

Assessment of compliance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics

Housing Statistics

(produced by the Homes and Communities Agency)

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About the UK Statistics Authority

The UK Statistics Authority is an independent body operating at arm's length from government as a non-ministerial department, directly accountable to Parliament. It was established on 1 April 2008 by the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*.

The Authority's overall objective is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. It is also required to promote and safeguard the quality and comprehensiveness of official statistics, and good practice in relation to official statistics.

The Statistics Authority has two main functions:

1. oversight of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – the executive office of the Authority;
2. independent scrutiny (monitoring and assessment) of all official statistics produced in the UK.

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ASSESSMENT AND DESIGNATION

The *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007* gives the UK Statistics Authority a statutory power to assess sets of statistics against the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*.

Assessment will determine whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated as National Statistics.

Designation as National Statistics means that the statistics comply with the *Code of Practice*. The *Code* is wide-ranging. Designation can be interpreted to mean that the statistics: meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are explained well.

Designation as National Statistics should not be interpreted to mean that the statistics are always correct. For example, whilst the *Code* requires statistics to be produced to a level of accuracy that meets users' needs, it also recognises that errors can occur – in which case it requires them to be corrected and publicised.

Assessment reports will not normally comment further on a set of statistics, for example on their validity as social or economic measures. However, reports may point to such questions if the Authority believes that further research would be desirable.

Assessment reports typically provide an overview of any noteworthy features of the methods used to produce the statistics, and will highlight substantial concerns about quality. Assessment reports also describe aspects of the ways in which the producer addresses the 'sound methods and assured quality' principle of the *Code*, but do not themselves constitute a review of the methods used to produce the statistics. However the *Code* requires producers to "seek to achieve continuous improvement in statistical processes by, for example, undertaking regular reviews".

The Authority may grant designation on condition that the producer body takes steps, within a stated timeframe, to fully meet the *Code's* requirements. This is to avoid public confusion and does not reduce the obligation to comply with the *Code*.

The Authority grants designation on the basis of three main sources of information:

- i. factual evidence and assurances by senior statisticians in the producer body;
- ii. the views of users who we contact, or who contact us, and;
- iii. our own review activity.

Should further information come to light subsequently which changes the Authority's analysis, it may withdraw the Assessment report and revise it as necessary.

It is a statutory requirement on the producer body to ensure that it continues to produce the set of statistics designated as National Statistics in compliance with the *Code of Practice*.

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1 Summary of findings

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This is one of a series of reports¹ prepared under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*². The Act allows an appropriate authority³ to request an assessment of official statistics against the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*⁴ in order for them to gain National Statistics status. This report is in response to such a request. The report covers the set of statistics reported in *Homes and Communities Agency Housing Statistics*⁵ (*HCA Housing Statistics*), produced by the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA).
- 1.1.2 Section 3 of this report adopts an ‘exception reporting’ approach – it includes text only to support the Requirements made to strengthen compliance with the *Code* and Suggestions made to improve confidence in the production, management and dissemination of these statistics. This abbreviated style of report reflects the Head of Assessment’s consideration of aspects of risk and materiality⁶. The Assessment team nonetheless assessed compliance with all parts of the *Code of Practice* and has commented on all those in respect of which some remedial action is recommended.
- 1.1.3 This report was prepared by the Authority’s Assessment team, and approved by the Board of the Statistics Authority on the advice of the Head of Assessment.

1.2 Decision concerning designation as National Statistics

- 1.2.1 The Statistics Authority judges that the statistics covered by this report are readily accessible, produced according to sound methods and managed impartially and objectively in the public interest, subject to any points for action in this report. The Statistics Authority confirms that the statistics published in *HCA Housing Statistics* are designated as National Statistics, subject to the Homes and Communities Agency implementing the enhancements listed in section 1.5 and reporting them to the Authority by April 2013.

1.3 Summary of strengths and weaknesses

¹ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

² http://www.opsi.gov.uk/Acts/acts2007/pdf/ukpga_20070018_en.pdf

³ Subsection 12(7) of the Act defines ‘appropriate authority’ as Ministers of the Crown, Scottish Ministers, Welsh Ministers, Northern Ireland departments or the National Statistician

⁴ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/code-of-practice/index.html>

⁵ <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/national-housing-statistics>

⁶ <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/guidance-about-assessment/criteria-for-deciding-upon-the-format-of-an-assessment-report.pdf>

1.3.1 *HCA Housing Statistics* is a by-product of administrative systems that monitor the payment of grant and the progress of projects. It shows what is being delivered with the public funds allocated through HCA. The statistics can also be used to compare the contribution made by various types of affordable housing programme. However, they do not provide a full picture of affordable housing delivery and there is evidence that the varying coverage and timing of related statistical products (most of which are produced by the Department for Communities and Local Government) is confusing for some users.

1.3.2 The statistics have been developed over the three years of their existence, bringing them into line with most elements of the *Code of Practice*. The commentary would benefit from more explanation of the policy and operational context relating to the statistics, including more information about the targets that have been set for HCA and its contribution to Government objectives for affordable housing.

1.4 Detailed recommendations

1.4.1 The Assessment team identified some areas where it felt that HCA could strengthen its compliance with the *Code*. Those which the Assessment team considers essential to enable designation as National Statistics are listed in section 1.5. Other suggestions, which would improve the statistics and the service provided to users but which are not formally required for their designation, are listed at annex 1.

1.5 Requirements for designation as National Statistics

Requirement 1	Explain how the programmes in <i>HCA Housing Statistics</i> relate to the products in DCLG's <i>Affordable Housing Supply</i> (para 3.2).
Requirement 2	Improve the commentary in <i>HCA Housing Statistics</i> so that it aids user interpretation of the statistics (para 3.7).
Requirement 3	Inform users that they may request statistics at programme level for local authority areas (para 3.8).
Requirement 4	Include the name and contact details of the responsible statistician (para 3.10).

2 Subject of the assessment

- 2.1 The HCA was established in 2008⁷ as a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG). It provides investment for new affordable housing in England; for the improvement of existing social housing; and for the regeneration of land. It publishes statistics about the housing delivered through its programmes at six monthly intervals, commencing in November 2009.
- 2.2 In April 2012, responsibility for housing and regeneration activity in London transferred to the Greater London Authority (GLA) under the *Localism Act 2011*⁸. The same legislation provided for HCA to take over responsibility for the regulation of social housing in England (including London) from the former Tenant Services Authority (TSA). TSA used to publish statistics about the housing stock owned by private registered providers⁹ and the rents that they charge. Responsibility for these statistics has also transferred to HCA¹⁰ but, because the data collection is new to HCA, DCLG has requested that the assessment of those statistics against the *Code* be deferred until late 2013.
- 2.3 *HCA Housing Statistics* covers affordable homes (which are provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market) and housing that is provided at market prices using HCA investment. The homes may be for rent or for purchase (often on shared ownership terms) and although the statistics refer to ‘starts’ and ‘completions’, the housing is not all newly built – some is property that has been renovated or acquired from another owner. The statistics also cover funding for mortgage rescue and for traveller pitches, and housing provided on land that HCA sells. Breakdowns for each of HCA’s programmes and for local authority areas are provided in Excel and PDF format.
- 2.4 The transfer of responsibilities to the GLA means that HCA’s statistics from November 2012 onwards no longer cover London (which accounted for around a quarter of all the new housing provision that HCA funded before the transfer). A footnote in the November 2012 release of *HCA Housing Statistics* refers users to a new DCLG release¹¹ where national totals are supplied. The DCLG release is confined to affordable housing and consists of a single table. Breakdowns by programme and by local authority (LA) can be obtained from the GLA¹² and HCA websites, covering London and the rest of England respectively. The historical series in the November 2012 *HCA Housing Statistics* has been revised to exclude London. Earlier releases, which include statistics for London, are still available on HCA’s website.

⁷ HCA brought together the investment functions of the Housing Corporation, the assets and functions of English Partnerships and a number of DCLG delivery programmes. The Tenant Services Authority was established to take over the Housing Corporation’s regulatory role, but this role has since transferred to HCA (see paragraph 2.2)

⁸ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/20/contents/enacted>

⁹ Most private registered providers are housing associations. The term is used to distinguish this part of the sector from local authorities, who are also now regulated by HCA. For historical reasons, statistics about local authority housing are published by DCLG

¹⁰ <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/news/statistical-data-return>

¹¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/series/affordable-housing-supply>

¹² <http://data.london.gov.uk/datastore/package/gla-affordable-housing-programme-outturn>

- 2.5 Although the new DCLG release provides national totals, it does not give a complete picture of affordable housing provision because some such housing is delivered through other funding streams. DCLG therefore publishes separate statistics on the gross annual supply of affordable housing, as well as quarterly statistics on house building, annual statistics on net housing supply and annual dwelling stock estimates¹³. These were all included in Assessment Report 117: *Statistics on Housing in England*¹⁴, where it was noted that the individual statistical publications do not combine to give a coherent view of housing supply and demand.
- 2.6 HCA produces the statistics in order to account for the funding that it receives from government, by reporting on progress against its targets. However, because *HCA Housing Statistics* is produced more frequently than the DCLG statistics on affordable housing, it tends to be used by politicians and the media as a basis for comment on the Government's progress towards its housing ambition – although interpreting the statistics in this way is not straightforward (see paragraph 3.4). HCA told us that it also uses the statistics in speeches, in answering Parliamentary Questions and Freedom of Information requests, and in dealing with enquiries from students, LAs and housing associations. The statistics are used by LAs to compare provision in their own areas with near neighbours, and by campaigning groups and industry bodies to inform their own strategies and to brief their membership.
- 2.7 HCA produces its housing statistics from two administrative systems. One is used to monitor grant funding for the delivery of affordable housing, while the other is a project database containing details of all HCA's other investment programmes. The systems derive from two of HCA's predecessor bodies (respectively, the Housing Corporation and English Partnerships).
- 2.8 HCA estimates that the staff time involved in the production of the statistics is 0.21 full-time equivalent (FTE) (at various grades), with a further 0.05 FTE at DCLG to assure the quality of the statistics and to combine HCA and GLA data into DCLG's national release.
- 2.9 The Scottish and Welsh Governments fund housing associations and other providers of affordable housing directly. Their published statistics^{15 16} on additional affordable housing include acquisitions and rehabilitation or conversion as well as new building, and are broadly comparable to DCLG's affordable housing statistics. In Northern Ireland, the Department for Social Development (DSD) is responsible for funding and regulating the housing association sector, including a specialist association Co-Ownership Housing¹⁷ that is responsible for promoting shared ownership. However, DSD does not bring all forms of affordable housing provision together in a single statistical series.

¹³ DCLG statistics have recently migrated onto the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-communities-and-local-government/about/statistics>

¹⁴ <http://statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment/assessment-reports/assessment-report-117--statistics-on-housing-in-england.pdf>

¹⁵ <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Housing-Regeneration/HSfS/NewBuild>

¹⁶ <http://wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/housing2012/121025/?lang=en>

¹⁷ <http://www.co-ownership.org/>

3 Assessment findings

- 3.1 HCA issues an email newsletter to alert some 17,000 potential users when the statistics are published. In June 2012 recipients of these alerts were invited to take part in a feedback survey. Only four responses were received. HCA made a summary of these responses available from the product landing page on its website. The response does not seem to reflect the level of interest in the statistics – the Assessment team received around 30 replies to its email request for comments in relation to this assessment.
- 3.2 The ‘programmes’ covered in *HCA Housing Statistics* are only a partial match for the HCA products listed in the DCLG release on affordable housing supply¹⁸, making it difficult for users to understand how the two sets of statistics relate to one another. As part of the designation as National Statistics, HCA should explain how the programmes in *HCA Housing Statistics* relate to the products in DCLG’s *Affordable Housing Supply*¹⁹ (Requirement 1).
- 3.3 Many users of *HCA Housing Statistics* are mainly interested in receiving regular information about the delivery of programmes in their local areas (some told us that they would prefer more frequent statistics). However, two users who told us that they are interested in national estimates were concerned that HCA and DCLG continue to produce different sets of statistics on affordable housing provision at different dates, covering different time periods and measuring different elements. One of these users wanted more explanation about how the different sets of statistics relate to one another and more description of data sources and methods. The other called for ‘a single set of robust and consistent data that can be relied on’. The various DCLG releases described in para 2.5 each serve a different purpose, but there are considerable overlaps between them and some of the comments that the Assessment team received suggest that the different measures are not well understood. This seems to be confirmed by the recent use of statistics about affordable housing in political debate²⁰. The Statistics Authority will take this matter up with DCLG.
- 3.4 Using the statistics as an indicator of progress towards HCA’s target and towards the Government’s ambition for additional affordable homes is not straightforward (see paragraphs A2.10 and A2.11). In addition to two sets of statistics (*HCA Housing Statistics* and DCLG’s *Affordable Housing Supply*) relevant information is spread across HCA’s *Corporate Plan*²¹; HCA’s *Annual Report and Financial Statements*²²; the impact indicators in DCLG’s *Business Plan Quarterly Data Summary*²³; and the accompanying measurement annex²⁴. Users also need to be aware of the range of activities included in the statistics (which do not just represent new house building) and the skewed pattern of programme delivery towards the second half of the year (which is highlighted in

¹⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/affordable-housing-supply-in-england-2011-to-2012>

¹⁹ In relation to Principle 4, Practice 6 of the *Code of Practice*

²⁰ See, for example:

http://fullfact.org/factchecks/how_many_affordable_homes_are_being_built_in_london-25048 and

<http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/reports---correspondence/correspondence/index.html>

(correspondence dated 11 and 29 June 2012)

²¹ <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/publications>

²² <http://www.homesandcommunities.co.uk/annual-report>

²³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dclg-business-plan-quarterly-data-summary-july-2012>

²⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dclg-business-plan-quarterly-indicators-september-2012>

HCA Housing Statistics). We suggest that HCA discuss with DCLG how the two organisations might provide a clearer account of the targets and aspirations that have been set, and of progress to date.

- 3.5 HCA informed us that the systems for validating the data have been subject to internal audit and all but one of the recommendations implemented (the remaining recommendation requires a change to IT systems, and is ongoing). HCA seeks rigorous evidence of starts on site and completions from the organisations receiving grant. It is able to check that the two types of record tie up and to measure the time that elapses between the start and completion dates. Some programmes (for example, mortgage rescue and schemes where an existing social rented tenant buys a share in their home) have a ‘completion’ but not a ‘start’. HCA told us that the two types of data are otherwise compatible²⁵. We suggest that HCA publish information about the checks that it makes, and the completeness of its records, in the section on data sources and quality in *HCA Housing Statistics*; and that it draws attention to the differing coverage of its ‘starts’ and ‘completions’ figures.
- 3.6 HCA does not employ any qualified statisticians. A DCLG statistician provides quality assurance for the statistics, the release and the associated data tables. This seems a satisfactory arrangement for producing *HCA Housing Statistics*, but HCA also produces the statistics mentioned in paragraph 2.2. HCA may therefore wish to consider whether it should employ a qualified statistician, perhaps on a part time basis and/or on secondment from DCLG.
- 3.7 HCA has expanded the commentary in *HCA Housing Statistics* over the last year or so and now points out, for example, when sudden increases or decreases in the delivery of housing units coincide with the commencement or cessation of government programmes. The release would still benefit, however, from more information about the policy and operational context relating to the statistics. As part of the designation as National Statistics, HCA should improve the commentary in *HCA Housing Statistics* so that it aids user interpretation of the statistics²⁶ (Requirement 2). We suggest that in meeting this requirement HCA should consider the points detailed in annex 2.
- 3.8 In line with a recent Ministerial Statement²⁷, HCA no longer publishes summaries of the data for statistical regions. The LA level data, however, contain a regional identifier so that users can produce their own regional summaries if required. HCA has also stopped presenting programme level statistics by statistical region and HCA operating area. HCA told us that it does not publish the detailed programme level data for individual LAs because of the volume of data, but that it can provide such breakdowns on request. As part of the designation as National Statistics, HCA should inform users that they may request statistics at programme level for LA areas²⁸ (Requirement 3).
- 3.9 HCA pre-announces the publication of the statistics on the National Statistics Publication Hub by indicating a two month window. The exact publication date may be announced as little as four weeks ahead. We suggest that HCA try to

²⁵ In contrast, there can be apparent disparities between starts and completions in data derived from building inspectors (see Assessment Report 117, footnote 14)

²⁶ In relation to Principle 8, Practice 2 of the *Code of Practice*

²⁷ <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/local-statistics-written-ministerial-statement>

²⁸ In relation to Principle 8, Practices 3 and 4 of the *Code of Practice*

extend this latter period, as this might help to avoid any impression that the timing of the release is being manipulated for political purposes²⁹.

- 3.10 *HCA Housing Statistics* does not include a name and contact details for the responsible statistician – for example, the lead person in the production team, or the DCLG statistician who quality assures the release. As part of the designation as National Statistics, HCA should include the name and contact details of the responsible statistician³⁰ (Requirement 4).
- 3.11 HCA does not have a Statement of Administrative Sources but the administrative systems used to produce *HCA Housing Statistics* have been included in a revised DCLG Statement of Administrative Sources³¹ published in January 2013.

²⁹ <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-15837034>

³⁰ In relation to Protocol 2, Practice 6 of the *Code of Practice*

³¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/statement-of-administrative-sources-for-statistical-purposes>

Annex 1: Suggestions for improvement

A1.1 This annex includes some suggestions for improvement to *HCA Housing Statistics*, in the interest of the public good. These are not formally required for designation, but the Assessment team considers that their implementation will improve public confidence in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics.

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Suggestion 1 | Discuss with DCLG how the two organisations might provide a clearer account of the targets and aspirations that have been set, and of progress to date (para 3.4). |
| Suggestion 2 | Publish information about the checks carried out to validate data and about the completeness of HCA records; and draw attention to the differing coverage of the 'starts' and 'completions' figures (para 3.5). |
| Suggestion 3 | In seeking to improve the statistical release, consider the points detailed in annex 2 (para 3.7). |
| Suggestion 4 | Seek to announce the exact publication date of the statistics further in advance (para 3.9). |

Annex 2: Compliance with Standards for Statistical Releases

- A2.1 In October 2010, the Statistics Authority issued a statement on *Standards for Statistical Releases*³². While this is not part of the *Code of Practice for Official Statistics*, the Authority regards it as advice that will promote both understanding and compliance with the *Code*. In relation to *HCA Housing Statistics*, this annex comments on compliance with the statement on standards.
- A2.2 In implementing any Requirements of this report (at paragraph 1.5) which relate to the content of statistical releases, we encourage the producer body to apply the standards as fully as possible.

Appropriate identification of the statistics being released

- A2.3 The title page of the PDF format of *HCA Housing Statistics* identifies HCA as the originating agency and gives the date of the release, but does not indicate the coverage (England, excluding London) or the time period to which the statistics relate – although both are made clear in the first bullet point. The introductory section explains what is included in the release and identifies which statistics are new, and which have been revised.
- A2.4 The release includes a generic email address and telephone number for public enquiries, but there are no name or contact details for the responsible statistician.

Include commentary that is helpful to the non-expert and presents the main messages in plain English

- A2.5 Affordable housing is defined in the release as ‘housing units (or bed spaces) provided to specified eligible households whose needs are not met by the market’ but there is no further explanation as to who is eligible, or in what circumstances, or when bed spaces are counted instead of dwellings. The release explains that affordable rented housing is subject to a limit of no more than 80 per cent of the local market rent, and that social rented housing is cheaper than this. It might be worth adding for clarification that while the housing costs are below market levels, they are not necessarily ‘affordable’ in common parlance, as some households may need further subsidy in the form of housing benefit.
- A2.6 The tables cover the period from 2009/10 onwards, when HCA first started to publish these statistics. The commentary compares the latest figures with the same period in the previous year. As the time series begins to lengthen, HCA should add some longer term comparisons to the commentary in order to provide more context.

Use language that is impartial, objective and professionally sound

- A2.7 The text is impartial and evidence-based. The description of the statistics is professionally sound.

³² <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/news/standards-for-statistical-releases.html>

Include information about the context and likely uses

- A2.8 The release does not explain the context in which affordable housing is delivered: in particular, the types of provider and how they are funded. The various programmes are listed, with links to relevant pages on HCA's website, but it would be helpful if the release could set the scene by giving a broad overview of the types of housing provision that are included in the statistics.
- A2.9 The release clearly states that the objective of the statistics is to report on affordable housing delivered through HCA programmes, while the related DCLG statistics aim to provide a complete picture of the delivery of affordable housing, irrespective of funding mechanism.
- A2.10 Readers are referred to the HCA *Corporate Plan* for information about its targets. This states that there is a single target for HCA's contribution to affordable housing completions over a four year period from 2011/12 to 2014/15 (amounting to around 73 per cent of the Government's ambition of 170,000 affordable homes). The *Corporate Plan* shows progress towards this in a mixture of outturn, forecast and indicative housing completions, split between 'affordable housing (already committed)' and the Affordable Homes Programme. For a clear indication of outturn completions against target for each year, it is necessary to refer to the HCA's *Annual Report and Financial Statements*.
- A2.11 The *Annual Report and Financial Statements* state that HCA has agreed to monitor and report to DCLG on some of its other input and impact indicators, one of which is housing starts on site, as this is a lead indicator of housing completions. DCLG's Impact Indicators include affordable housing starts and completions delivered through HCA: the results are given as numbers for the current and previous six month period. The measurement annex (see paragraph 3.4), however, notes that 'delivery is seasonal and reflects funding profiles. Delivery tends to be lower in the first six months than the last six months of the year and therefore comparisons with the previous six-monthly period are not usually appropriate'. The annex also states that 'this indicator is not defined in a way that can be used to assess delivery of the Government's ambition of 150,000 [sic] affordable homes'.

Include, or link to, appropriate metadata

- A2.12 Although the release defines affordable housing, it does not explain the rationale behind the way that affordable housing is counted (we understand that the basis for inclusion is that the home should either be retained for future eligible households, or that the subsidy should be recycled for alternative affordable housing provision).
- A2.13 HCA provides links to each of its programmes at the end of the release, but the relevant web pages give a broad description of activities in each area and do not include any further information about what is counted in the statistics. The programmes named in the release do not all match the HCA products named in the DCLG release on affordable housing supply, making it difficult for users to understand how the two sets of statistics relate to one another.

Annex 3: Summary of assessment process and users' views

- A3.1 This assessment was conducted from September to December 2012.
- A3.2 The Assessment team – Jill Barelli and Neil Wilson – agreed the scope of and timetable for this assessment with representatives of HCA in September. The Written Evidence for Assessment was provided on 19 October. The Assessment team subsequently met HCA during November to review compliance with the *Code of Practice*, taking account of the written evidence provided and other relevant sources of evidence.

Summary of users contacted, and issues raised

- A3.3 Part of the assessment process involves our consideration of the views of users. We approach some known and potential users of the set of statistics, and we invite comments via an open note on the Authority's website. This process is not a statistical survey, but it enables us to gain some insights about the extent to which the statistics meet users' needs and the extent to which users feel that the producers of those statistics engage with them. We are aware that responses from users may not be representative of wider views, and we take account of this in the way that we prepare Assessment reports. We also approach suppliers of data for the statistics.
- A3.4 The Assessment team received 30 responses from the user consultation. The respondents were grouped as follows:
- | | |
|---------------------------------------------|----|
| Local government | 12 |
| Central government | 4 |
| Umbrella organisations, charities and media | 4 |
| Data suppliers | 10 |
- A3.5 Most users were interested in making comparisons with other local authority areas or in checking progress against affordable housing targets. Two of the national organisations used the detailed programme breakdowns to assess the contribution of different initiatives to affordable housing provision. Local authorities welcomed the new LA level breakdowns, and one praised HCA for its willingness to provide more detailed data at programme level on request. Some users drew attention to the removal of London data and the existence of different DCLG releases presenting the national picture.
- A3.6 Data suppliers had mixed views about HCA's IT systems but generally found HCA was responsive to requests for advice.

Key documents/links provided

Written Evidence for Assessment document

