



May 2014

The **WLGA Housing Update** aims to provide Local Government Elected Members and practitioners with a brief quarterly update on housing matters.

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1. Strategic Housing Role and Housing Supply

Social Housing Grant (SHG)

The SHG budget for 2014-15 is £53.8m. This includes an additional £5m to provide smaller properties to mitigate the impact of the bedroom tax, and a further £5m to provide loans for a pilot affordable land scheme. While being broadly comparable with the original SHG budget for 2013-14, there is a trend of significant reduction in SHG funding from £75M in 2011-12 and £60m in 2012-13. All local authorities achieved full spend against their SHG allocation during 2013-14.

It is understood that Welsh Government may be considering a review of the SHG system.

Welsh Housing Partnership (WHP)

£6m has been agreed for Phase 4 of WHP for 2014-15. The Welsh Government has commissioned an evaluation of the delivery of non market housing by Welsh Housing Partnership.

Housing Finance Grant (HFG)

Welsh Government has worked with CHC and WLGA to develop put in place a finance product that provides £125m of long term borrowing for RSL's to increase the supply of non market housing. The product will be known as the Housing Finance Grant, but has in the past been referred to as the 'Housing Bond' and the 'Social Housing Revenue Grant'. 20 RSL's are participating and will deliver housing in all 22 Authority areas. The distribution of borrowing across Wales has as far as possible been based on the SHG distribution formula. The borrowing will deliver over 1050 non market homes by Autumn 2015.

Welsh Shared Equity Scheme: 'Help to Buy - Wales'

The Welsh Government launched the 'Help to Buy-Wales' scheme in January 2014. It is available to any homebuyer wishing to purchase a new build property worth up to £300K. The scheme contributes a shared equity loan of up to 20% of the value of the property to allow a homebuyer to purchase a property with a minimum deposit of 5%. The scheme will conclude on 31 March 2016. This is in addition to the 'New Buy Cymru' mortgage guarantee scheme which WG is continuing to explore with builders and lenders.

Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMA)

The Data Unit Wales has worked with the WLGA and authorities to produce an online training resource to consolidate and sustain previous Local Housing Market Assessment training for Authorities. The training resource is [here](#)

Regional Housing Market Bulletins

The Data Unit Wales has compiled a summary of the key aspects of the housing markets in three regions in Wales: North Wales, South East Wales and South West and Central Wales. The bulletins are available [here](#)

Consultation on proposed changes to the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD)

The consultation on proposed changes to WIMD closed on 27th February. Consultation responses related to the Housing Domain raised numerous concerns about the lack of suitable data for the domain. The WIMD steering group will be finalising the response to the consultation.

Local Area Summary Statistics

The Welsh Government has created local area profiles that provide a statistical overview for every authority including data on health, the economy and education. The profiles can be found [here](#)

Development Quality Requirements (DQR) Review

The Welsh Government is undertaking a review of DQR in the context of the pressure on SHG funding. The review group is expected to produce a report for the Minister in June 2014.

Rural Housing Enabler Projects (RHE) Evaluation

The Minister for Housing and Regeneration has agreed to continue to support RHE's across Wales in areas where local partners have committed to support this role financially during 2014-15. This is in line with the recommendations from the [report](#) commissioned to evaluate the RHE projects and develop options for future funding.

New House Building

Welsh Government quarterly data on new house building was released in March, and can be found [here](#).

- More new dwellings were started in 2012-13 than in 2011-12. This increase has continued into 2013-14 with more starts recorded in each

quarter of the year than in the previous 2 years. During Oct to Dec 2013-14 new dwelling starts were up 6% on the same quarter of 2012-13.

- During the October to December quarter 2013-14, private sector completions (1,401) were up by 10 % on the previous year. However, during the same Quarter, RSL completions (159) were down 16% on the previous year.

New House Building Statistics – Workshop (Cardiff, 4th August)

The information currently published on new house building is based on the reports of local authority building inspectors and the National House Building Council, but does not include information from other private approved inspectors. There has also been some concern that misclassification by inspectors has resulted in an under count of RSL new house building and an over count of those in the private sector. Welsh Government are organising a number of workshops to address these issues, the first of which will take place in Cardiff on 4th August 2014. Local authority contacts will receive an invitation.

House Price Index

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) House Price Index report, which includes information on average house prices, prices paid by first time buyers and prices for new properties is available [here](#)

- Over the year to March 2014, the HPI in Wales increased by 4.9%, compared with the 12 months to February 2014 which had shown a 5.4% increase.

Household Projections for Wales

The 2011-based Household Projections for Wales have been published and are based on population projections and assumptions about household composition and characteristics based on past trends. The projections are [here](#).

Key points include:-

- The number of households in Wales is projected to increase by around 190,000 (or 15 per cent), to around 1.5 million by 2036.
- Most of this increase is expected to come from growth of 1-person households and households of 2 people without children.
- Lone parent households of all types are projected to increase by 20 per cent, whilst overall numbers of households containing 2 or more adults with children are expected to decrease by 4 per cent.
- For most local authorities in Wales household numbers are projected to increase by 2026, followed by slower growth.
- Households are projected to increase by over 40 per cent for Cardiff and over 20 per cent for Wrexham, Swansea and Newport 2011- 2036.

Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count

Welsh Government have [published](#) the most recent results of the biannual Gypsy and Traveller Caravan Count conducted by local authorities in Wales.

- On 16 Jan 2014, 881 Gypsy & Traveller caravans were reported.

- 83 sites were reported across Wales.
- Across the 20 local authorities that participated in the January 2013 and January 2014 counts, the total number of Gypsy and Traveller caravans increased by 6 per cent (49 caravans) and the total number of sites (authorised and unauthorised) has increased by 9 per cent (7 sites).

Minister's Statement on increasing housing supply

In March the Minister for Housing & Regeneration made an [oral statement](#) about increasing housing supply. The statement identified action taken to increase housing supply since his last statement in July 2013 and set out further action planned for the coming months including:

- Launch of 'Help to Buy – Wales' shared equity scheme
- Increasing the use of public land for new homes
- appointing of a housing supply adviser
- Revising the target for new affordable homes from 7,500 to 10,000 over the term of the current Government
- Dialogue with landlord local authorities about future house building
- Planning Reform & the future Planning Bill
- Impact of Vibrant & Viable Communities on increasing supply
- Evaluating innovative approaches to financing an increase in supply

Tai Tirion

Welsh Government have [agreed](#) a total of £8m loan funding for two housing developments by two companies at Whiteheads, Newport and Eirin Parc, Tonyrefail. Both development companies are subsidiaries of Tai Tirion, a not-for-profit organisation established following an initial alliance between Welsh Government and Principality Building Society to deliver affordable homes across Wales. Both schemes will deliver up to 50% affordable housing as part of the development. A further Tai Tirion development is taking place at Ely Mill, Cardiff

Innovative Finance for Housing Conference

Welsh Government, WLGA and CHC jointly ran a Conference in May, looking at various approaches to raising finance for housing. The presentations used at the Conference can be found [here](#).

2. Private Sector Housing

Houses into Homes scheme

Authorities have drawn down all the £10m of Welsh Government funding available to bring empty properties back into use in 2013-14. Unfortunately further Welsh Government funding is not available for 2014-15 and therefore new loans can only be issued when previously issued loans are repaid. The Houses into Homes monitoring data for April 2012 – September 2013 can be found [HERE](#)

Welsh Landlord and Managing Agent Licensing Scheme (WALLS)

The proposed landlord licensing and accreditation scheme (WALLS) that is included in the housing (Wales) Bill is expected to be introduced in April 2015. Work is about to start on the development of a Code of Conduct that will apply to all landlords and managing agents.

Recyclable Loan scheme for the renewal of private sector homes

Representatives from local authorities, WLGA and Welsh Government have developed proposals for a local authority operated recyclable loans scheme to support the improvement of private sector housing. Confirmation is awaited on the availability of loan finance from Welsh Government for 2014-15.

Review of independent Living adaptations

Welsh Government has commissioned Shelter, Tai Pawb and Cardiff University to undertake a review of physical adaptation provision in Wales. The review is underway and information is available from Jacquelinec@sheltercymru.org.uk

Shelter Report on the PRS in Wales

The report highlights standards and management practices in the PRS in Wales and also provides some demographic information on PRS tenants. The report is [HERE](#)

Regulation of UK Estate Agencies

Powys County Council Trading Standards Dept has been awarded the UK wide contract to regulate estate agencies across the UK.

Care and Repair re-organisation

Care and Repair Cymru is in discussions with the 22 Care and Repair agencies about mergers to be implemented from April 2015. One option under consideration is reconfiguration on the basis of the Williams Commission proposals for Local Government.

Welsh Government Statistics: Private Sector Renewal

The annual report of private sector renewal activity and DFG provision in 2012-13 has been published. Overall expenditure on renewal continues to fall, and is down 10% on the previous year to £48.5m.

Expenditure on mandatory DFG's represents over two thirds of expenditure on private sector renewal activity during 2012-13, and fell by 6% to £32.7m. Excluding DFG's, £14.8m was spent on assisting owners to repair and improve their homes with grants and loans. The number of renewal areas has increased during 2012-13, however expenditure has decreased to £33.7m. The data can be found [HERE](#)

Welsh Government data: Annual report on housing demolitions and hazards

20% more dwellings were assessed by authorities under the HHSRS in 2012-13 than in the previous year. Of those assessed, the percentage with category 1

hazards fell from 40% in 2011-12 to 36% in 2012-13. The number of licensed HMO's in Wales has increased steadily since 2007-08 as authorities have increased their use of additional licensing powers. However authorities estimate that the total number of HMO's in 2012-13 has fallen for the second year in a row. The report is [HERE](#)

3. Social Housing

Housing (Wales) Bill: Housing Standards

The bill which is expected to receive royal assent in July proposes a statutory duty on authorities to bring their homes up to WHQS by 2020, and maintain that standard. Authorities will also be required to comply with a national rent policy by April 2015 and separately identify services charges.

De-pooling service charges

The WLGA and HLC held a learning exchange on de-pooling service charges for the 11 landlord authorities in preparation for the introduction of the legislation. Presentations from the event are available [HERE](#)

WHQS : verification of progress

Welsh Government has published a report on how social landlords are evaluating progress in reaching WHQS with recommendations for future arrangements. The report is [HERE](#)

Consultation on the Eligibility regulations for the Allocation of housing and Homelessness Assistance

The Welsh Government recently consulted on proposals to add Afghan citizens who were locally employed by the UK Government in Afghanistan and have since been granted leave to remain in the UK, as a new category of people who are subject to immigration control, but eligible for social housing and homelessness assistance.

Tenant Participation

The Welsh Government commissioned an independent study of the approach used and funding provided to support provided to tenant participation in Wales including the roles of TPAS, Welsh Tenants Federation and the Tenant Empowerment Grant programme. The [report](#), 'Support for Tenant Participation: Priorities and Shape of Future Provision' was published in March.

Office of Fair Trading study of provision of residential property management services in England and Wales

The OFT study will examine whether property management services provided in the private and social sectors are working well for consumers, and the potential for improvement. The report is expected in September 2014.

Welsh Government review of how social landlords tackle anti social behaviour

The review identifies effective approaches and best practice and makes a number of recommendations in relation to prevention, early intervention, partnership working, information and support. The report is [HERE](#)

Housing Association Regulation

The Regulator has published 26 housing association regulatory assessments to date and the full regulatory assessments can be found [here](#). Following an interim evaluation of the regulatory framework for Housing Associations, published in June 2013 available [here](#), the Regulatory Board Wales has agreed a strategic action plan which will change and improve the way regulation is carried out. [Changes](#) include a shift to risk-based regulation, with a clear emphasis on governance and finance, relationship management and co-regulation. The revised regulation arrangements are currently being piloted with a view to full implementation from Summer 2014.

A Welsh Government commissioned study on the governance of Housing Associations registered in Wales was published in September 2013 and can be found [here](#). A strategic action plan has since been developed and agreed by the Regulatory Board Wales to take forward the reports recommendations including the development of a Code of Governance for Housing Associations in Wales, and exploration of issues relating to the governance model for LSVTs.

Welsh Government statistics: Annual report on Social Housing vacancies, lettings and arrears

The number and percentage of vacant social housing units increased during 2012-13. At the end of March 2013, 1.9% were vacant, an increase of 12% on the previous year. A third of empty properties have been vacant for more than 6 months.

New lettings increased slightly in 2012-13 to 21,494 homes. The majority (56%) were let through waiting lists and 17% let to homeless households. During 2012-13 the percentage of households in rent arrears remained unchanged at 32%. The data can be found [HERE](#).

4. Homelessness

Ministerial Advisory Group: Code of Guidance on homelessness

This cross sector advisory group is developing the new statutory code of guidance on homelessness that will apply when the new legislation is introduced in April 2015. The Code of Guidance is expected in October 2014.

Rough Sleepers Task and Finish Group: sub group of the Homelessness Strategies Working Group

The group has been established to advise the Minister on a long term strategic approach to rough sleeping. It has been tasked with:

- Developing a case for including rough sleepers as a priority need category and advising on the costs
- Advise on a national approach to monitoring rough sleeping
- Propose a strategic approach to preventing and reducing rough sleeping, taking account of resource constraints

Prisoner Accommodation Resettlement Working Group

A cross sector working group has been established, at the request of the Minister, to propose arrangements that will ensure appropriate accommodation is available for homeless former prisoners on their release from prison. Statutory guidance is also being developed that will be part of the Code of Guidance and work is being undertaken to ensure the accommodation needs of prisoners near to release are met. Work will be completed by April 2015.

Joint work by Local Authorities and Housing Associations to tackle homelessness

A CHC report on effective joint working between Authorities and RSL's to prevent and tackle homelessness has been published and can be found [HERE](#). The steering group for the project involved Welsh Government and WLGA.

Evaluation Report: Local Authority Welfare Reform Mitigation Projects

The 'mitigation' projects are using a variety of approaches to raise awareness of benefit changes and provide support to landlords and tenants. The evaluation reports for Oct 2012 – March 2013 can be found [HERE](#)

WLGA Homelessness Prevention toolkits

Two homelessness prevention toolkits have been developed by the WLGA to help authorities to prepare for the introduction of the new homelessness legislation in April 2015. Toolkit 1 focuses on homelessness prevention and Toolkit 2 on developing PRS access schemes and shared housing. The toolkits can be found [here](#)

Welsh Homelessness Statistics Oct – Dec 2013

The number of households accepted as homeless decreased in 2012-13 and continued to decrease in the first three quarters of 2013-14. It is widely accepted that this trend is a result of improvements in Local Authority prevention activity. The number of homeless applications in this quarter is 11% less than the same quarter in 2012-13, however the percentage of single person households accepted as homeless has risen, and now accounts for 58% of acceptances in Wales.

The number of households in temporary accommodation decreased in 2012-13 and continued to decrease in the first three quarters of 2013-14. The number of households in temporary accommodation at the end of Dec 2013 decreased by 4% compared with Dec 2012, however the number of households in B&B continues to increase. At the end of Dec 2013 there were 260 households in B&B, an increase of 23% compared with Dec 2012. The data is [HERE](#)

Quarterly Mortgage and Landlord Possession Actions

The quarterly Ministry of Justice report shows that the annual number of mortgage possession claims and orders made in Wales continued to decrease during 2012. During the quarter Oct – Dec 2013, mortgage possession claims reduced by 17% and orders by 16%.

The pattern is reversed for landlord possession claims, with claims issued and orders made continuing to increase since 2011. During Oct – Dec 2013 landlord possession claims increased by 27% and orders by 32%, compared with the same quarter in the previous year. 80% of claims and 83% of orders were made on behalf of social landlords. The data is [HERE](#)

5. Supporting People and Social Care

Consultation on the long term Governance of supporting people and Regional Collaborative Committees

The Welsh Government is consulting key stakeholders on a draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Regional Collaborative Committees (RCCs). It is proposed that authorities will in future be required to adopt the RCC regional supporting people strategy and spend plan. Consultation ends on June 13th, contact Sheilah.gaughan@wales.gsi.gov.uk for further information.

Review of the effectiveness of supporting people programme structures

The Welsh Government has commissioned Miller Research to undertake a review of the national and regional structures in place from August 2012 (ie SPNAB and the RCCs). The review will identify best practice and make recommendations for future arrangements and will be submitted to the Minister by the end of July.

Supporting People Outcomes

Authorities are being asked to submit service user outcomes data to Welsh Government by end of May. This will provide the basis of a report to the Minister on the outcomes of the supporting people programme. Welsh Government will be reviewing the current approach to evidencing outcomes after this data collection.

Accreditation of housing support providers

The Minister has decided not to go ahead with proposals for an accreditation system for SPPG funded support providers.

Welsh Government review of SPPG guidance

Welsh Government is planning to review, update and restructure the SPPG guidance. Three sections are proposed:

- Grant conditions – monitoring, audit, financial information, policy impact
- Strategic Direction – aims, objectives, principles

- Procedural guidance documents – the aim will be to simplify the guidance on procedures

Intermediate Care Fund (ICF)

The £50m ICF was announced as part of the 2014-15 Welsh Government budget. The funding is to progress joint working between social services, health and housing and develop services that support older people to maintain their independence. The outcome of the regional bids for ICF are [HERE](#)

Integrated Family Support Services

The IFSS programme has been funding intensive support services for families with complex needs since 2010. From April 2014 it has been extended to include North Wales so all authorities in Wales, in partnership with their Local Health Board, will have access funding to deliver services.

6. Regeneration and Planning

Regeneration framework: 'Vibrant and Viable Places'

Welsh Government's £100m of VVP regeneration funding (2014-15 to 2016-17) aims to create jobs, increase housing supply and upgrade buildings. 11 authorities have been awarded funding : Bridgend, Conwy, Flintshire, Anglesey, Merthyr, Neath Port Talbot, Newport, RCT, Swansea, Torfaen and Wrexham. Funding is from 2014 to March 2017.

VVP Advisory Group

The Ministerial Advisory Group for the Vibrant and Viable Places Regeneration Framework was established in March 2014. The [group](#) consists of members from private and public sector organisations and Local Government is represented by Tim Peppin, WLGA.

Town Centre Regeneration

Welsh Government have announced an additional £7m for town centre related projects that tackle poverty. Funding will go to communities that have not been awarded Vibrant and Viable Places funding, but that are in the top 10% of the Welsh Index for Multiple Deprivation

Regeneration Summit

The 2014 summit will be held on 23rd October 2014, at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea. The key theme this time will be town centres in Wales. The summit will focus on the Vibrant and Viable Places programme and the Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) initiative and will showcase examples of local and self-funded town centre projects.

Future Generations Bill (previously called the Sustainable Development Bill)

The Future Generations Bill will be introduced at the beginning of July 2014, and is expected to receive Royal Assent in March 2015. Authorities will not

become subject to the Act and the Duty until April 2016, but several may work as 'Early Adopters' to develop and pilot arrangements to share with authorities. Details of the work of the SD Framework can be found [here](#)

Planning (Wales) Bill

The consultation 'Positive Planning' set out proposals to reform the planning system. The consultation closed at the end of February and Welsh Government is analysing responses and the Planning Bill will be introduced to the National Assembly in summer 2014.

As part of the pre-legislative scrutiny of the Planning Bill, the National Assembly for Wales Environment and Sustainability Committee held a number of evidence sessions during March. Their [views](#) of the proposed bill.

Communities First

A further £75m is available to support 52 Communities first clusters for 2015-16. Following the realignment of the programme in April 2012, Welsh Government have published a report providing a baseline for each of the Communities First clusters. The [report](#) contains data for each cluster, including data from the Welsh Index of Multiple deprivation 2011 and 2011 Census.

City Regions

The Welsh Government has established the boards for the two city regions. Local Government is represented on the Swansea Bay City Region Board by Swansea, Carmarthenshire and Pembrokeshire, and by Cardiff, Merthyr, Newport, Torfaen and Monmouthshire on the Cardiff City Region Board.

WLGA EU Funding Guide 2014 – 2020

WLGA has produced a funding guide which aims to better connect Welsh local authorities to EU funding opportunities, providing the information necessary for them to successfully access EU money. The guide shows the make-up of the 2014-2020 EU budget by providing a snapshot of the funds available in the 2014-2020 funding period, and can be found [here](#)

Credit Union funding

In March 2014, Welsh Government [announced](#) funding of £1.9m to support credit unions over the next 3 financial years, in order to put credit unions on a more sustainable footing so they can survive without public funding.

7. Community Safety

Tackling Hate Crime: framework for action

Welsh Government has established an all Wales Hate Crime framework for action and delivery plan. Details are [HERE](#)

Welsh Government Review of violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence services in Wales

The report provides data on the incidence of abuse and documents effective responses. The report are [HERE](#)

Commencement of the housing aspects of the Anti Social Behavior, Crime & Policing Act, in Wales

Following the granting of royal assent in March 2014, Welsh Ministers have the power to commence provisions relating to Part 5 of the Act and the recovery of possession of dwelling houses on anti social behaviour grounds. Parts of the Act are coming into force from May 2014 onwards.

Wales Anti-social Behaviour: Policy and Practice review

An independent research [report](#) was published by Welsh Government in February 2014, looking at how social landlords tackle anti-social behaviour. The review identified effective approaches and areas for improvement.

8. Welfare Reform

DWP Housing Benefit and Universal Credit regs 2014: supported accommodation (A8/2014)

The DWP circular on how supported accommodation are treated for HB and Universal Credit purposes from April 10 2014 can be found [HERE](#).

DWP DHP Guidance 2014 (A10/2014)

New guidance to assist authorities in implementing and managing DHP schemes can be found [HERE](#)

DWP Circular: Housing Benefit and Universal Credit for those in Temporary accommodation

The current rules will apply to all HB claimants in temporary accommodation until the claimant migrates to Universal Credit. ie 90% of the Jan 2011 LHA rate for the property (not the household size), plus £60 pw.

Under universal credit rules claimants will be paid the housing element based on the LHA for the household size or the actual rent, which ever is the lowest. The benefit cap and the shared accommodation rate will apply and universal credit will be paid one month in arrears. A flat rate 'contribution to costs fee' for temporary accommodation of approximately £45 pw will be paid to authorities. The DWP is currently considering how the fee will be allocated and distributed. Details are [HERE](#)

Universal Credit Timetable

UC claims are currently limited to 10 pathfinder job centres, including Shotton with the bulk of existing claimants moving over to UC in 2016–17. The precise timetable remains uncertain.

Welsh Government Task and Finish Group on the effects of welfare reform on the social rented sector

The final report of the task and finish group which includes 16 recommendations was published in February and can be found [HERE](#)

Welsh Government summary of Housing Benefit changes 2011-14

A useful [summary](#) of the housing benefit changes up until 2014

'Your Benefits are changing' campaign

Publicity materials are available for customising and downloading from [here](#)

9. Housing Finance

Reform of the HRA subsidy system (HRAs)

Following agreement between the Welsh Government and the UK Treasury, the 11 authorities with housing stock will, subject to them each signing a voluntary agreement, exit from the current HRAs subsidy arrangements in March 2015 and become self financing.

The agreement with UK Treasury will require authorities to buy themselves out of the subsidy system and will place a cap on borrowing. Welsh Government is consulting with the 11 authorities and the WLGA on the distribution of the buy out figure and the borrowing cap and a decision on distribution is expected in July 2014.

The 11 authorities are preparing for the transition to self financing and working with the WLGA, Welsh Government and other key stakeholders such as WTF to develop the new legal and financial arrangements.

10. Climate Change

ECO Funding

Welsh Government has announced funding of £75m for Arbed ECO for the next 2 years (£40m in 2014-15 and £35m in 2015-16). This will fund a new scheme to operate alongside Arbed Phase 2 and it is hoped that further external private investment through the Energy Company Obligation will be secured. Welsh Government will be inviting applications from authorities.

11. Welsh Government

Mobile Homes (Wales) Act

The Act aims to modernise the regulation of mobile homes parks and will be in force from 1st October 2014. Consultation on new procedures for the sale and gifting of mobile homes, pitch fee reviews and the making of site rules 2014-15 has ended. Details are [HERE](#)

Housing (Wales) Bill

The housing (Wales) Bill has reached stage 3 which involves detailed

consideration by the Assembly and the Bill is expected to gain royal assent by summer 2014. The bill, explanatory memorandum, evidence given and amendments can be found [HERE](#)

Holiday Caravan Sites (Wales) Bill

The proposed bill is based on the Mobile Homes (Wales) Act 2013 and aims to improve the regulation of holiday caravan parks. It is at stage 1, details [HERE](#)

Renting Homes (Wales) Bill

This bill aims to simplify the legal framework for renting in Wales and will be introduced into the Assembly in 2015. A cross sector working group has been established to consider the proposals for supported housing which are raising some concerns.

Reform of devolved services: Ministerial Task and Finish Group

On 21 May the First Minister announced he will be establishing a new Ministerial Task and Finish Group to lead the development and delivery of a new reform agenda, including the Welsh Government's response to the Williams Commission and the Silk Commission. The group is expected to operate until April 2016.

National Survey for Wales

The results of this annual survey of 14,500 adults in 2011-12 have been published. Different topics are explored each year and the current report includes use of the internet and financial inclusion in Wales. The report can be found [HERE](#)

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