

Housing Information Group: minutes of meeting

Thursday 21 May 2024 – 14:00-16:00

Attendees			
Rebecca	Askew	RA	Welsh Government
Neil	Bannister	NB	Office for National Statistics
Jennie	Bibbings	JB	Welsh Parliament
Stephen	Chamberlain	SC	Welsh Government
Cerys	Clark	CC	CIH Cymru
Einion	Dafydd	ED	Welsh Government
Rachel	Dolman	RD	Welsh Government
Carol	Evans	CE	Conwy Council
Sheilla	Ferraz-Luz	SFL	Welsh Government
Holly	Flynn	HF	Welsh Government
Elen	Grantham	EG	Shelter Cymru
Mark	Harris	MH	Home Builders Federation Ltd
Jasmine	Harris	JH	Crisis
Darren	Hatton	DH	Welsh Government
Philippa	Haughton	PH	Office for National Statistics
Bethany	Howells	BH	Community Housing Wales
Luke	Hughes	LH	Gwynedd council
Jackie	Irwin	JI	NHS Wales
Sarah	James	SJ	CLA
Carolyn	Johnstone	CJ	Salvation Army
Luned	Jones	LJ	Welsh Government
Chantal	Jordan	ChJ	Carmarthenshire County Council
Keryl	Lanfear	KL	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Craig	McLeod	CM	Welsh Government
Lynne	McMordie	LM	Heriot-Watt University
Matt	Miller	MM	Carmarthenshire County Council
Jenny	Murphy	JM	Newport City Homes
Tim	Pateman	TP	Office for National Statistics
John	Perry	JP	Chartered Institute of Housing
Mike	Potts	MP	Newport County Council
Liam	Richards	LR	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Paul	Robinson	PR	Welsh Government
Nia	Roblin	NR	United Welsh Housing Association
David	Rowlands	DR	Tai Pawb
Bob	Smith	BS	Cardiff University

Elizabeth	Taylor	ET	TPAS - Tenant Engagement
Joanna	Valentine	JV	Welsh Government
Gowan	Watkins	GW	Welsh Government
Kirsty	Wells	KW	Housemark
Tony	Wilkins	TW	Office for National Statistics
Peter	Williams	PW	Cambridge University
Emma	Williams	EW	Welsh Government
Speakers			
John	Perry	JP	Chartered Institute of Housing
Lynne	McMordie	LM	Heriot-Watt University
Peter	Williams	PW	Cambridge University
Neil	Bannister	NB	Office for National Statistics
Rachel	Dolman	RD	Welsh Government
Craig	McLeod	CM	Welsh Government
Luned	Jones	LJ	Welsh Government
Bob	Smith	BS	Cardiff University
Note takers			
Sam	Voyce	SV	Welsh Government
Apologies			
Janine	Edwards	Denbighshire County Council	
Sion	Elwyn Hughes	Gwynedd Council	
Cathrine	Evans	ONS	
Tim	Evans	Welsh Government	
Stuart	Fitzgerald	Welsh Government	
Chele	Howard	Neath Port Talbot Council	
Hayley	Macnamara	Community Housing Cymru Group	
Sarah	Rhodes	Welsh Government	
Avril	Roberts	CLA Cymru	
John	Wickenden	Housemark	
Louise	Woodfine	NHS Wales	
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	Gwynedd Council	

Chair: Joanna Valentine

1	Welcome and Introduction	Joanna Valentine, Welsh Government
<p>JV welcomed everyone and introduced the agenda.</p> <p>We did not reach the quota for simultaneous translation so the meeting will be held in English.</p> <p>Presentations will be circulated / published following the meeting (provided the presenters have consented).</p>		

2	UK Housing Review	John Perry, Chartered Institute of Housing Lynne McMordie, Heriot-Watt University Peter Williams, Cambridge University
<p>JP, LM and PW provided a summary of findings for Wales from the Housing Review 2024 which was published on 20th March by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH). The presentation focused on three main sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Private housing market and first time buyers - Homelessness in Wales and across GB - Welsh spending patterns <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed the sharp and sustained decline in first time buyer mortgages in Wales. - Discussed the private rented sector and builder's market. - Highlighted the significant upward trend in the use of temporary accommodation throughout the UK and growing concerns on the levels of rough sleeping. - Work is being done to update the Crisis core homelessness statistics, which focuses on the most acute form of homelessness. - Highlighted there are growing numbers of people being accommodated in bed and breakfasts across the UK. - Discussed the increase in housing benefit and the shift in housing expenditure - Explained how capital support is being used across the UK and the response to cuts in funding. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>BS asked if the government expenditure in Wales has been monitored over the 25 years of devolution and would appreciate the data in due course. JP confirmed it has been monitored over that period.</p> <p>JB asked if it would be possible for the pie charts showing the supply against demand subsidies in England to be reproduced for Wales. JB also asked what the expected date for the homelessness monitor would be. JP replied that reproducing the charts for Wales would be a challenge but is something to try and consider in the future if possible. LM replied that the monitor would hopefully be launched either Autumn or towards the end of the year.</p>		
3	Future approaches to population and migration statistics	Neil Bannister, Office for National Statistics
<p>NB presented on the work being done following the ONS consultation on the future of population and migration statistics (which includes housing statistics) and the future of the Census.</p> <p>Key messages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gave some background on the potential benefits of using admin data more widely and what potential data sources are available. - Highlighted their ambition to produce more frequent, timely and inclusive population and migration statistics during the intercensal periods. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provided an overview of the Future of Population and Migration Statistics (FPMS) consultation responses, with the aim being to publish an outcomes report alongside the recommendation from the National Statistician and the UK Statistics Authority in the summer. - Gave an update on the work being done around characteristics with admin data. - Highlighted the importance of inclusion within the statistics and the work being done around underrepresented groups. - Stated the housing specific characteristics involved within the work. <p>Discussion: MM asked if the household income data produced would be a regular publication and at what level is this currently published with ward level being preferable. Also stated it would be very useful to gain some robust data on population and household change within Gypsy and Traveller communities. NB responded that the household income data is currently sub-national with the aim to get to LSOA level. Also stated that work is ongoing for the Gypsy and Traveller population data and can speak to the relevant team if necessary. NB wants the whole process to be as open and transparent as possible.</p> <p>Link to the latest household income data: Average household income, UK - Office for National Statistics (ons.gov.uk)</p>	
4	Improving access to Welsh Government Housing Statistics	Rachel Dolman and Craig McLeod, Welsh Government
	<p>CM explained KAS's plan to review the way in which the current suite of administrative data and statistical bulletins relating to housing are accessed on the WG website, with a view to making improvements.</p> <p>A number of polls were used to allow attendees to respond to questions regarding how they access Welsh Government statistics, how easy things are to find and potential improvements.</p> <p>Important to remember that this is very much the beginning stage in this work.</p>	<p>If anybody would like to provide further feedback on improving access to Welsh Government housing statistics, please contact stats.housing@gov.wales.</p>
5	HIG Effectiveness Review	Luned Jones, Welsh Government
	<p>LJ provided an update on the effectiveness review of the Housing Information Group (HIG) from earlier this year. Earlier in the year, an online questionnaire was sent out to the HIG distribution list which asked a series of questions. LJ thanked respondents for their input.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Generally positive feedback on terms of reference, agenda items, presentations and the ability to contribute to discussion. - Strong support to maintain the status quo of two HIG meetings and one seminar a year, with interest in some hybrid meetings. - Thanks to secretariat. - The group will continue with the frequency under review. 	<p>If anybody has any further feedback, please contact KASAdmin@gov.wales.</p>

6	Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) update	Bob Smith, Cardiff University
<p>BS presented on the work that has been carried out by the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE) since the previous meeting. The CaCHE briefing paper is available online.</p> <p>There has been an update to the CaCHE website and you can sign up to the newsletter if you would like regular updates on work.</p>		
7	AOB	
<p>RD discussed estimates of housing need data, which was last published in August 2020 and covered a 5 year period, ending in March 2024. Welsh Government would appreciate some feedback on people's uses and views of this data as they consider whether an update is feasible with current data sources.</p> <p>The concept of an external data reference group for homelessness data was also discussed, with the aim of allowing data providers, statistical producers expert data users outside of Welsh Government to help develop and implement future work.</p> <p>RD thanked all those who responded to the annual rough sleeper count user feedback exercise.</p> <p>Discussion: MM mentioned that the local housing market assessments (LHMA) completed by local authorities could be used for housing need and that these should be published with a comparison to the previous methodology used. RD agreed the use of LHMA is something to consider moving forward and explained some of the potential challenges. CC asked whether there were any plans to reinstate the full statutory homelessness data collection that had been used before the pandemic, as it is very important for policy development. RD stated that the full data collection has been reinstated for the 2023-24 financial year. There is no set date on publication yet however it is usually published towards the end of summer. CJ welcomed the long term direction around homelessness data towards case-level.</p>		<p>If you have any feedback regarding the estimates of housing need data or would like to be involved with the external data reference group for homelessness data, please contact stats.housing@gov.wales.</p>
8	Close	
<p>JV thanked all presenters and attendees.</p> <p>The next HIG meeting is planned for the morning of 24th September.</p>		

Housing Information Group 21 May 2024 Summary of Action Points		