**Table 3.1: NIHE Average Weekly Rent, Collectable Rental Income and Arrears, 2002-03 to 2017-18**

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

Data on average rent, rent arrears and collectable rent is sourced from the Housing Executive’s computerised Housing Management System (HMS), which holds up-to-date data on all Housing Executive rent accounts. The data in the table relates solely to properties rented from the Housing Executive. Users of the tables are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others. The average rent figures are based on information about all Housing Executive tenancies in Northern Ireland. The arrears figures are based on information about all Housing Executive tenancies in Northern Ireland but also include arrears owed by former tenants.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

This table is published in the DfC’s annual Housing Statistics, where it is available in pdf, Excel and Word format. Requests for the information in different formats can be made by contacting the Department for Communities. Supporting and/or additional information may be available on request from the Housing Executive.

*Accuracy*

Data on average rent are validated on a yearly basis, confirmed by senior management and reported to the Housing Executive Board in an annual Rent Increase Board Paper. Records are inspected periodically by the Housing Executive’s Internal Audit Unit. The Average Rent figure remains static throughout the year.

Data on rent arrears and collectable rental income are subject to validation, and are reported to the Housing Executive Board, on a monthly basis. Records are inspected periodically by the Housing Executive’s Internal Audit Unit and can also be subjected to inspection by the Northern Ireland Audit Office. Figures can change slightly following year-end due to accounting adjustments. The service was also inspected by the DfC Accountability Section at the end of 2015/16 and received the top classification 1.

*Timeliness*

Statistics on rental income are published on an annual basis in DfC’s Housing Statistics publication.

*Coherence and Comparability*

The time series of data is coherent and directly comparably over time, as the methods of calculating data have not changed.

**Table 3.2: Average Weekly Local Authority Rents By UK Region 2004-05 to 2017-18**

***England & UK***

Average Local Authority Rents for England and the UK overall are produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistical-data-sets/live-tables-on-rents-lettings-and-tenancies>

Table 701 which was previously used to present the Average Weekly Local Authority Rent for the United Kingdom has now been discontinued. The last available year is 2015-16.

***Scotland***

Average Local Authority Rents for Scotland are included within the ‘Housing Revenue Account’ statistics. Further information is available at the following link:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/housing-revenue-account-hra-statistics-scottish-local-authority-housing-income/pages/6/>

***Wales***

**Description of the data**

Data provided for 2014-15 is taken from the Second Advance Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) forms provided by local authorities in Wales who retain stock. The data is the "average actual weekly rent per dwelling" used in the calculation of rent rebate subsidy limitation deduction. The Housing (Wales) Act 2014 which came into force on 17 September 2014 included reform of the Housing Revenue Account Subsidy system (HRAS).Sections 132 to 136 of the Act came into effect on 18 November 2014. These provisions enabled local housing authorities to exit the HRAS system on 2 April 2015 and become self-financing.

2014-15 is therefore be the last financial year for which data from the Second Advance Housing Revenue Account Subsidy (HRAS) forms will be available for Wales. For 2015-16 onwards the data are taken from annual stock and rents data provided by the 11 local authorities who still retain stock. The social housing rents shown for 2015-16 onwards are the actual average weekly rents charged by local authorities for all wholly rented stock as set at 31 March for the following financial year, before deduction for rent allowances and excluding, for the purpose of this data collection, service charges, charges for amenities and water rates. For example, the rents shown for 2017-18 are those set at 31 March 2017 for the 2017-18 financial year.

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

The data provides information on the average actual weekly rent per dwelling for individual local authorities and the information is used by the Welsh Government to gauge the average weekly rents charged by those local authorities who still retain stock by property type and to look at tends over time.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

The HRAS forms (1st, 2nd, Advance Final, Audit Final) were issued to local authorities for completion. The Advance final and Audit final were also issued to the local authority Auditors, for them to audit and provide an audit certificate (Microsoft Office Excel 2003). The data are not published on the web.

The data shown for 2015-16 onwards was collected from local authorities via Excel spreadsheets. These 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.

Further information is available from the Welsh Government statistics web site:

<http://www.gov.wales/statistics>

More detailed data are available on the Stats Wales website: <https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Housing/Social-Housing-Stock-and-Rents>

*Accuracy*

The HRAS forms that were issued have an inbuilt validation system, for the local authorities to check as they are completing the form, also they were checked when returned to the Welsh Government before any settlement is calculated. The annual audit final is audited by external auditors.

There may be differences between the data provided in the 1st, 2nd, Advance Final, Audit Final versions. The average rents figure for Wales is based on data from 11 of the 22 local authorities who still retain their stock. This may change should there be any further large scale voluntary transfers of HRAS stock. No estimates are made for missing data.

For the data shown for 2015-16 onwards, local authorities completed data collection forms with built in guidance and primary validation. On receipt of the data collection forms, the data collection team carried out secondary validation and worked closely with the different providers to ensure information provided was accurate and on a consistent basis.

Copies of the data collection forms can be found on the website:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/social-housing-stock-rent-data-collection/?lang=en>

Respondents are also given an opportunity to include contextual information where large changes have occurred (e.g. data items changing by more than 10% compared to the previous year). This enables some data cleansing at source and minimises follow up queries.

*Timeliness*

The data from the HRAS 2nd advance forms were available annually with the validated data normally available in October each year. The data shown for 2015-16 onwards is collected and published and available in August each year. The annual release is available at the following link:

<http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/social-housing-stock-rents/?lang=en>

The full data set is available on the Welsh Government Stats Wales website at the following link:

<https://statswales.gov.wales/Catalogue/Housing/Social-Housing-Stock-and-Rents>

*Coherence and Comparability*

Annual estimates of the total number of dwellings by tenure are calculated by the Welsh Government and are based on data from the population censuses and data collected from local authorities and Registered Social Landlords. For detailed methodology and quality information for dwelling stock estimates, please see the latest [statistical first release](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/dwelling-stock-estimates/?lang=en).

The total local authority and Registered Social Landlord dwelling stock estimates published in the release ‘[Dwelling Stock Estimates, 2016-17](https://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/dwelling-stock-estimates/?lang=en)’ will differ from the figures shown in this release which presents the number of housing units (dwellings, bedsits and bedspaces). The totals in the dwelling stock estimates release assume 3 bed spaces of a non-self-contained unit is equivalent to 1 dwelling. The totals in the dwelling stock estimates also exclude intermediate and other tenures not at social rents as these dwellings appear in the owner-occupied, privately rented and other tenures category. Information on the number of non-self-contained units for intermediate and other tenures is not available and the same calculation cannot therefore be applied.

The [mid 2016 household estimates](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/household-estimates/?lang=en) were used within this release to calculate the rate of social housing units per 100 households.

**Table 3.3a: Housing Associations: Average Weekly Rent (Gross), Collectable Rental Income and Arrears 2001-02 to 2012-13**

**Table 3.3b: Housing Associations: Average Weekly Rent (Gross and Net), Collectable Rental Income and Arrears 2010-11 to 2015-16**

**Description of the data**

Housing Group within the Department for Communities (DfC) collects information

on social housing stock owned by Housing Associations (HAs) registered with DfC.

Data gathered from the HAs is used in the production of Performance Indicators. These indicators are used to assess and compare the performance across all HAs. Data is requested from each HA via an excel version of the (1) Annual Regulatory Return (ARR) and (2) the Annual Financial Return (AFR). Returns are collated onto a single spreadsheet for each type of return. This information is used to calculate figures for Table 3.3a and 3.3b.

Data is gathered under the following categories:

* + Summary Information about the Housing Association (address and senior staff details) and the services provided by, for or shared with other bodies,
	+ Housing Management (this includes voids and rental income),
	+ Maintenance (repair response times),
	+ Contextual Statistical Information (numbers and type of dwelling units and breakdown by District Council area),
	+ Miscellaneous (number of evictions and abandonments) and
	+ Additional Information (Board membership).
	+ Financial information including management and maintenance charges

**Data Quality**

*Data Validation*

Information on the ARR is checked by staff in the Governance Team in Housing Division. The checks carried out are to ensure that information supplied in various parts of the ARR tally and that anything that does not match is accounted for by way of written explanation. All discrepancies are followed up with the HAs. Similar procedures are applied to information on the Annual Financial Return by staff in the Finance team in Housing Division.

*Data Extract*

The statistics published relate to 31 March each year.

*Quality Assurance*

The Inspection Team within Housing Group test the information supplied on the ARR and the AFR during the course of an inspection on the HA.

*User Needs*

The primary users of the Performance Indicators are DfC Housing Group and the HAs. They are used as an information source and also to monitor the performance of the HAs.

A review and user consultation of Table 3.3 which was included in previous editions of the Northern Ireland Housing Statistics publication was carried out during 2015. Table 3.3 has been replaced in the 2014-15 edition by Tables 3.3a and 3.3b. Information concerning the review and consultation can be found at the following link:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/publications/review-reporting-housing-association-rents>

*Accessibility*

The Performance Indicators are accessible on the DfC website on Microsoft Excel spreadsheets:

<https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/articles/what-housing-association>

*Frequency of Publication*

Information on social housing stock owned by the HAs is published yearly following completion and collation of the ARRs.

**Table 3.4: NIHE Tenants in Receipt of Housing Benefit 2002-03 to 2017-18**

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

The Northern Ireland Housing Executive holds information on all Housing Benefit cases in Northern Ireland, and on Housing Executive rent accounts, in operational IT systems. The data in this table relates solely to properties rented from the Housing Executive, and is extracted from the ‘i-world’ Housing Benefit System and the Housing Management System (HMS). Users of the tables are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others. The figures are based on information about all Housing Executive tenancies in Northern Ireland.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

This table is published in the DfC’s annual Housing Statistics, where it is available in pdf, Excel and Word format. Requests for the information in different formats can be made by contacting the Department for Communities. Supporting and/or additional information may be available on request from the Housing Executive.

*Accuracy*

Figures are derived from ‘Business Objects’ reports within the Housing Benefit system, which identify live Housing Benefit awards for Housing Executive tenancies and cases with a ‘Full Housing Benefit’ flag for Housing Executive tenancies. Full Housing Benefit refers to when the full charge for rent and rates is met by Housing Benefit. The figure for the total amount of Housing Benefit paid is produced by the Housing Executive’s Finance Division. Controls that are subject to audit are in place to ensure the accuracy of the reported figures.

*Timeliness*

Statistics derived from HMS and the i-world system are published on an annual basis in DfC’s Housing Statistics publication.

*Coherence and Comparability*

Figures relating to the total number of tenants, number of tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit, total benefit paid and average benefit per recipient are coherent and directly comparable with those published previously. However, figures relating to the number and proportion of tenants receiving full Housing Benefit from 2011-12 onwards are not strictly comparable with figures for previous years. An adjustment made to the Housing Benefit IT system during 2011-12, improved the accuracy of the figures from this year onwards.

Users should note that at the 31 March 2017, the number and proportion of tenants receiving full Housing Benefit was substantially lower than previous years and this trend is continues at 31 March 2018. This is due to the introduction of the Social Sector Size Criteria from 20 February 2017 which affects approximately 26,000 Housing Benefit claimants. The majority of those impacted will be receiving full mitigation payments through the DfC Welfare Supplementary Payments scheme which makes up for the shortfall in Housing Benefit.

**Table 3.5: Social Rented Sector Waiting Lists and Allocations 2002-03 to 2017-18**

**Table 3.6a and 3.7b: Social Rented Sector Waiting Lists by Local Government District 2017-18**

**Table 3.7a and 3.7b: Total Allocations by Local Government District 2017-18**

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

Table 3.5

Table 3.5 reports on all applications recorded on the Common Waiting List at specified dates, and all allocations (offers accepted) made through the Housing Selection Scheme in Northern Ireland during the financial year. The Housing Executive holds data on all housing applications and allocations made through the Housing Selection Scheme in the Housing Management System (HMS). The waiting list application figures cover new applicants only i.e. those with no existing NIHE/Housing Association tenancy; current tenants seeking a transfer are not included. The allocations figures contain and are broken down into new applicants and transfers from NIHE/ Housing Associations. Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

Table 3.6a and 3.6b

Table 3.6a and 3.6b report on all households that have applied for social housing through the Housing Selection Scheme in Northern Ireland at financial year-end. The Housing Executive holds data on all housing applications made through the Housing Selection Scheme in the Housing Management System (HMS). The waiting list application figures cover new applicants only i.e. those with no existing NIHE/Housing Association tenancy; current tenants seeking a transfer are not included. Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

Table 3.7a and 3.7b

Table 3.7 reports on all allocations (offers accepted) made through the Housing Selection Scheme in Northern Ireland between 1st April 2017 and 31st March 2018. The Housing Executive holds data on all housing applications and allocations made through the Housing Selection Scheme in the Housing Management System (HMS). Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

The tables are published in the DfC’s annual Housing Statistics, where they are available in pdf, Excel and Word format. Requests for the information in different formats can be made by contacting the Department for Communities. Supporting and/or additional information may be available on request from the Housing Executive.

*Accuracy*

Information is extracted from the Housing Management System in the form of reports produced through ‘Business Objects’. Waiting list and allocations data are also periodically downloaded via Excel and validated to ensure that the data are reliable and robust for use. The Housing Executive checks all data carefully, ensuring a high level of quality assurance. However, users should be aware that figures are extracted from a live database on a specific date.

*Timeliness*

Statistics drawn from the Common Waiting List are published on an annual basis.

*Coherence and Comparability*

Table 3.5

Figures up to and including 2010-11 were drawn from the ‘PRAWL’ operational IT system. PRAWL has been replaced by the Housing Management System (HMS), which went live in July 2011. Total figures for the 2011-12 year (i.e. allocations) are therefore drawn from both systems. Figures for 2011-12 year-end (i.e. waiting list data) were extracted at 1st May 2012, as opposed to 31st March in other years.

Figures for allocations for 2011-12 onwards are fully comparable with published statistics for previous years. However due to the introduction of the new Housing Management system and a change to the annual renewal process for applicants the number of waiting list applicants for 2011-12 is considered to be a significant undercount.

2017-18 figure revised due to the identification of missing cases within Social Housing Waiting List Quarter 4 2017-18 extract.  It should be noted that the statistics represent a snapshot of the Waiting List and Housing Stress data at 20th March 2018. This should be considered when comparing figures across years.

Table 3.6a and 3.6b

Figures up to and including 2010-11 were drawn from the ‘PRAWL’ operational IT system. PRAWL has been replaced by the Housing Management System (HMS), which went live in July 2011. Waiting list data for 2011-12 year-end were extracted at 1st May 2012, as opposed to 31st March in other years. Due to the introduction of the new Housing Management system and a change to the annual renewal process for applicants the number of waiting list applicants for 2011-12 is considered to be a significant undercount. In 2015 it became apparent that figures for Portballintrae had been included in the wrong Local Government District (Moyle instead of Coleraine) in 2011-12, 2012-13 & 2013-14. This has now been amended.

2017-18 figure revised due to the identification of missing cases within Social Housing Waiting List Quarter 4 2017-18 extract.  It should be noted that the statistics represent a snapshot of the Waiting List and Housing Stress data at 20th March 2018.

Table 3.7a and 3.6b

Figures up to and including 2010-11 were drawn from the 'PRAWL' operational IT system.  PRAWL has been replaced by the Housing Management System (HMS), which went live in July 2011. Total figures for the 2011-12 year were therefore drawn from both systems. From 2011-12 and the introduction of the new system it has been possible to attribute housing association allocations to a specific local government district, up to 2010-11 this was not the case and therefore publications of this table prior to 2011-12 are not comparable with subsequent figures.

**Table 3.8: Households Presenting as Homeless by Reason 2004-05 to 2017-18**

**Table 3.9: Households Presenting as Homeless by Household Type, 2004-05 to 2017-18**

**Table 3.10: Households Presenting as Homeless by Outcome, 2012-13 to 2017-18**

**Table 3.11: Homeless Households Accepted As Full Duty Applicants by Reason 2004-05 to 2017-18**

**Homelessness**

Statistics on Homelessness are sourced from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE). Under the Housing (NI) Order 1988, NIHE has a statutory responsibility to secure permanent accommodation for persons 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. For further details see:

<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/about-us-home/media_centre/key_issues.htm>.

Information on the NIHE Homelessness Strategy can be found at the following link:

<http://www.nihe.gov.uk/index/corporate/strategies/homelessness_strategy.htm>.

**Definition of Full Duty Applicant**

The Housing (NI) Order 1988 (as amended) imposes a statutory duty on the Housing Executive to respond to homelessness. Where the Housing Executive has reason to believe an applicant may be homeless or threatened with homelessness it makes enquiries to satisfy itself whether the applicant is eligible for assistance, and whether they are homeless or threatened with homelessness. If homeless or threatened with homelessness, the Housing Executive will need to satisfy itself whether the applicant has a priority need for accommodation and whether they became homeless or threatened with homelessness intentionally.

Where the Housing Executive concludes that an applicant is eligible, homeless (threatened with homelessness), in priority need and unintentionally homeless it owes them the full housing duty in line with the provisions of the 1988 Order. An applicant to whom this full housing duty is owed is operationally referred to as a “Full Duty Applicant” – FDA. Where an applicant is owed the full housing duty, the Executive shall secure that accommodation becomes available for their occupation.

The Housing Executive can discharge its housing duty in one of three ways: by re-housing of the applicant in the social or private sector, by offering the applicant three reasonable offers of accommodation which are all refused by the applicant or if the applicant re-houses him/herself and is no longer interested. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of discharged Full Duty Applicants into these three subgroups.

**Data Quality**

*Relevance*

Table 3.8

Table 3.8 reports on all households presenting as homeless in Northern Ireland between 2004-05 and 2017-18, according to the reasons for their application. Data are recorded by the Housing Executive in its Housing Management System (HMS), on a daily basis. Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

Table 3.9

Table 3.9 reports on all households presenting as homeless in Northern Ireland between 2004-05 and 2017-18, by household type. Data are recorded by the Housing Executive in its Housing Management System (HMS), on a daily basis. Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities,

the private sector and others.

Table 3.10

Table 3.10 reports on all households presenting as homeless in Northern Ireland between 2012-13 and 2017-18 according to the outcome of their application at 31st March each year. Data are recorded by the Housing Executive in its Housing Management System (HMS), on a daily basis. Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

Table 3.11

Table 3.11 reports on all households accepted as full duty applicants in Northern Ireland between 2004-05 and 2017-18, according to the reasons for their application. Data are recorded by the Housing Executive in its Housing Management System (HMS), on a daily basis. Users of the table are those with an interest in the housing sector; including government officials, the voluntary sector, charities, the private sector and others.

*Accessibility and Clarity*

The tables are published in the DfC’s annual Housing Statistics, where they are available in pdf, Excel and Word format. Requests for the information in different formats can be made by contacting the Department for Communities. Supporting and/or additional information may be available on request from the Housing Executive.

*Accuracy*

Monthly reports on the status of homelessness presentations are extracted from the Housing Management System through Crystal Reports. The Housing Executive acknowledges that some errors may occur due to the inputting of incorrect data, but checks all data that are to be published carefully, to provide a high level of quality assurance. However, users should be aware that figures are extracted from a live database on a specific date.

*Timeliness*

The full suite of homelessness statistics is published on an annual basis. Some homelessness statistics are also published on a quarterly basis in the *Northern Ireland Housing Bulletin*. However, the change to the new Housing Management System, which was implemented during 2011-12, meant that homelessness statistics were not available on a quarterly basis for that financial year.

*Coherence and Comparability*

UK Comparability

The Government Statistical Service (GSS) Harmonisation Team are due to publish a report in December 2018 in recognition of the lack of comparable data relating to Homelessness across the UK. The report is likely to investigate the definitions of homelessness and data collection methodology across the UK and explore the feasibility of harmonising definitions of homelessness for official statistics. (Reference to be provided upon publication).

Table 3.8

The figures reported for each reason for presentation from 2011-12 onwards are not fully comparable with other published figures. Data migration issues and coding variations following the introduction of a new operational Housing Management System (HMS) in July 2011 meant that no data on reason for presentation was recorded for 3,731 cases in 2011-12 and 835 cases during April-June 2012. From July 2012 onwards data migration is no longer an issue. Keying variations accounted for some of the missing data, but the majority related to three possible outcomes – where the case was rejected, cancelled or concluded. While the data captured through the HMS are essentially the same as those captured by the PRAWL system, data migration and coding variations in the period following the change of systems have had a small impact on the comparability of homelessness statistics. Hence figures from 2011-12 onwards are not directly comparable with those reported in previous years.

Users should note that the intimidation category has been renamed from 'intimidation (civil disturbance)'. However, the data definition has not changed. The intimidation category includes those intimidated due to anti-social behaviour, paramilitarism, sectarianism, racial abuse or sexual orientation.

Table 3.9

The time series of data in the table from 2011-12 onwards are not fully comparable with other published figures. The Housing Management System (HMS) went live in July 2011, replacing the previous ‘PRAWL’ information management system. While the data captured through the HMS are essentially the same as those captured by the PRAWL system, data migration and coding variations in the period following the change of systems have had a small impact on the comparability of homelessness statistics. Hence figures from 2011-12 onwards are not directly comparable with those reported in previous years.

Users should note that in 2016/17 the mid-year introduction of an additional field in HMS for staff to record presenting reason had an impact on the specification of statistical reports. This resulted in some data issues at yearend which included an increase in the 'no data' category. This issue has now been resolved and should not occur in future reports.

Table 3.10

Data published from 2011-12 onwards (in previous and current editions) are not fully comparable with other published figures. Until 2010-11, figures were published for only three potential outcomes – ‘awarded priority status’, ‘not homeless’ and ‘homeless but not awarded priority status’. In order to better reflect the homelessness application process, the new Housing Management System was designed to allow reporting on a fuller range of potential outcomes – eight in total. These are as follows:

* Accepted: Applicant has been accepted as statutorily homeless and awarded Full Duty Applicant Status.
* Appeal: Applicant has sought a review of their homelessness decision.
* Cancelled: A homelessness application was registered in error by the Housing Executive.
* Concluded: Applicant has withdrawn their homelessness application, or has not made contact with the Housing Executive within a specified period.
* Duty Discharged: Applicant has been awarded full duty status and subsequently (a) the applicant has been re-housed in the social or private sector, (b) the applicant has been presented with three reasonable offers of accommodation which are all refused, or (c) the applicant re-houses him/herself and is no longer interested.
* No decision: Homelessness application is still being processed.
* Prevented: Homelessness has been prevented by an action or intervention by the Housing Executive, another agency or the applicant themselves.
* Rejected: Applicant does not meet the statutory homelessness criteria.

While the strict meaning of ‘Accepted’ reported from 2011-12 onwards remains the same as ‘awarded priority status’ in previous annual statistics, the greater range of other potential outcomes means that it may be misleading to make direct comparisons between the published figures.

Users should note that the end of year data base for 2016-17 was downloaded later than usual. This accounts for the lower number of no decision cases.

Table 3.11

The data recorded in the table for 2011-12 onwards are not fully comparable with the statistics reported for previous years. Until 2010-11, figures were published for only three potential homelessness outcomes – ‘awarded priority status’, ‘not homeless’ and ‘homeless but not awarded priority status’. In order to better reflect the homelessness application process, the new Housing Management System was designed to allow reporting on a fuller range of potential outcomes – eight in total (see table 3.10), of which ‘accepted as full duty applicant’ is one. While the strict meaning of ‘accepted as full duty applicant’ is essentially the same as ‘awarded priority status’ in previous annual statistics, the greater range of other potential outcomes means that it may be misleading to make direct comparisons between the published figures for 2011-12 onwards and those for previous years.

Homelessness figures for the period 2004-05 to 2010-11 include those Homeless Households accepted as Full Duty Applicants who were subsequently discharged. Following the introduction of the new Housing Management System (HMS), discharged cases were not included in figures for 2011-12 in the Housing Statistics 2011-12 report. Figures for 2012-13 onwards include those Full Duty Applicants who were subsequently discharged. It has not been possible to revise figures for 2011-12 due to the introduction of the new HMS and keying variations. Due to this inconsistency in the time series, figures for 2011-12 are not directly comparable with other years.

Users should note that the intimidation category has been renamed from 'intimidation (civil disturbance)'. However, the data definition has not changed. The intimidation category includes those intimidated due to anti-social behaviour, paramilitarism, sectarianism, racial abuse or sexual orientation.