



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government

Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics

Consultation on proposed changes to the current revisions
policy

Contents

Summary of consultation	3
Scope of the consultation	4
Useful Information	4
Introduction	6
The current revisions policy	7
Meeting user needs	8
Proposed changes	9
Consultation questions	11
How to respond	11
About this consultation	12
Annex A	13

Summary of consultation

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is currently looking at changing the revisions policy for the net additional dwellings statistics.

The current revisions policy is to revise the figures every ten years when the latest census estimates of dwelling stock are made available. This means that currently any updates to the figures provided by local authorities are not picked up in the estimates until the census data are made available.

The department is proposing to change this revisions policy to allow local authorities to revise previous year's figures. This will bring the revisions policy in line with the departments other housing and planning statistical releases and will have the effect of making the figures more accurate in between census periods.

The department is not proposing any changes to the definitions, underlying data or outputs. The change is only to allow the timelier revision of previously submitted data.

Scope of the consultation

Topic of this consultation:	This consultation seeks views on the proposed changing of the revisions policy for the Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics release.
Scope of this consultation:	We are considering how best to meet the needs of users in improving the quality of these statistics. Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics is the department's main officially published measure of housing supply and currently no revisions to these figures are permitted after they have been published, except every ten years at the time of the new census. We are proposing to change this policy to have more frequent annual revisions to this release which will improve the accuracy of previous years estimates of housing supply.
Geographical scope:	These proposals relate to statistics for England only.
Impact Assessment:	An impact assessment is not required as this is a technical consultation relating to the Ministry's statistical activity.

Useful Information

To:	Any users of the housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics or parties interested in housing Supply in England namely; government departments, local government, sector organisations, industry, academics, media, campaign groups, community groups, consultants and members of the public.
Body/bodies responsible for the consultation:	Housing and Planning Analysis Division of the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.
Duration:	This consultation will last for 2 months from 30 th January 2020
Enquiries:	For any enquiries about the consultation please contact: Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk
How to respond:	Please read through the document. You can email your response to the questions in this consultation to Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk

If you wish to post a written response, then please send it to:

Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics – revisions consultation,
Housing and Planning Analysis Division,
MHCLG,
4th Floor, Fry Building,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

When replying please let us know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation and include:

- your name,
- your position (if applicable),
- the name of organisation (if applicable),
- an address (including post-code),
- an email address, and
- a contact telephone number

Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics

Introduction

1. This document invites comments on the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) proposals for the revisions policy of the Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/net-supply-of-housing>
2. The Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics is badged as National Statistics with its bulletin published annually in November. It reports the most accurate estimates for new housing supply in England.
3. MHCLG has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007, to ensure its statistics meets user needs and engage users on changes to the department's statistical output. This consultation meets the requirements for National Statistics to consult its users where major changes are proposed.
4. We review here the current revisions policy and propose how this could be improved to better meet user needs.

The current revisions policy

5. The policy has been developed in accordance with the UK Statistics Authority Code of Practice for Statistics and been in existence since this statistics release began being published in the early 2000s.

6. There are two types of revisions that the current policy covers:

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

Scheduled Revisions Local authorities may not revise the data they supply for these statistics after the original deadline for submission as this is an annual series with a relatively long data collection period. These statistics are compared against the census on its release every ten years to ensure that the sum of net additions over that period matches the difference between the latest census dwelling count and the previous one. The net additions figures are then adjusted, with any difference spread evenly across the ten years since the previous census.

7. The Non-Scheduled revisions policy is designed to cover instances where there has been an unexpected error in the technical processing of the data made by MHCLG statisticians after the data has been submitted by local authorities and validated. There are no plans to change this part of the revisions policy

8. The scheduled revisions policy does not allow for any regular revisions other than when figures are updated once every ten years to match the latest census figures. The effect of this is that if there are any updates to the local authority figures then they will not be updated for up to ten years when they are adjusted to the latest census data is available. The proposal in this consultation is to update the scheduled revisions policy.

Meeting user needs

9. User groups of the statistic are varied including: MHCLG and other government departments and agencies, local government, local government associations, academics, media, and community and campaign groups, as well as interested members of the public.
10. Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics are designed to provide these users the most accurate estimates of housing supply in local authority areas. It is not proposed that the underlying data definitions or any published products change, just that the figures are updated and revised more frequently.

Proposed changes

11. The Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics release includes the most accurate timely estimate of housing supply in England. Therefore, ensuring the statistics are as accurate and robust as possible is important. The statistics already have National Statistics status, meaning they meet the highest standards of statistics according to the UKSA's Code of Practice for Statistics. This change in the scheduled revisions policy is designed to further improve the statistics by increasing the accuracy and timeliness of estimates.
12. Changing the scheduled revisions policy will standardise the approach to revisions in the departments statistical output. Having revisions to the numbers only made every ten years is different to with other housing and planning statistical releases which allow revisions to previous periods figures when publishing the latest data.
13. Changing the revisions policy will have no effect on the methodology used to produce the latest years figures, they will continue to be submitted by local authorities and processed in the same way as they are now. Further details of the current process are included in the latest statistical release
14. The department is proposing to start allowing annual revisions, beginning when the 2019-20 figures are published in November 2020. This would be to the previous two year's published figures, allowing local authorities to initially update their figures over a longer period. Then in future years the revisions period would cover the previous year's figures only.
15. The proposed change to the scheduled revisions policy is to come into effect so that revisions will be made for the first time in the November 2020 release.

How the new revisions policy will affect numbers if implemented in November 2020:

Year	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20
Net additional dwellings	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure revised	Figure revised	Figure published for the first time

And then, on an on-going basis, each year authorities would continue to be able to submit revisions to their previous year's figures.

Revisions policy effect in November 2021

Year	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Net additional dwellings	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure unchanged until 2021 Census	Figure revised	Figure published for the first time

16. Revisions would also still take place every ten years at the time of the census though the benefit of allowing annual revisions would be that these adjustments to the census would be expected to be much smaller. The last census revisions saw 16,190 added to each year from 2006-07 to 2010-11.

17. This proposed change to the scheduled revisions policy would also align with the period covered by the Housing Delivery Test. The Housing Delivery Test uses adjusted net additions figures as part of an assessment of housing supply delivery in local authorities. Allowing revisions to net additions would also allow local authorities to provide revisions which would flow through to future years Housing Delivery Test calculations.

Consultation questions

18. Which user group most represents your situation?

19. What do you use the Housing supply: net additional dwellings statistics for?

20. Do you agree with the revised revisions policy for these statistics?

Please give details for your decision.

21. Do you have any further comments?

How to respond

Now you have read through this document, we would be grateful for your views.

You can email your response to Housing.Statistics@communities.gov.uk

If you wish to post a written response, then please send it to:

Housing supply; net additional dwellings statistics – revisions consultation,
Housing and Planning Analysis Division,
MHCLG,
4th Floor, Fry Building,
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

When replying please let us know if you are responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation and include:

- your name,
- your position (if applicable),
- the name of organisation (if applicable),
- an address (including post-code),
- an email address, and
- a contact telephone number

About this consultation

This consultation document and consultation process have been planned to adhere to the Consultation Principles issued by the Cabinet Office.

Representative groups are asked to give a summary of the people and organisations they represent, and where relevant who else they have consulted in reaching their conclusions when they respond.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal data, may be published or disclosed in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA), the EU General Data Protection Regulation, and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, as a public authority, the department is bound by the Freedom of Information Act and may therefore be obliged to disclose all or some of the information you provide. In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information, we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the department.

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government will process your personal data in accordance with the law and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties. A full privacy notice is included at Annex A.

Individual responses will not be acknowledged unless specifically requested.

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read this document and respond.

Are you satisfied that this consultation has followed the Consultation Principles? If not or you have any other observations about how we can improve the process please contact us via the [complaints procedure](#).

Annex A

Personal data

The following is to explain your rights and give you the information you are be entitled to under the Data Protection Act 2018.

Note that this section only refers to your personal data (your name address and anything that could be used to identify you personally) not the content of your response to the consultation.

1. The identity of the data controller and contact details of our Data Protection Officer

The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) is the data controller. The Data Protection Officer can be contacted at dataprotection@communities.gov.uk

2. Why we are collecting your personal data

Your personal data is being collected as an essential part of the consultation process, so that we can contact you regarding your response and for statistical purposes. We may also use it to contact you about related matters.

3. Our legal basis for processing your personal data

MHCLG has a statutory duty, in accordance with the Statistics and Registration Act 2007, to ensure the statistic meets user needs and engage users on changes to the statistic.

The Data Protection Act 2018 states that, as a government department, MHCLG may process personal data as necessary for the effective performance of a task carried out in the public interest. i.e. a consultation.

3. With whom we will be sharing your personal data

Personal data will not be shared outside the department.

4. For how long we will keep your personal data, or criteria used to determine the retention period.

Your personal data will be held for two years from the closure of the consultation.

5. Your rights, e.g. access, rectification, erasure

The data we are collecting is your personal data, and you have considerable say over what happens to it. You have the right:

- a. to see what data we have about you
- b. to ask us to stop using your data, but keep it on record
- c. to ask to have all or some of your data deleted or corrected
- d. to lodge a complaint with the independent Information Commissioner (ICO) if you think we are not handling your data fairly or in accordance with the law. You can contact the ICO at <https://ico.org.uk/>, or telephone 0303 123 1113.

6. Your personal data will not be sent overseas.

7. Your personal data will not be used for any automated decision making.

8. Your personal data will be stored in a secure government IT system



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

If you have any enquiries regarding this document/publication, complete the form at <http://forms.communities.gov.uk/> or write to us at:

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

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