refused an offer of accommodation and the duty ended.
- Unreasonably failing to co-operate led to the duty ending for 60 cases (4 per cent), and for 156 cases (10 per cent) the duty ended due to other reasons including a mistake of fact, a change of eligibility status or a withdrawn application.

Table 4: Percentage of cases where positive action succeeded in preventing (Section 66) or relieving (Section 73 and Section 75) homelessness, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c) (d)

| | <i>Per cent</i> | | |
|------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Homelessness successfully prevented (Section 66) | Homelessness successfully relieved (Section 73) | Positively discharged (Section 75) |
| Local authority | | | |
| Isle of Anglesey | 60.1 | 61.1 | 100.0 |
| Gwynedd | 84.6 | 64.0 | 94.1 |
| Conwy | 70.0 | 39.7 | 70.6 |
| Denbighshire | 55.1 | 29.0 | 80.0 |
| Flintshire | 75.9 | 53.6 | 100.0 |
| Wrexham | 59.4 | 52.6 | 100.0 |
| Powys | 71.0 | 48.6 | 75.8 |
| Ceredigion | 69.3 | 49.4 | 76.8 |
| Pembrokeshire | 68.8 | 59.1 | 87.5 |
| Carmarthenshire | 53.1 | 43.3 | 85.5 |
| Swansea | 75.4 | 58.2 | 68.8 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 52.2 | 45.7 | 54.5 |
| Bridgend | 64.2 | 40.3 | 62.5 |
| Vale of Glamorgan | 53.9 | 39.5 | 72.9 |
| Cardiff | 70.6 | 35.1 | 88.4 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taf | 48.7 | 40.7 | 93.4 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 44.4 | 41.1 | 62.5 |
| Caerphilly | 78.2 | 62.4 | 78.2 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 58.6 | 63.2 | 100.0 |
| Torfaen | 64.2 | 32.7 | 68.1 |
| Monmouthshire | 73.8 | 41.1 | 68.4 |
| Newport | 62.5 | 47.9 | 69.1 |
| Wales | 64.5 | 45.1 | 79.7 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

(b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months as a percentage of all households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

(c) Successfully relieved refers to the number of households helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months as a percentage of households assessed as being homeless under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(d) Positively discharged refers to the number of households provided with suitable accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months as a percentage of households accepted as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a duty to provide accommodation (under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014).

Table 4 above shows the percentage of successful prevention outcomes (Section 66), successful relief outcomes (Section 73) and positive discharges (Section 75) during 2015-16.

- This shows that Gwynedd had both the highest percentage of successful prevention outcomes (Section 66) and of successful homelessness relief outcomes (Section 73) during 2015-16 at 85 per cent and 64 per cent respectively. The lowest percentage of successful prevention outcomes

was recorded in Methyr Tydfil at 44 per cent and the lowest percentage of successful homelessness relief outcomes was in Denbighshire at 29 per cent.

- During 2015-16, for those households assessed as eligible unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75) the homelessness was positively discharged in 100 per cent of cases across 4 authorities, the Isle of Anglesey, Flintshire, Wrexham and Blaenau Gwent. In 10 of the 22 local authorities the percentage of positive discharge outcomes was above the Wales average of 80 per cent whilst the lowest percentage was reported by Neath Port Talbot at 55 per cent.

4.3 Other outcomes

Whilst assistance is provided for all homeless households as part of the assessment process, this does not always result in accommodation being found. In 1,344 cases the household was found to be homeless but not in priority need, whilst in a further 273 cases the homeless household was assessed as being eligible and in priority need but intentionally⁵ so following a review of their assessments as Section 73 was ended (via Section 74.2 or 74.3). The data are available on the [StatsWales website](#).

⁵ Intentionality is described in Section 77 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 as when the person deliberately does or fails to do anything which causes the person to cease to occupy accommodation which is available for the person's occupation and which it would have been reasonable for the person to continue to occupy. Each individual local authority has to nominate which specific priority need groups they apply intentionality to for the purpose of this assessment under Section 78 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

5. Types of action taken to prevent or relieve homelessness

Local authorities were asked to provide information on the types of positive action taken during 2015-16 to prevent homelessness from occurring for those households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days. Where more than one action contributed to preventing a household becoming homeless local authorities were asked to only record the most significant action taken.

Table 5: Actions taken to successfully prevent homelessness and household remained in existing home, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c)

| | Number | Percentage (%) |
|---|--------------|----------------|
| <i>Homelessness prevented - household able to remain in existing home, as a result of:</i> | | |
| Mediation and conciliation | 171 | 16 |
| of which are for a young person (16-25) | 72 | 7 |
| Financial payments | 96 | 9 |
| Debt and Financial Advice | 72 | 7 |
| Resolving Housing and Welfare Benefit problems | 153 | 14 |
| Resolving rent or service charge arrears | 129 | 12 |
| Measures to prevent domestic abuse | 9 | 1 |
| Negotiation or legal advocacy to ensure that someone can remain in accommodation in the private rented sector | 237 | 22 |
| Mortgage arrears interventions or mortgage rescue | 21 | 2 |
| Providing other assistance or specialist support for problems | 177 | 17 |
| Total cases able to remain in existing home | 1,065 | 100 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.
 (b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months as a percentage of all households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days.
 (c) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

- During 2015-16, in 1,065 cases the household was successfully prevented from becoming homeless, and was able to remain within its existing home, due to action taken by the local authority (Table 5). This represents almost a quarter (23 per cent) of the total 4,599 cases of successful prevention during the year.
- “Negotiation or legal advocacy to ensure that someone can remain in accommodation in the private rented sector” was responsible for the highest percentage of cases (22 per cent) where the household was able to remain in its existing home during 2015-16. This was followed by “Providing other assistance or specialist support for problems” at 17 per cent, and “Mediation and conciliation” at 16 per cent.
- In just 9 cases (1 per cent), local authorities reported that it was measures taken to prevent domestic abuse that enables the household to remain in their existing home (Table 5).

Table 6: Alternative accommodation obtained to prevent (Section 66) or relieve (Section 73) homelessness, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c) (d)

| | Homelessness prevented | | Homelessness relieved | |
|---|------------------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|
| | Number of households | Percentage (%) | Number of households | Percentage (%) |
| <i>Homelessness prevented or relieved - household assisted to obtain alternative accommodation, in the form of:</i> | | | | |
| Any form of non self-contained supported accommodation | 105 | 3 | 399 | 13 |
| Self-contained supported accommodation | 168 | 5 | 225 | 7 |
| Private rented sector accommodation with landlord incentive scheme | 819 | 23 | 579 | 19 |
| Private rented sector accommodation without landlord incentive scheme | 903 | 26 | 498 | 16 |
| Accommodation arranged with friends, relatives or returning home | 156 | 4 | 240 | 8 |
| Social Housing - Local authority | 705 | 20 | 426 | 14 |
| Social Housing - Registered Social Landlord | 648 | 18 | 513 | 17 |
| Low cost home ownership scheme, low cost market housing solution | * | * | 3 | - |
| Other assistance or support | 30 | 1 | 225 | 7 |
| Total cases assisted to obtain alternate accommodation | 3,534 | 100 | 3,108 | 100 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months.

(c) Successfully relieved refers to the number of households assessed as being homeless under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 who were helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months.

(d) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

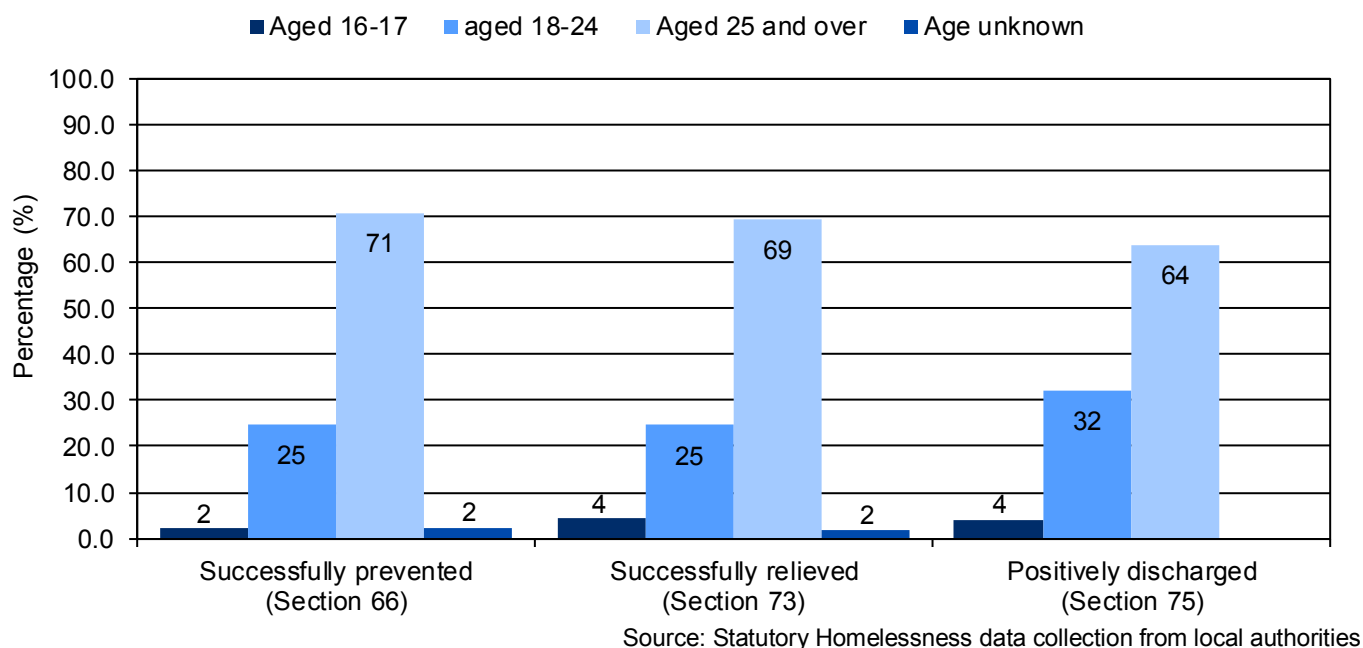
* The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

- During 2015-16, in 3,534 cases the household was successfully prevented from becoming homeless through the local authority assisting them in obtaining alternative accommodation. This represents 77 per cent of the total 4,599 cases of successful prevention during the year.
- The main type of alternative accommodation obtained for both households prevented from becoming homeless and to relieve those households assessed as homeless (Under Section 73) was “Private rented sector accommodation” both with and without a landlord incentive scheme. This type of accommodation was obtained in 49 per cent of the 3,534 prevention cases and in 35 per cent of all 3,108 cases of successful relief under Section 73 (Table 6).
- This was followed by “Social Housing”, which includes both local authority and registered social landlord (RSL) accommodation. This type of accommodation was obtained on 38 per cent of the 3,534 prevention cases and in 30 per cent of all 3,108 cases of successful relief under Section 73.

In prevention cases, a higher number and proportion of the “Social Housing” obtained was local authority rather than RSL accommodation whilst for cases of successful relief (under Section 73) the reverse was true with a higher number and proportion of RSL accommodation obtained (Table 6).

6. Homelessness by age and gender

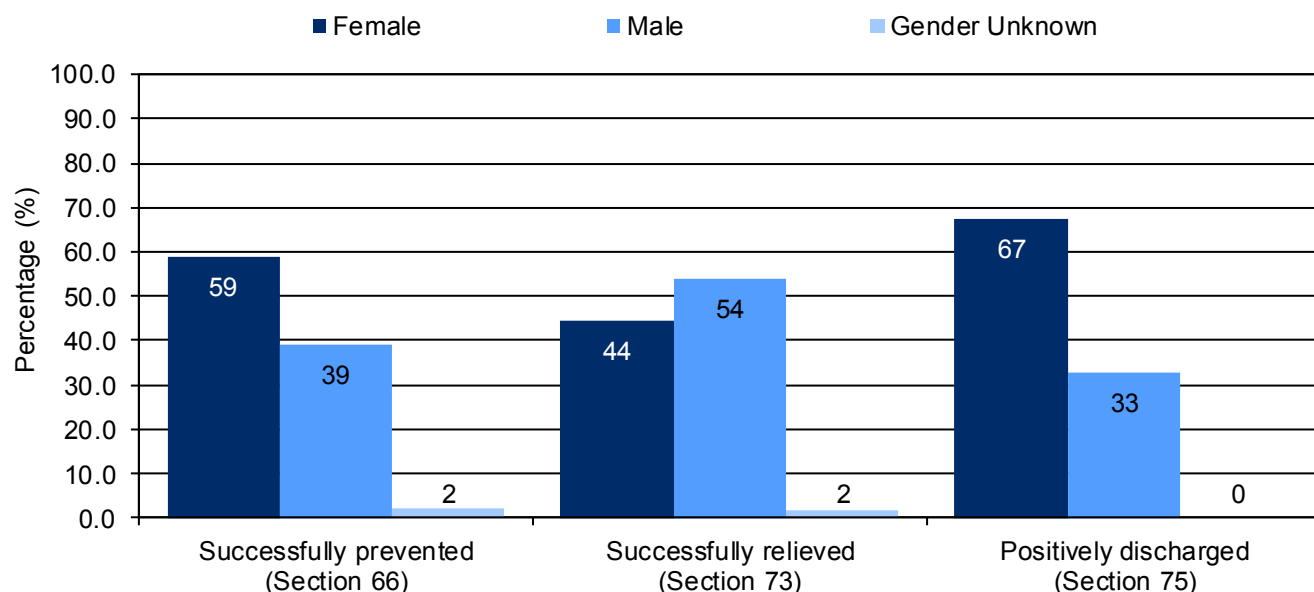
Chart 1: Percentage of households who were successfully prevented, relieved or positively discharged of homelessness by age of applicant, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c) (d)



- (a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
- (b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months.
- (c) Successfully relieved refers to the number of households assessed as being homeless under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 who were helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months.
- (d) Positively discharged refers to the number of households assessed as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a duty to provide accommodation (under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) and for whom the homelessness was successfully relieved.

- In the majority of cases (71 per cent) for whom homelessness was successfully prevented the applicant was aged 25 and over. This was also the case for those households successfully relieved of homelessness (under Section 73) at 69 per cent and those positively discharged under Section 75 (i.e. provided with suitable accommodation) at 64 per cent (Chart 1).
- Of those households that were positively discharged under Section 75, almost a third (32 per cent) had applicants aged 18 to 24 years old compared with a quarter of those households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented and households successfully relieved of homelessness (under Section 73).
- During 2015-16, the applicant was aged 16-17 in only 2 per cent of households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented and 4 per cent on both households successfully relieved of homelessness (under Section 73) and households positively discharged under Section 75 (Chart 1).

Chart 2: Percentage of households who were successfully prevented, relieved or positively discharged of homelessness by gender of applicant, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c) (d)



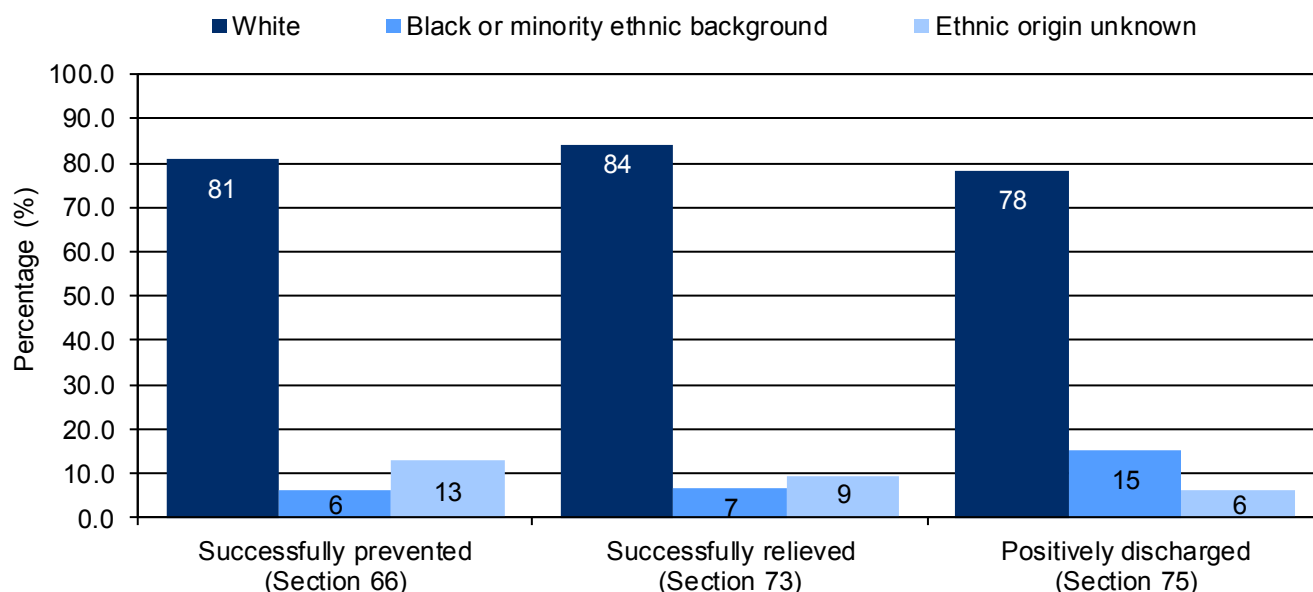
Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
 (b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months.
 (c) Successfully relieved refers to the number of households assessed as being homeless under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 who were helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months.
 (d) Positively discharged refers to the number of households assessed as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a duty to provide accommodation (under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) and for whom the homelessness was successfully relieved.

- During 2015-16, of the 7,128 households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days over half (58 per cent) of the applicants were female and 40 per cent were male. The proportions were similar for households for whom homelessness was successfully prevented, with female applicants accounting for 59 per cent of cases compared with 39 per cent of cases where the applicant was male (Chart2).
- This situation was different however in those households assessed as homeless under Section 73. During 2015-16, of the 6,891 households assessed as homeless under Section 73, in 58 per cent of cases the applicant was male compared to 41 per cent where the applicant was female. Again the applicant was predominantly male in over half (54 per cent) of those households who were successfully relieved of homelessness under Section 73 compared to 44 per cent where the applicant was female (Chart 2).
- During 2015-16, the applicant was female in nearly two thirds (63 per cent) of the 1,563 households assessed under Section 75 as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need. The applicant was also female in over two thirds (67 per cent) of the 1,245 households positively discharged and provided with suitable accommodation under Section 75 compared with 33 per cent where the applicant was male (Chart2). This is partly due to the fact that the most commonly stated priority need category during 2015-16 was the presence of dependent children or a pregnant woman (which accounted for 45 per cent of all Section 75 assessments during 2015-16).

7. Homelessness by ethnicity of applicant

Chart 3: Percentage of households successfully prevented or relieved of homelessness by ethnicity of applicant, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c) (d)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

- (a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014
 (b) Successfully prevented refers to the number of households assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 for whom homelessness was successfully prevented for at least 6 months.
 (c) Successfully relieved refers to the number of households assessed as being homeless under Section 73 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 who were helped to secure accommodation that was likely to last for 6 months.
 (d) Positively discharged refers to the number of households assessed as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a duty to provide accommodation (under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014) and for whom the homelessness was successfully relieved.

- During 2015-16, in 6 per cent of households assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days and in 7 per cent of households assessed as homeless under Section 73, the applicant was from a black or minority ethnic (BME) background. As can be seen from Chart 3 above, similar proportions of applicants from a black or minority ethnic background were seen in those households successfully prevented from becoming homeless or successfully relieved of homelessness under Section 73. In comparison, the 2011 Census estimated that around 4 per cent of Wales' population were from a black or minority ethnic background.
- In 15 per cent of both the 1,563 homeless households assessed under Section 75 and the 1,245 households positively discharged (i.e. suitable accommodation was provided), the applicant was from a BME ethnic background. This is a much higher percentage than that seen for households successfully prevented or relieved under Section 73 and may be due to a higher level of specific priority needs amongst applicants from a BME background. Another factor may be the high proportions of applicants from a BME background in the three urban areas of Cardiff, Swansea and Newport. In these three authorities during 2015-16, in over a quarter of all cases where households were successfully relieved/positively discharged under Section 75, the applicant was from a BME background compared to between 6 and 8 per cent in other authorities.

8. Households accepted as homeless and in priority need (Section 75)

This section of the release covers the priority needs recorded for those households who were assessed as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and for whom the local authority owed a duty to provide suitable accommodation under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The priority need categories are listed in section 4.2 of the release (page 17) and are defined in Section 70 of the Act and further guidance on the categories is available in Chapter 16 of the [Homelessness Code of Guidance](#) as revised March 2016.

Table 7: Households eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75) by priority need and household type, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c) (d)

| | <i>Number</i> | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|---|------------|-------------------------|------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| | Couple with dependent child(ren) | single parent household with dependent children | | Single Person household | | All other household groups | Total |
| | | Male | Female | Male | Female | | |
| Households with dependent child(ren) | 171 | 30 | 411 | n/a | n/a | 6 | 618 |
| Households where a member is pregnant and there are no other dependent children | n/a | n/a | n/a | n/a | 66 | 27 | 93 |
| Households where a member is vulnerable due to: | | | | | | | |
| i) Old age | * | * | * | 9 | 6 | 3 | 21 |
| ii) Physical disability | * | 3 | 6 | 75 | 30 | 18 | 132 |
| iii) Mental illness / learning disability / learning difficulties | * | 3 | * | 114 | 45 | 15 | 180 |
| iv) Other special reasons | * | * | * | 21 | 12 | * | 36 |
| A care leaver or person at particular risk of sexual or financial exploitation, 18 years or over but under the age of 21 | * | * | * | 42 | 21 | 3 | 66 |
| A 16 or 17 year old | 3 | * | * | 42 | 30 | 3 | 78 |
| A person fleeing domestic abuse or threatened abuse | 6 | * | 63 | 15 | 105 | 6 | 198 |
| A person leaving the armed forces | * | * | * | * | * | * | * |
| A former prisoner who is vulnerable as a result of having served a custodial sentence | * | * | * | 105 | 18 | * | 126 |
| Households homeless in emergency | * | * | * | 9 | 3 | * | 12 |
| Total households | 180 | 39 | 486 | 432 | 339 | 84 | 1,563 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) As the new legislation was introduced on 27 April 2015, three weeks into the first quarter of 2015-16, there may be an overlap in the number of cases assessed under both the previous and the new legislation during the first quarter of 2015-16.

(c) Under the new legislation the out come of an assessment is recorded at each stage. It is therefore possible for up to 3 different outcomes to be recorded for each individual household which may result in a household being recorded under both Section 73 and Section 75.

(d) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

* The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

- During 2015-16, a total of 1,563 households were accepted as being eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and owed a duty to provide accommodation (under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014).

- The presence of dependent children or a pregnant woman in the household was the most commonly stated priority need category, accounting for 45 per cent (711 cases) of all Section 75 assessments during 2015-16 as a whole.
- This was followed by cases where the applicant was fleeing domestic violence or threatened violence, which accounted for 13 per cent (198 cases) of all Section 75 assessments made. Cases where the applicant was vulnerable due to mental illness/learning disability/learning difficulties accounted for a further 12 per cent (180 cases) and those vulnerable due to a physical disability for a 9 per cent (132 cases) (Table 7).

9. Main reason for threatened with homelessness or homelessness

This section of the release looks at the different reasons why households are either threatened with homelessness within 56 days or have become homeless.

Table 8: Households by main reason for being threatened with homelessness or for being homeless, 2015-16 (a) (b) (c)

| | <i>Number</i> | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| | Household threatened with homelessness (Section 66) | Household eligible, homeless and subject to duty to help to secure (Section 73) | Household eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need (Section 75) |
| Parent no longer willing or able to accommodate | 1,011 | 1,089 | 261 |
| Other relatives or friends no longer willing or able to accommodate | 657 | 813 | 204 |
| Breakdown of relationship with partner | | | |
| i) Non-violent | 594 | 723 | 90 |
| ii) Violent | 366 | 729 | 249 |
| Violence or harassment which is: | | | |
| i) racially motivated | * | 9 | 3 |
| ii) due to religion / belief | * | * | * |
| iii) due to gender reassignment (gender identity) | * | * | * |
| iv) due to sexual identity / orientation | * | * | * |
| v) due to disability | 6 | * | * |
| vi) due to another reason | 99 | 123 | 57 |
| Mortgage arrears (repossession or other loss of home) | 138 | 48 | 15 |
| Rent arrears on: | | | |
| i) Social sector dwellings | 288 | 96 | 9 |
| ii) Private sector dwellings | 390 | 129 | 27 |
| Loss of rented or tied accommodation | 2,481 | 1,251 | 336 |
| Current property unaffordable | 213 | 60 | 3 |
| Current property unsuitable | 321 | 246 | 63 |
| Prison Leaver | 99 | 921 | 99 |
| Leaving institution or care (e.g. hospital, residential home, army etc.) | 246 | 237 | 93 |
| Other (including homeless in emergency, returned from abroad, sleeping rough or in hostel) | 213 | 408 | 54 |
| Total households | 7,128 | 6,891 | 1,563 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) Under the new legislation the outcome of an assessment is recorded at each stage. It is therefore possible for up to 3 different outcomes to be recorded for each individual household which may result in a household being recorded in more than one column of the above table.

(c) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

* The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

Threatened with homelessness

- During 2015-16, there were 7,128 cases where a household was assessed as being threatened with homelessness within 56 days and in over a third of these cases (35 per cent), the “Loss of rented or tied accommodation” was given as the main reason (Table 8).
- In almost a quarter (23 per cent) of cases the main reason given for the household being assessed as threatened with homelessness was because “a parent, or other relative or friends were no longer willing to accommodate”. In a further 13 per cent (960 cases) the main reason given for the threatened homelessness was the “breakdown of a relationship with a partner” (Table 8).

Homeless (Section 73)

- During 2015-16, there were 6,891 cases where a household was assessed as eligible, homeless and owed a duty to help secure accommodation under Section 73 of the new legislation.
- The reason given for the homelessness in over a quarter of all cases (28 per cent) was because “a parent, or other relative or friends were no longer willing to accommodate”.
- The “breakdown of a relationship with a partner” was given as the main reason for loss of home in over a fifth (21 per cent) of all Section 73 cases.
- The “Loss of rented or tied accommodation”, was given as the main reason for homelessness in 18 per cent of Section 73 cases compared to over a third of cases where households were threatened with homelessness. For a further 13 per cent of cases, the main reason recorded was homelessness after leaving prison (Table 8).

Homeless (Section 75)

- During 2015-16, there were 1,563 cases where the household was assessed as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need under Section 75 of the new legislation following the ending of Section 73⁶.
- As with Section 73 cases, the most commonly recorded reason for the homelessness was because “a parent, or other relative or friends were no longer willing to accommodate”, accounting for over a quarter of all cases.
- The other main reasons given for homelessness under Section 75 were “Loss of rented or tied accommodation” and “Breakdown of relationship with partner” both of which accounted for a fifth of all cases (Table 8).

⁶ Under Section 74.2 or 74.3 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

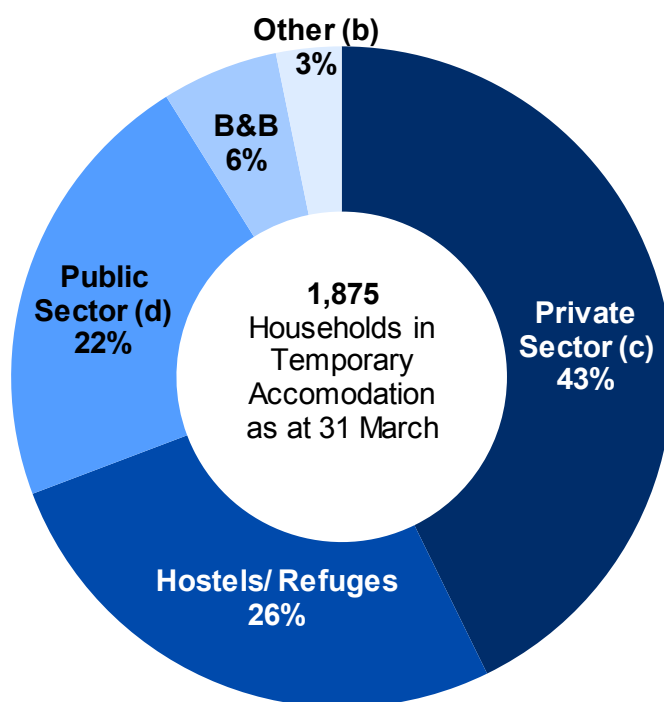
10. Homeless households in temporary accommodation

This section of the release covers all homeless households who were in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2016⁷.

It should be noted that, the data collected from April 2015 onwards on homeless households in temporary accommodation under Housing (Wales) Act 2014 are not directly comparable with the information collected under the previous legislation. This is because of changes to those cases qualifying for the provision of temporary accommodation, with the removal of the automatic priority need for prisoners. More generally, the new legislation extended the time limit for being threatened with homelessness to 56 days which may impact on the use of, or on the overall numbers in, temporary accommodation as recorded on the statutory homelessness data collection returns for April 2015 onwards.

10.1 Types of temporary accommodation

Chart 4: Percentage of households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016, by type (a)



Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) 'Other' accommodation type includes homeless at home.

(c) Includes households placed directly with a private sector landlord, private sector accommodation leased by local authorities and private sector accommodation leased by registered social landlords.

(d) Includes local authority stock and registered social landlord stock

⁷ Households contained within this section would include those provided accommodation under the Interim Duty to provide accommodation (Section 68) either during the assessment period or following acceptance of Section 73 (Duty to help to Secure) This section will also include households accommodated under Section 75 (Duty to Secure Accommodation) and those who are found to be intentionally homeless and priority need following the ending of Section 73.

- At the end of March 2016 there were 1,875 households placed in temporary accommodation across Wales.
- Private sector accommodation was the main form of temporary accommodation used within Wales with 43 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation placed in private sector housing at the end of March 2016.
- At the end of March 2016, there were 108 households in bed and breakfast (B&B) accommodation, which represents 6 per cent of all households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2016. Of these, 3 households were families with children.
- In recent years, a growing number of homeless households have been placed in hostels and refuges. At the end of March 2016, there were 498 homeless households placed in hostels or refuges, which is over a quarter (26 per cent) of all the households in temporary accommodation.
- At the end of March 2016, 411 households (22 per cent) were placed in public sector accommodation, and a further 60 households were in other accommodation, most of which was classified as homeless at home⁸ whereby a household remains in, or returns to, the accommodation from which they are being made homeless, or in other accommodation found by the applicant.

10.2 Temporary accommodation by household type

Table 9: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016, by type of accommodation and household type (a)

| | <i>Number</i> | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| | Couple with dependent child(ren) | Single parent household | Single person household | All other household types | Total |
| Directly with a private sector landlord (b) | 6 | 12 | 69 | * | 90 |
| authority (b) | 36 | 138 | 207 | 24 | 405 |
| Private sector accommodation leased by RSLs (b) | 57 | 144 | 93 | 12 | 306 |
| Within your own stock (c) | 18 | 78 | 78 | 12 | 186 |
| RSL stock (c) | 33 | 90 | 90 | 12 | 225 |
| Hostels; Reception centres; Emergency units | 15 | 78 | 321 | 15 | 429 |
| Women's refuge | * | 30 | 33 | 3 | 69 |
| Bed and breakfast | * | 3 | 99 | 3 | 108 |
| Other | * | * | * | * | * |
| Homeless at home | 9 | 15 | 30 | 6 | 60 |
| Total | 177 | 588 | 1,023 | 90 | 1,875 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2016.

(b) Includes households placed directly with a private sector landlord, private sector accommodation leased by local authorities and private sector accommodation leased by registered social landlords.

(c) Includes local authority stock and registered social landlord stock

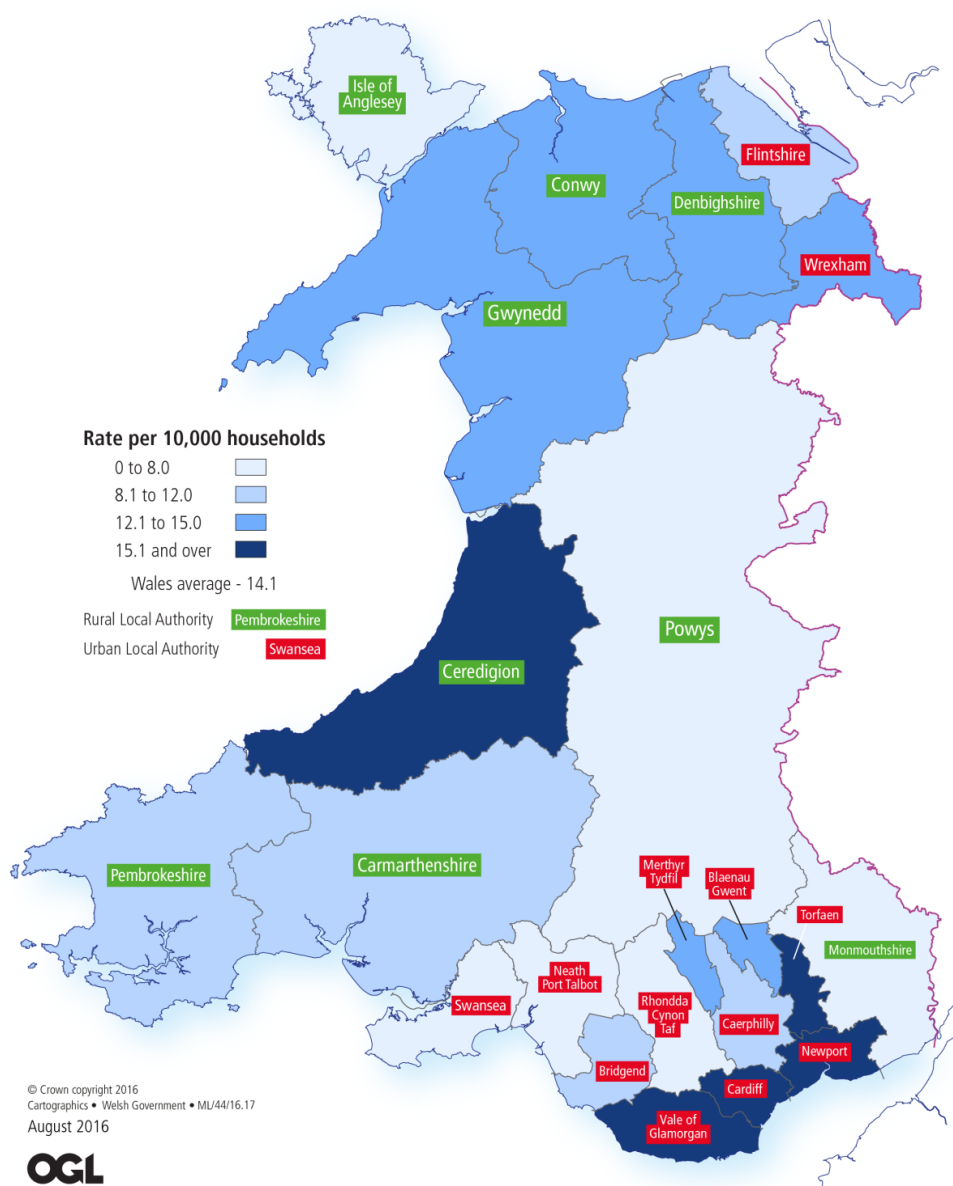
(d) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

⁸ Homeless at home refers to any arrangements whereby a household remains in, or returns to, the accommodation from which they are being made homeless for a temporary period, or in other accommodation found by the applicant.

- Over half (1,023 households) of the 1,875 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2016 were single person households.
- A further 41 per cent (765 households) were families with children; most of these households were accommodated temporarily in private or public sector accommodation.
- Families with children accounted for a quarter of all households placed in hostels or refuges during 2015-16 and for 4 per cent (3 households) of those households placed in temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.

Homelessness

MAP 4: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016 – Rate per 10,000 households



- At 31 March 2016, Cardiff had both the highest number of households in temporary accommodation (570 households) and the highest rate at 38.6 per 10,000 households. Newport had the second highest number (219 households) and the second highest rate at 35.1 per 10,000 households, compared with a Wales average of 14.1 per 10,000 households.
- The Isle of Anglesey had the lowest number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2016 (12 households) while Swansea had the lowest rate at just 3.9 per 10,000 households.

Information on the number of households in temporary accommodation by individual local authority is available on the [StatsWales](http://stats.wales.gov.uk) website.

10.3 Length of time spent in temporary accommodation

Table 10: Homeless households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2016, by length of time in temporary accommodation and by accommodation type (a)

| Outcomes | Number | | | Total |
|---|----------------|----------------|-------------|--------------|
| | Under 6 months | 6 to 12 months | over 1 year | |
| Directly with a private sector landlord (b) | 60 | 27 | * | 90 |
| authority (b) | 255 | 84 | 69 | 405 |
| Private sector accommodation leased by RSLs (b) | 171 | 87 | 51 | 306 |
| Within your own stock (c) | 105 | 51 | 30 | 186 |
| RSL stock (c) | 129 | 57 | 39 | 225 |
| Hostels; Reception centres; Emergency units | 345 | 78 | 6 | 429 |
| Women's refuge | 54 | 9 | 6 | 69 |
| Bed and breakfast | 105 | * | * | 108 |
| Other | * | * | * | * |
| Homeless at home | 51 | * | 6 | 60 |
| Total | 1,275 | 393 | 207 | 1,875 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2016.

(b) Includes households placed directly with a private sector landlord, private sector accommodation leased by local authorities and private sector accommodation leased by registered social landlords.

(c) Includes local authority stock and registered social landlord stock

(d) All the figures are rounded independently to the nearest 3 to protect the identity of individuals. As a result, there may be a difference between the sum of the constituent items and the total.

* The data item is disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication

- Over two thirds (68 per cent) of the 1,875 households in temporary accommodation at the end of March 2016 had spent less than six months in that accommodation.
- At the end of March 2016, 11 per cent of households (207 households) had been in temporary accommodation for more than a year. Of these, 44 per cent (93 households) were families with children. However, most of these families had been accommodated in public or private sector accommodation rather than in hostels, refuges or bed and breakfast accommodation.
- At the end of March 2016, 91 per cent of households in temporary accommodation for over a year were in private or public sector accommodation whilst around 6 per cent were in hostels and refuges. There were no cases where households had been in bed and breakfast accommodation over a year in March 2016 (Table 10).

10.4 Households leaving temporary accommodation - Discharge of duty under section 75

Table 11: Homeless households leaving temporary accommodation during 2015-16, by reasons for discharge of duty under section 75 (a) (b) (c)

| Reason | Number |
|---|--------------|
| | Total |
| Ceased to be eligible | 27 |
| Withdrawal of application | 42 |
| Mistake of fact | 6 |
| Became homeless intentionally from accommodation provided under section 75 | 90 |
| Accepted an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (part VI 1996 Housing Act) | 1,041 |
| Accepted a private sector offer | 144 |
| Voluntarily ceased to occupy accommodation made available under section 75 | 114 |
| Refusal of an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (Part VI 1996 Housing Act) | 57 |
| Refusal of an offer of suitable accommodation in the Private Rented Sector | 9 |
| Refusal of an offer of suitable interim accommodation under section 75 | 6 |
| Refusal to co-operate | 33 |
| Overall Total | 1,563 |

Source: Statutory Homelessness data collection from local authorities

(a) Under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

(b) Includes households assessed as eligible, unintentionally homeless and in priority need and successfully relieved/positively discharged under Section 75 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and who have subsequently left the temporary accommodation arranged for them during 2015-16.

(c) As the new legislation was introduced on 27 April 2015, three weeks into the first quarter of 2015-16, there may be an overlap in the number of cases assessed under both the previous and the new legislation during 2015-16.

- Over two thirds (67 per cent) of those households who left temporary accommodation during 2015-16 accepted an offer of accommodation through the allocation scheme (part VI 1996 Housing Act)⁹.
- A further 9 per cent (144 households) accepted a private sector offer, and 7 per cent (114 households) voluntarily ceased to occupy accommodation made available under Section 75.
- During 2015-16, in 6 per cent of cases (90 households) the household became intentionally homeless from the accommodation that had been provided for them under Section 75 (Table 11).

⁹ Part VI of the 1996 Housing Act refers to the allocation of social housing and was not replaced under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

11. Key quality information

1. In addition to the information below, further information can be found in the [Housing Statistics Quality Report](#) which is available on our website.

Policy and operational context

Well-being of Future Generations Act (WFG)

2. The Well-being of Future Generations Act 2015 is about improving the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. The Act puts in place seven well-being goals for Wales. These are for a more equal, prosperous, resilient, healthier and globally responsible Wales, with cohesive communities and a vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language. Under Section (10)(1) of the Act, the Welsh Ministers must (a) publish indicators (“national indicators”) that must be applied for the purpose of measuring progress towards the achievement of the Well-being goals, and (b) lay a copy of the national indicators before the National Assembly. The 46 national indicators were laid in March 2016 and this release includes one of the national indicators namely indicator 34 ‘Number of households successfully prevented from becoming homeless, per 10,000 households’.
3. Information on indicators and associated technical information - [How do you measure a nation’s progress? - National Indicators](#)
4. This release also includes contextual data on homelessness for indicator 34 which were referenced in the technical document in the previous link.
5. As a national indicator under the Act they must be referred to in the analyses of local well-being produced by public services boards when they are analysing the state of economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being in their areas.
6. Further information on the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015](#).

Users and uses

7. The data in this Statistical Release form the basis of evidence on statutory homelessness in Wales and are used by the Welsh Government, homelessness agencies and other housing organisations to monitor trends in the overall level of statutory homelessness across Wales. The information is used to monitor the effectiveness of current policy, particularly progress against the [Ten Year Homelessness Plan for Wales](#), the [Well Being of Future Generations National Indicators](#) and for future policy development.
8. The data are also used for answering Assembly Questions, ministerial correspondence, Freedom of Information Act cases and queries from the public. Local housing authorities are both providers and users of the statistics and use the data extensively in order 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.

9. Generally the information is used for:

- Monitoring trends in homelessness
- Policy development
- Advice to Ministers
- Informing debate in the National Assembly for Wales and beyond
- Geographic profiling, comparisons and benchmarking

10. There are a variety of users of these statistics including national and local government, researchers, academics and students. For further information on the users and uses please refer to the [Housing Statistics Quality Report](#).

Legislation

Housing Act (Wales) 2014

11. The figures in this statistical release are based on Welsh local authorities' actions under the homelessness provisions of the Housing Act (Wales) 2014 which became law in Wales on 17 September 2014 and included a number of changes to homelessness legislation aimed at reducing levels of homelessness, by placing its prevention at the centre of local authority duties to help people at risk. The new legislation on homelessness was introduced on 27 April 2015 and replaced the previous legislation, Part VII of the Housing Act 1996, which had come into force in January 1997 (for further detail, see the section on legislation below). Further information on the new homelessness legislation is available on the [Welsh Government website](#).

Homelessness prevention and relief

12. In its broad In its broadest terms, 'homelessness prevention' is where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the Authority considers is threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

Prevention work can be undertaken before meeting the statutory definition, but would not be recorded against Section 66 prevention outcomes.

13. A case is recorded as homelessness prevention where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the authority is satisfied is threatened with homelessness within 56 days and has been notified the duty under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act applies to them. A case ceases to be classed as prevention when the person has become homeless. This only applies to those owed a duty under Section 66.

14. For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being prevented for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

15. A case ceases to be classed as prevention when a Section 73 outcome is issued. This only applies

to those owed a duty under Section 66. Positive action to prevent homelessness cannot be taken once the authority is satisfied that someone has become homeless (for example, the authority has notified the person of an outcome under Section 73 that they are homeless). However, following the notification under Section 73 that an applicant is homeless the Authority will be under a duty to take reasonable steps to help to secure accommodation. For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being relieved for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

16. Under Section 75 of the new legislation, where households are no longer owed a duty under Section 73 as a result of Section 74.2 or 74.3 but following review are found to fall within a priority need category and unintentionally homeless it is the duty of the local authority to secure suitable accommodation. The successful relief of homelessness under Section 75 is referred to as a 'positive discharge' and the local authority must secure suitable accommodation .

Consultation

17. Following informal discussions with key stakeholders, between 4 March and 1 April 2015 a user consultation was conducted to ask for views on proposed changes to both the amount and frequency of information collected and published on statutory homelessness, in line with the changes to statutory homelessness legislation arising from the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The proposals were designed to enable the collection of more detailed annual data, covering all aspects of the new legislation and to reduce the data collected and published quarterly to headline information, to ensure the information being collected is proportionate and minimises the burden on providers. The information to be collected annually from April 2015 onwards will include:

- Information on all those threatened with homelessness under Section 66;
- Equalities information covering all cases of prevention and relief, as well as households subject to duty to help secure under Section 73;
- Actions taken to successfully prevent or relieve homelessness; and
- Information on those homeless or threatened with homelessness because they are prison leavers.

The consultation documents, including the response summary report, are [available online](#).

18. The majority of respondents agreed with all the proposals outlined in the consultation and these changes came into effect from April 2015 onwards. The consultation also included proposals for changes to the dissemination of statutory homelessness information. From the start of 2015-16 onwards, we will publish three quarterly headlines covering summary data for April to June, July to September and October to December each year and an annual release covering the January to March quarter and the year as a whole. This release is therefore the first to show annual information under the new version of the data collection returns covering the new statutory homelessness legislation. We will continue to publish all data collected quarterly and annually on StatsWales.

Data source and coverage

19. The figures in this Statistical Release are based on a quarterly statistical return completed by local authorities in Wales, based on the management information they maintain about their actions under the homelessness legislation in relation to those households who apply to the local authority for assistance with housing. It covers statutory homelessness only and does not include any figures for 'rough sleepers'. Only those applications for assistance which resulted in action being taken by the local authority during the 2015-16 financial have been included in this release regardless of when the application was made.
20. The third part of this release looks at homeless households who are in temporary accommodation obtained by the local authority while they wait for suitable long term accommodation. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of the period may also include households whose applications are still under consideration or that are found to be intentionally homeless and given accommodation for a period that gives the household a reasonable opportunity to secure accommodation for themselves. Information in the release covers the different type of temporary accommodation provided as well as the length of time spent in that accommodation.
21. Information is collected quarterly via Excel spreadsheets which are downloaded from the Afon file transfer website which provides a secure method for users to submit data. The spreadsheets allow respondents to validate the data before submitting to the Welsh Government. Respondents are also given an opportunity to include contextual information to enable some data cleansing at source and minimises follow up queries. On receipt of the data collection forms, the data collection team carried out secondary validation and work closely with the data providers to ensure information provided was accurate and on a consistent basis. Copies of the current statutory homelessness data collection forms are available at the [statistics and research website](#).
22. Further information on the data processing cycle can also be found in the [Housing Statistics Quality Report](#).
23. All 22 local authorities responded to the data collection for each quarter of 2015-16.

Quality

24. The [Welsh Government's guidance on statistical quality is available online](#).
25. Welsh housing statistics adhere to the Welsh Government's [Statistical Quality Management Strategy](#), and this is in line with the European Statistical System's six dimensions of quality, as listed in Principle 4 of the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. Further detail on how these are adhered to can be found in the [Housing Statistics Quality Report](#), which covers the general principles and processes leading up to the production of our housing statistics. The report covers various topics including definitions, coverage, timeliness, relevance and comparability.
26. Information on data quality concerns relating to 2015-16 data, including an explanation about the temporary National Statistics de-designation of this release and accompanying data are provided in section 2.2.

Administrative data quality assurance

27. This release has been scored against the UK Statistics Authority Administrative Data Quality Assurance matrix. The matrix is the UK Statistics Authority regulatory standard for the quality assurance of administrative data. The Standard recognises the increasing role that administrative data are playing in the production of official statistics and clarifies what producers of official statistics should do to assure themselves of the quality of these data. The toolkit that supports it provides helpful guidance to statistical producers about the practices they can adopt to assure the quality of the data they receive, and sets out the standards for assessing statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics.
28. The matrix assesses the release against the following criteria:
- Operational context and administrative data collection
 - Communication with data supply partners
 - Quality assurance principles, standards and checks applied by data suppliers
 - Producer's quality assurance investigations and documentation.
29. Local authorities are notified of the data collection exercise timetable in advance. This allows adequate time for local authorities to collate their information, and to raise any issues they may have. There is guidance in the spreadsheet, which assists users on completing the form.
30. Examples of validation checks within the forms include cross checks with data provided for the previous quarter and with other relevant data tables as well as checks to ensure data is logically consistent. As this data collection form collects information under the new legislation introduced in April 2015, year-on year checks could not be made for all data items for 2015-16 but will be introduced for 2016-17 onwards.

Validation and verification

31. Once we receive the data, it goes through further validation and verification checks, for example:
- Common sense check for any missing/incorrect data without any explanation;
 - Arithmetic consistency checks;
 - Cross checks against the data for the previous year;
 - Cross checks with other relevant data collections;
 - Thorough tolerance checks;
 - Verification that data outside of tolerances is actually correct.
32. If there is a validation error, we contact the local authority and seek resolution. If we fail to resolve queries within a reasonable timescale, we will use imputation to improve data quality. We will then inform the organisation and explain to them how we have amended or imputed the data. In one case, a local authority data provider was able to provide accurate outcomes data for the whole year,

but was unable to break this down by quarter. In this case, the quarterly breakdown has been estimated.

33. Because of the legislative and data collection changes from April 2015 onwards, additional workshops were held for data providers and were an opportunity to discuss the data collection requirements and challenges in detail. In addition, there was considerable correspondence/discussion between the Data Collection Team and the data providers to ensure that the data collected was as consistent and complete as possible.
34. However, whilst we have worked closely with local authorities to improve the quality of the data there is a limit to the improvements that can be made retrospectively to the 2015-16 data and some concerns over the quality and accuracy of the data remain. Information on data quality concerns relating to 2015-16 data, including an explanation about the temporary National Statistics de-designation of this release and accompanying data are provided in section 2.2.

Limitations of data for 2015-16

Comparability with previous legislation

35. Detailed information on the comparability of post April 2015 homelessness data with pre April 2015 homelessness data is provided in section 2.1.

Quality and accuracy Issues

36. Information on quality issues relating to 2015-16 data are provided in section 2.2.

Comparability

37. Statutory homelessness statistics for England and Northern Ireland are no longer comparable with the figures for Wales following the introduction of new Homeless legislation under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

Revisions

38. This release contains the final homelessness data for the 2015-16 financial year.
39. Revisions can arise from events such as late returns from a local authority or when a data supplier notifies the Welsh Government that they have submitted incorrect information and resubmits this. Occasionally, revisions can occur due to errors in our statistical processes. In these cases, a judgement is made as to whether the change is significant enough to publish a revised statistical release.
40. Where changes are not deemed to be significant i.e. minor changes, these will be updated in the following year's statistical release. However, minor amendments to the figures may be reflected in the StatsWales tables prior to that next release.
41. Revised data is marked with an (r) in the statistical release. We also follow the Welsh Government's statistical revisions policy, details of which are available [online](#).

Accessibility

42. A full set of homelessness data including information by individual local authority is available to download from our [StatsWales website](#).

Coherence with other statistics

43. Prior to 2015-16, the National Strategic Indicators for local government collected information on homelessness prevention. The numerator for the indicator HHA/013 is the number of substantiated potentially homeless households. These figures will differ from those shown in this release which covers assessments made by local authorities on those households who apply to them for assistance with housing and are assessed under Section 62 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014. The data for the National Strategic Indicators can be found on the [StatsWales website](#).
44. The data for the National Strategic Indicators can be found on the [StatsWales website](#).

Household estimates

45. The mid-2014 household estimates, used within this release to calculate rates, were produced by the Welsh Government. The household estimates are estimations of historic household numbers. They are produced by making assumptions about household size and composition and applying these assumptions to the mid-year population estimates. Further information can be found on the [statistics and research website](#).

Rough sleeping

46. A one night snap shot count of rough sleepers was carried out across Wales on 25th November 2015. The results were published in a statistical release on 4 February 2016 which is available from the [statistics and research website](#).
47. Direct comparisons can not be made with the statutory homelessness figures shown in this release. Statutory homelessness figures do not include persons sleeping rough but cover information on the number of households applying to local authorities for housing assistance under the Housing Act (Wales) 2014 because they are homeless or threatened with homelessness.

Related statistics for other UK countries

England:

48. The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) collect and publish summary information on English local housing authorities' activities under Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 (as amended by the Homelessness Act 2002 and the Localism Act 2007). The information is collected through the quarterly P1E statistical return. Data include the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty (referred to as acceptances) during the quarter, and the number of households in temporary accommodation on the last day of the quarter. The data shown in their latest published data available for England can be accessed on the [gov.uk website](#).

49. The information presented in the CLG release includes seasonally adjusted data. The quarterly PIE statistical return also collects information on cases where positive action has been provided to prevent homelessness from occurring and cases where positive action has been provided to relieve homelessness where it cannot be prevented. In England the information collected and published on homelessness prevention and relief covers activity which is outside the homelessness statutory framework. Previously this information was published separately in an annual release. The last annual release covered activity during the 2014-15 financial year and is available from the [gov.uk statistics webpage](http://gov.uk/statistics/webpage).
50. Statistics on homeless prevention and relief for January 2016 onwards are published as part of the combined quarterly statistical release 'Statutory homelessness, England: January to March 2016, and homelessness prevention and relief, England: 2015 to 2016'. The information shown on prevention and relief within this release are not designated as National Statistics.

Scotland:

51. 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 (Scotland) Act 2003. The 2001 Act extended the duties towards non-priority homeless households, ensuring they are provided with a minimum of temporary accommodation, advice and assistance. The 2003 Act introduced many changes, of which the target to abolish the priority need test by 2012 is the most significant.
52. 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.
53. Data on households in temporary accommodation at the end of each quarter is 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.
54. The most recent statutory homelessness statistics for Scotland for 2015-16 are available from the Scottish Government statistics website.

Northern Ireland:

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

12. Glossary

Symbols

The following symbols may have been used in this release:

- negligible (less than half the final digit shown)
- . not applicable
- .. not available
- ~ not yet available
- * disclosive or not sufficiently robust for publication
- p provisional
- r revised

Bed and breakfast

This will include privately owned or managed hotels/guest houses with some shared facilities. It does not include hotel annexes consisting of self-contained units of accommodation where meals are not provided – these are classified as private sector accommodation.

Ethnic categories

- White:
- Welsh / English / Scottish / Northern Irish / British
- Irish
- Gypsy or Irish Traveller
- Any other white background
- Black or Minority Ethnic background (BME)

This refers to the following ethnicity categories:

Mixed:

- White and black Caribbean
- White and black African
- White and Asian
- Any other mixed / multiple ethnic background

Asian or Asian British:

- Indian
- Pakistani

- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- Any other Asian background

Black / African / Caribbean or Black British:

- Caribbean
- African
- Any other black background

Other Ethnic Group:

- Arab
- Other

Current property unaffordable

The category 'current property unaffordable' includes cases where a person has become homeless as a result of not being able to afford the rent or mortgage on their home and have taken action before rent or mortgage arrears are incurred and eviction or repossession notices have been issued.

Current property unsuitable

The category 'current property unsuitable' should include cases where the home is no longer physically suitable. This will include for example:

- Persons returning from hospital who can no longer live in the property until it has been adapted;
- Environmental issues relating to the property preventing it from being occupied until work has been carried out;
- Overcrowding, e.g. a new born baby, returning family member, etc.

Eligibility

Housing authorities will need to satisfy themselves that applicants are eligible before providing housing assistance. The provisions on eligibility are complex and housing authorities will need to ensure that they have procedures in place to carry out appropriate checks on housing applicants. Ineligible households will include households not eligible for assistance by virtue of Schedule 2 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 and the Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) Regulations 2014.

Homeless at home

Refers to any arrangements whereby a household remains in, or returns to, the accommodation from which they are being made homeless for a temporary period, or in other accommodation found by the applicant. Includes any households which moved from accommodation arranged by the local authority into this type of arrangement.

Hostels/refuges

Hostels include shared accommodation, owned or leased and managed by either a local authority, registered social landlord (housing association) or non-profit making organisation including reception centres and emergency units. Male refuges are included with hostels.

Loss of rented/tied accommodation

Where the household has lost their accommodation that was rented for example if the landlord has given them notice. Tied accommodation is occupied as part of a job; if they lose their job they will also lose the accommodation.

Prevention

In its broadest terms, 'homelessness prevention' is where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the Authority considers is threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

Prevention work can be undertaken before meeting the statutory definition, but would not be recorded against Section 66 prevention outcomes.

A case is recorded as homelessness prevention where a local authority takes positive action to provide housing assistance to someone who the authority is satisfied is threatened with homelessness within 56 days and has been notified the duty under Section 66 of the Housing (Wales) Act applies to them. A case ceases to be classed as prevention when the person has become homeless. This only applies to those owed a duty under Section 66.

For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being prevented for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

A case ceases to be classed as prevention when a Section 73 outcome is issued. This only applies to those owed a duty under Section 66. Positive action to prevent homelessness cannot be taken once the authority is satisfied that someone has become homeless (for example, the authority has notified the person of an outcome under Section 73 that they are homeless). However, following the notification under Section 73 that an applicant is homeless positive action to relieve homelessness can be taken.

Priority need groups

The priority need categories are listed in section 4.2 of this release (Page 17) and are defined in Section 70 of the Housing Act 1996 and set out in the Homelessness Code of Guidance.

Protected characteristics

The Public Sector Equality duties under the Equality Act 2010 exist to protect people from discrimination on the basis of 'protected characteristics'. The Equality Act 2010 defines people's protected characteristics for those using a service as:

- Disability;
- Sex (gender);
- Gender reassignment (gender identity or transgender);

- Pregnancy and maternity;
- Race;
- Religion or belief;
- Sexual orientation;
- Age.

These 'protected characteristics' are used in the statutory homelessness data collection.

Relief

Positive action to prevent homelessness cannot be taken once the authority is satisfied that someone is or has become homeless (for example, the authority has notified the person of a decision and owes a duty under Section 73). Following notification that an applicant is homeless the Authority will be under a duty to take reasonable steps to help to secure accommodation. For positive action to be recorded as successful, the authority must be satisfied that the intervention is likely to result in homelessness being relieved for at least 6 months and the accommodation is suitable.

Following notification that a household is owed a duty under Section 73 of the new legislation, it is the duty of the local authority to take reasonable steps to help that household to secure accommodation.

Under Section 75 of the new legislation, where households are no longer owed a duty under Section 73 (as a result of Section 74.2 or 74.3) but following review are found to fall within a priority need category and are unintentionally homeless, it is the duty of the local authority to secure suitable accommodation. The successful relief of homelessness under Section 75 is referred to as a 'positive discharge' and the local authority must secure suitable accommodation.

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.

13. Further details

The document is available at:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/homelessness/?lang=en>

Next update

June 2017 (provisional)

We want your feedback

We welcome any feedback on any aspect of these statistics. In particular as this is the first release published covering the data collected under the new homelessness legislation introduced in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 we would welcome your views on how useful and informative you found the report and any suggestions for further improvement where relevant. This can be provided by email to stats.housing@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Open Government Licence

All content is available under the Open Government Licence v3.0, except where otherwise stated.

