

## Start of email chain (21 September 2021)

**From:** Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 September 2021 14:34  
**To:** Barton, Susan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; MSDPSD.Stakeholders <MSDPSD.Stakeholders@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Household Projections <Household.Projections@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Pete Benton to Mary Gregory: Review of Household Projections for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

Hi Susan

FYI – no action required.

This was published at  
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/news/statementsandletters/petebentontomarygregoryreviewofhouseholdprojectionsforwalesscotlandandnorthernireland>  
and is in response to  
<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/correspondence/osr-to-jonathan-athow-stephen-aldridge-and-sandra-tudor-household-projections-review%e2%80%af/>

James to file in HHP email inbox.

Best wishes  
James

**From:** Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 September 2021 12:25  
**To:** DG Regulation <DG.Regulation@Statistics.gov.uk>; Gregory, Mary <[REDACTED]@Statistics.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Benton, Peter <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; Athow, Jonathan <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Letter from Pete Benton to Mary Gregory: Review of Household Projections for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland

[See FOI\_2022\_3602\_attachment1]

Dear Mary,

Please find attached a letter from Pete Benton, Director of Transformation – Health, Population and Methods Group regarding your recent compliance checks of household estimates and projections for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

This letter has also been published on our website today.

Best wishes  
Rich

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Health, Population, Methods Transformation  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@RichPereira ONS](#)

End of email chain (21 September 2021)

Start of email chain (14 December 2020)

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 14 December 2020 16:44

**To:** Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Hi Nigel, Rich

Apologies for the delay. We are still on track for Wednesday AM announcement. Should this change I will let you know.

On the lines below, thank you for getting back to us. Content on your amendments below.

As always, feel free to contact me if you have any further questions.

Many Thanks

[REDACTED]  
**From:** Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 14 December 2020 14:12

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Hi [REDACTED],

I've discussed the answers to the questions you suggested with the team here, and we've made a few edits, as follows:

**(1) Why are you keeping the old household projections when your consultation said they were out of date? And in any case are they fit for purpose?**

We have decided to keep using the older (2014-based) household projections for the purpose of ensuring certainty and stability for communities, businesses, and developers. This is paramount given the uncertainty created by COVID19. However, in order to ensure that the country meets the challenge of delivering 300,000 homes a year by the mid-2020s, we will focus greater need into urban areas to maximise existing infrastructure and to support development that reduces the need for high-carbon travel.

Our recommendation of the continued use of the 2014-based household projections in the standard method does not imply anything about the methodological basis of the 2016 or 2018-based household projections for which the ONS is responsible.

Projections are not a measure of how many homes are needed to meet demand, they show what would happen to the number of households if past trends continue. Lower household projections do not mean that fewer homes are needed in the future than thought. This is because the projections

are based on recent actual numbers of households and are not adjusted to take account of where homes have been needed in recent years but have not been available. Therefore, if more homes are built, the increased availability of homes may result in more households forming. The opposite is also true – if fewer homes are built then fewer households are able to form.

**(2) Isn't the Office for Statistics Regulation reviewing the population estimates which you use to come up with your list of major cities?**

We understand the Office for Statistics Regulation is reviewing the mid-year population estimates and population projections and how they are used. The most recent version of the mid-year population statistics (2019) has been used for the cities uplift portion of the local housing need formula and we believe they are a sound basis for doing so.

I hope this helps, and grateful if you could keep us updated on the timing of the announcement as you hear more.

Thanks,  
Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[Redacted] | [Redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: Henretty, Nigel

Sent: 11 December 2020 12:29

To: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Hi [Redacted],

I'm just picking this up now. Would it be ok for us to get back to you with lines to take on Monday? I probably need to discuss the best wording with a few people here and then look to finalise on Monday if that's ok?

Thanks,  
Nigel

Nigel Henretty | [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#) | Office for National Statistics

[Redacted] | [Redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

From: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk>

Sent: 11 December 2020 12:04

To: Pereira, Rich <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: [Redacted] <[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Hi Rich,

I have drafted a couple line to the two main question I suspect we will get.

- (1) Why are you keeping the old household projections when your consultation said they were out of date? And in any case are they fit for purpose?

We have decided to keep the use of the older (2014-based) household projections for the purpose of ensuring certainty and stability for communities, businesses, and developers are paramount given the uncertainty created by COVID19. This is why we are continuing to base our new method on the 2014-based household projections. However, in order to ensure that the country meets the challenge of delivering 300,000 homes a year by the mid 2020's, we will focus greater need into urban areas to maximise existing infrastructure and to support development that reduces the need for high-carbon travel.

Our recommendation of the continued use of the 2014-based household projections in the standard method does not imply anything about the methodological basis of the 2016 or 2018-based household projections for which the ONS is responsible.

Projections are not a measure of how many homes are needed to meet demand, they simply show what would happen if past trends continue. As confirmed by the Office for National Statistics, lower household projections do not mean that fewer homes are needed. If more homes are not supplied, then households cannot form as there would be nowhere for them to live.

- (2) Aren't the UKSA reviewing the population estimates which you use to come up with your list of major cities?

We understand the UKSA are reviewing the mid year population estimates and population projection. The most recent version of the mid-year population statistics has been used for the cities uplift portion of the local housing need formula and we believe they are a sound basis for doing so.

Keen for you/Nigel and I think Andrew (Nash) to come back with tweaks if you have any suggestions.

To be aware, we have been issued a publication date for the revised LHN of next Wednesday (possibly Tuesday is no.10 change their minds). Therefore, happy to chat whenever if convenient for you today is helpful? I can move things around in my diary to suit you given the timing of thing is incredible tight.

Many thanks in advance,



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[Redacted]  
| Housing and Planning Analysis Division

| South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF

| E: [Redacted]@communities.gov.uk | T: [Redacted]

**From:** Pereira, Rich <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 09 December 2020 13:28

**To:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel

<[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Cc:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Thanks [Redacted] – that sounds sensible to me. I suspect we'll have to iterate a fair bit over this so happy to have a chat whenever convenient

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#), Public Policy Analysis  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol  
[redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#)  
[@RichPereira](#) ONS

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>  
Sent: 08 December 2020 13:14  
To: Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>  
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Thanks, Rich. Very helpful to see the letter from Coventry as it is the mid year population estimates that we've used to designate which are the top 20 cities for the uplift in the LHN. So we better prepare some lines to take on that as well I think.

Is the best thing to do for us to draft some lines and then share with you / Nigel?

[redacted]



Ministry of Housing,  
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[redacted]  
[redacted] | Housing and Planning Analysis Division | [MHCLG](#)  
4/SW Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF  
E: [redacted]@communities.gsi.gov.uk | T: [redacted]  
Personal assistant: [redacted] | T: [redacted]

From: Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>  
Sent: 08 December 2020 12:41  
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>  
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

That's really useful to know – thank you [redacted]. Timing for knowing this is good because we are considering a few things relating to populations and estimation for the forthcoming period.

Attached is the letter from Coventry for info. Probably not for wider circulation as it was addressed to specific recipients.

Speak soon hopefully.

Rich Pereira | Deputy Director, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#), Public Policy Analysis  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol  
[redacted] | [redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#)  
[@RichPereira](#) ONS

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>  
Sent: 08 December 2020 12:32  
To: Pereira, Rich <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Henretty, Nigel <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>  
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Rich,

Thanks for copying me in on this. I saw some press coverage but haven't seen the letter itself sent to from Coventry; could you share a copy with us please?

I was also meaning to get in touch with you about the Local Housing Need policy and where we are following the closure of the consultation. I'd be grateful if what follows wasn't circulated to much further (and not at all outside government) as it's still subject to ministerial decisions and write-round.

My ministers are minded to change the LHN policy again following the consultation responses; specifically to revert back to the 'method' that existed prior to the latest consultation (i.e. the original method from 2017) with one exception. That exception is that for the top 20 cities by population there will be an additional increase in housing need to be planned for (of 35% on top of the 2017 method number).

One of the key things to flag to you is that the original 2017 method means continuing to use the 2014-based household projections; as per previous developments in this policy space I'm keen that we develop joint lines to take related to the household projections (and I guess population projections) and their use in the LHN process. Again, as before, I'm keen we have our lines straight so as to not, as it were, make any comments or judgements on the robustness of the household projection estimates.

Hope that makes sense and that [REDACTED] can follow-up as the policy develops to agree lines etc. I should have said that, subject to write-round and final decisions, the consultation response may go out as early as next week.

Cheers,

[REDACTED]



Ministry of Housing,  
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E: [REDACTED] [@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gsi.gov.uk) | T: [REDACTED]  
Personal assistant: [REDACTED] | T: [REDACTED]

**From:** DG Regulation <[DG.Regulation@Statistics.gov.uk](mailto:DG.Regulation@Statistics.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** 03 December 2020 13:53

**Cc:** Bell, Iain <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk)>; Pereira, Rich <[\[REDACTED\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk)>; [REDACTED] <[\[REDACTED\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** Letter from Ed Humpherson regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry

Dear all,

Please see the attached letter from Ed Humpherson, Director General for Regulation, to [REDACTED] regarding Population Projections and mid-year Population estimates for Coventry.

This response will be published alongside his incoming letter to us on our website at 3pm today.

Kind regards,

[REDACTED]

██████████ sent on behalf of Ed Humpherson

██████████ | Head of Private Office and Casework | Office for Statistics Regulation | UK  
Statistics Authority

██████████ | ██████████ | <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>  
| [@StatsRegulation](#)



The Office for Statistics Regulation is the regulatory arm of the UK Statistics Authority

End of email chain (14 December 2020)

Start of email chain (3 November 2020)

**From:** ██████████  
**Sent:** 03 November 2020 10:39  
**To:** Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [pop.info@ons.gov.uk](mailto:pop.info@ons.gov.uk)  
**Subject:** ONS Population Estimates Q's for MHCLG

Hi James,

I hope this find you well.

As part of reviewing our consultation LHN methodology, I am comparing our the results and underlying data to some of the population estimates that ONS produce. However, there are various estimates that ONS have and I was wondered if you might be able to help me understand which of these would be the best/most suitable and reflective of the entire population.

My instinct is to go for the most recent mid-year population estimates (Mid-2019: April 2020 local authority district codes edition of this dataset), however, I have also looked at comparing the annual population survey (as part of NOMIS). I have always thought the mid years are the official population estimates between census years, but it would help if I could have some you might be able to provide some clarity on which ones are preferred/the official ones. It w

Secondly, I am also looking to re-create the Mid-year population estimates for major towns and cities, 2016 (<https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/populationandmigration/populationestimates/adhocs/008264midyearpopulationestimatesformajortownsandcities2016> ) for the latest mid-year data set (2019). Would you or a member of the team have this to hand or be able to advise how I can go about doing this exactly? I would also be keen to understand how the population is allocated for the MTC compared with their LA counterparts?

There is quite a bit here, so it would be useful to have a quick chat about if you are free this week?

Thanking you in advance,

██████████



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[REDACTED]  
| Housing and Planning Analysis Division

| South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF

| E: [REDACTED] [@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk) | T: [REDACTED]

**From:** Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 21 July 2020 14:59

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; Nash, Andrew <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: ONS projections contact

Thanks [REDACTED].

Look forward to working with you.

With best wishes,

James

**Dr James Robards** | Head of Population and Household Projections, [Centre for Ageing and Demography](#)  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](#)

**From** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 21 July 2020 12:47

**To:** Nash, Andrew <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: ONS projections contact

Thanks Andrew, all the best in the new role and thanks for you help with HHP/Pop related question across the last year or so.

James- looking forward to working with you in the near future.

[REDACTED]  
**From:** Nash, Andrew <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 17 July 2020 16:13

**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Robards, James <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** ONS projections contact

Hi [REDACTED] / [REDACTED],

FYI, I have now moved from the projections team and my successor, James Robards, will be starting on Monday. Please get in touch with him with any news of developments on the Local Housing Needs review.

Best wishes,

Andrew

**Andrew Nash** | Topic Lead for Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation,  
[Centre for Ageing and Demography](#),  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol



End of email chain (3 November 2020)

Start of email chain (28 September 2020)

**From:** ██████████ <██████████@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 28 September 2020 15:04  
**To:** TechnicalPlanningConsultation@communities.gov.uk  
**Cc:** Robards, James <██████████@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Office for National Statistics response to Changes to the current planning system

Good Afternoon,

The Office for National Statistics notes the recent consultation MHCLG has started through publication of 'Changes to the current planning system' and write to provide a response to this.

Thank you for sharing the Changes to the current planning: Consultation on changes to planning policy and regulations document.

The ONS welcomes that the proposed new method will switch to using the most up to date version of the household projections produced by ONS. We produce updated household projections using the most up to date data every two years with the most recent being the 2018-based Household Projections published in June 2020. We do this to account for changes in population and demographic trends over time, with the aim that using improved methodologies and the most recent data will create less volatile projections. The upcoming 2021 Census will be very beneficial in allowing us to make further updates to the production of these statistics.

We agree that the Household Projections alone are not sufficient to accurately project housing need in local areas and must be used in conjunction with other data sources, this has been expressed in our bulletins and additional blogs produced by ONS.

We have a further question on the proposal to introduce a new element into the standard method, a percentage of existing housing stock levels, which takes into account the number of homes that are already in an area. Will these housing stock levels include vacant dwellings?

Finally, will basing estimated need on a combination of existing dwelling stock and household projections likely result in higher need for areas that have already experienced substantial housing developments and/or population growth? Although it may vary geographically, areas which have increased their dwelling stock in recent years are likely to have also experienced some degree of population growth, which when projected forwards, will result in higher population and household projections. Conversely, areas that have not increased their stock may be less likely to have experienced population growth. Therefore their estimated need will be comparatively lower.

Kind regards,

██████████, Centre for Ageing and Demography, Public Policy Analysis  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol  
██████████ [@ons.gov.uk](mailto:██████████@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

End of email chain (28 September 2020)

Start of email chain (23 July 2019)

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 23 July 2019 09:27  
**To:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Hi Jo,

I think that looks like the right agenda from my perspective. I have however sent it to others to get their views and will let you know if they have any comments in the next day or so.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Housing and Planning Analysis**  
Division |

South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF

E: [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk | T: 0303 444 2848

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 22 July 2019 10:25  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Crofts, Sarah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>;  
Henretty, Nigel <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well. My colleagues and I have been thinking about what would be useful to discuss during our meeting with you and MHCLG colleagues on 30 July. We've put together a draft agenda below. My line manager Sarah Crofts can chair the meeting (though we're happy for it to be fairly informal).

1. Welcome and introductions – Sarah Crofts
2. Overview of ONS priorities for housing statistics – Nigel Henretty
3. Overview of ONS priorities for household projections – Jo Harkrader
4. Update from MHCLG on local housing need and use of ONS data in this area – MHCLG
5. Discussion: how can we most effectively work together going forward? – All
  - Possibility of joint updates for users in the future to help with stakeholder queries

Does this agenda look okay to you? Please do share it with colleagues and let us know. If there's changes you'd like to make, anything specific you'd like us to cover in the updates, or information we can send over ahead of the meeting, please let us know.

Finally, we discussed that it would be useful for us to have an organogram of the analytical teams in MHCLG – does something like this exist that you could send to us? We'd be happy to send something similar over for our teams if that would be useful for you all.

Many thanks,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Principal Research Officer, Population Statistics Research Unit

Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 24 June 2019 13:46  
**To:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

No problem Jo! Great that both Sarah and Nigel will be there.

Many thanks,

[REDACTED]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Housing and Planning Analysis**  
**Division** |

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E: [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk | T: [REDACTED]

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 14:31  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Thank you [REDACTED].

Apologies about the invitation – I copied the list of MHCLG email addresses from the cc bar of your email below and forgot to add yours back in! I see you've now received it.

My colleagues Sarah Crofts and Nigel Henretty will also be joining the meeting. Sarah is my manager and as you probably remember has been involved in household projections previously. Nigel and his team produce the affordability

ratios which are also used in the standard methodology, so it seemed sensible to invite him along to meet new colleagues as well.

Kind regards,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Principal Research Officer, Population Statistics Research Unit

Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 13:34  
**To:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Thanks Jo, I'll ask if there are things people want to raise/ ask about and send through in advance. Just to mention, the invitation doesn't seem to have come through on my email?

[REDACTED]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] | **Housing and Planning Analysis  
Division** |

South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF

E: [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk | T: [REDACTED]

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 21 June 2019 11:53  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Hi [REDACTED],

I've just sent everyone you listed in your email below an invitation for a meeting on the afternoon of 30 July at Drummond Gate. There may be one or two other ONS colleagues joining us, whether in person or via audiolink I'm not sure, but I will confirm nearer the time.

We'll come prepared with an update on household projections – if there's anything specific colleagues would like an update on, please let us know. Likewise, if there's anything further to what I asked in my email below that we'd like to discuss with you, I'll let you and colleagues know.

Kind regards,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Principal Research Officer, Population Statistics Research Unit

Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[redacted] | [redacted] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](mailto:[redacted]@ONS)

**From:** [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 19 June 2019 11:17  
**To:** Harkrader, Joanna <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Hi Jo,

I think either the 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> July works well for us. Thanks for the offer of hosting at Drummond Gate, I think that would work best given the difficulties in both getting into our building and finding a room!

I'd like to bring some colleagues along as well please, and so those coming from MHCLG will be:

- [redacted] (Analyst – [redacted])
- [redacted] (Analyst – replaced [redacted])
- [redacted] (Policy)
- [redacted] (Policy)
- [redacted] (Policy)

Many thanks,

[redacted]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[redacted] | **Housing and Planning Analysis Division** |  
South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P 4DF  
E: [redacted] [@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk) | T: [redacted]

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 17 June 2019 13:59  
**To:** [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>; [redacted] <[\[redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your reply and introductions to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] – I look forward to meeting you both. I agree it would be really useful to get together for a handover and introductions meeting; if policy colleagues can also join us that would be great.

Between courses, conferences and annual leave, the next dates [REDACTED] and I would both be able to come to London are 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> or 31<sup>st</sup> July. We could possibly also do 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> July if none of the other dates would suit. If we could meet at some point between 11am and 3pm on one of these dates that would really help with the timing of our travel to London. We're happy to come to Marsham Street, but should also be able to host you at the ONS office (1 Drummond Gate) if that's easier, just let us know.

Many thanks,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Principal Research Officer, Population Statistics Research Unit

Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/[REDACTED])

End of email chain (23 July 2019)

Start of email chain (14 June 2019)

**From:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 14 June 2019 09:36  
**To:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Household Projections Updates

Hi Jo, thanks for the email and the introduction to [REDACTED] 😊. I've actually moved roles recently to head up the market and affordable housing side of the Housing and Planning Analysis Division. [REDACTED] has taken over the planning and land use role, with [REDACTED] taking over [REDACTED] role (both cc'd). I think it would be good to have a catch up soon, partially as it will help with a smoother handover here in all things household projection related, but also to introduce everyone. Perhaps worth us arranging for policy colleagues to be there as well as they will be best placed to advise on developments in reviewing the housing need standard methodology.

Perhaps if we look at dates in the next couple of weeks?

Thanks again,

[REDACTED]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | **Housing and Planning Analysis**  
Division |  
South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF  
E: [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk | T: [REDACTED]

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 12 June 2019 14:11  
**To:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** Household Projections Updates

Hi [REDACTED],

Hope you are well. I'm just emailing with a couple of updates and questions, as I'm conscious I haven't been in touch since sending you a write up of our meeting in February about the variant household projections.

The [government consultation response](#) that went out in February said that the housing need formula would be reviewed over the next 18 months. How is this review progressing? We've had questions from local authorities and other stakeholders about whether we've been asked to contribute to the review, so I just wanted to check what the latest position is. We are happy to provide support for the review as much as possible, so if there is anything we can help with please let me know. Happy to arrange a meeting in person if that's easier.

Related to this, we've also had questions (for example, at a recent CLIP population subgroup meeting and our Census roadshows in March) about the messaging, reasons and guidance over when and why to use the 2014-based household projections and when to use 2016-based. We've pointed people to MHCLG with these questions, but again just wanted to check if there was anything else we can do to be helpful on this?

In terms of updates:

- We published our first tranche of [variant 2016-based household projections](#) on 16 May, following on from the [variant SNPPs](#) that were released on 9 April. We are continuing the research required to identify the most appropriate method for producing variants showing increased household formation among 25 to 44-year-olds and projecting families rather than households.
- The Office for Statistics Regulation asked us to update them before the end of June 2019 about our progress towards meeting the recommendations they made in their [compliance check](#) of household projections for England against the Code of Practice, so we're also preparing an update for them this month.

- The 2018-based National Population Projections for England are [provisionally due to be published](#) in October; we're hoping to confirm a provisional release date for the subnational population projections (SNPPs) in the next month or so.
- [REDACTED] (cc'd) has joined the household projections team as our new senior research officer, taking on the role I had before being promoted to the Grade 7 role. [REDACTED] is leading much of the day-to-day research and work of the team.

Please let me know if you have questions about any of the above.

Kind regards,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Principal Research Officer, Population Statistics Research Unit  
Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol  
[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](#) | [www.ons.gov.uk](#) | [@ONS](#)

End of email chain (14 June 2019)

Start of email chain (3 April 2019)

**From:** Household Projections <Household.Projections@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 03 April 2019 17:06  
**To:** Crofts, Sarah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Knipe, Emily <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: 2016 Household Projections - Ref: CCC116653

PS. I've just noticed from the [media lines to take](#) circulated on Monday that media relations have signed off our line to take about this:

“The Government considers using the 2014-based household projections to be the most appropriate approach for providing stability and certainty to the planning system in the short-term. MHCLG has clearly stated that this decision does not mean that it doubts the methodological basis of ONS’s 2016-based household projections and that they will be reviewing the local housing need formula over the next 18 months.

“Any further queries about the use of household projections in calculating local housing need should be directed to MHCLG.”

**From:** Household Projections  
**Sent:** 03 April 2019 16:27  
**To:** Crofts, Sarah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>



**Cc:** Knipe, Emily <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** FW: 2016 Household Projections - Ref: CCC116653

Hi Rich and Sarah,

I'm emailing to ask for your advice on how to respond to the email chain below. [REDACTED] works for Dorset County Council; Emily (cc'd) spoke to her at the Bristol Census roadshow a few weeks ago [REDACTED] seems to have emailed MHCLG last Tuesday via [enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk) to ask about which set of household projections to use for determining government housing targets, only to be directed to ONS (via our customer contact centre) for a response. I am concerned that MHCLG have directed this sort of query towards us, because in my view it is not our place to provide the official line and reasoning that [REDACTED] is requesting, beyond sending her a link to MHCLG's own consultation response.

Below is the response I have drafted. I'm not sure what else I can say to be helpful to [REDACTED] or whether to redirect her back to MHCLG. I would also like to contact someone at MHCLG to ask that in future they respond to these sorts of queries, because I really don't think it is our place to do so, but let me know your thoughts on this.

Kind regards,

Jo

Hi [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email. MHCLG's response to the "technical consultation on updates to national planning policy and guidance" can be found [here](#) (pages 6 to 8 refer to local housing need in particular). In this response, MHCLG stated that the 2014-based household projections should be used as the demographic baseline for the standard method for calculating local housing need, to provide stability and certainty to the planning system in the short-term.

Kind regards,

Jo

**From:** Pop Info

**Sent:** 03 April 2019 13:42

**To:** Household Projections <[Household.Projections@ons.gov.uk](mailto:Household.Projections@ons.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: 2016 Household Projections - Ref: CCC116653

Hi

Could you provide a response to the email below please?

Many thanks



**From:** [redacted] <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk> **On Behalf Of** Customer Contact Centre  
**Sent:** 03 April 2019 09:25  
**To:** Pop Info <[pop.info@ons.gov.uk](mailto:pop.info@ons.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** FW: 2016 Household Projections - Ref: CCC116653

Dear colleague

Please see the email below, received 02/04/2019 by the Customer Contact Centre.

Could you please respond directly to the customer?

The customer email address is [redacted]@[dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:[redacted]@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

If I have forwarded this enquiry to you/your team in error and you know the correct recipient, could you please forward it on? This will help improve our service to customers.

Thank you,



Customer Advisor| Cynghorydd Cwsmeriaid  
Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol  
Telephone [redacted] / [redacted] | Ffôn: [redacted] / [redacted]

Hi,

I wonder if you can clear something up for me. As far as I am aware the 2014 Household Projections will continue to be used for determining government housing targets. Is there an official statement regarding this? I took part in the government consultation about whether to use the 2014 or 2016 Household projections but have been unable to find a response to the consultation. Also the 2016 Household projections have been accepted as official statistics so some clear guidance on which to use would be useful. Having said that I do intend to use both the 2016 population and household projections as they seem more accurate but it would be good to know the official line with reasons behind it.

Thank you for your help,

Kind regards,



**From:** Enquiries Official statistics  
<[enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk)> **Sent:** 02 April 2019 12:04  
**To:** [redacted] <[redacted]@dorsetcc.gov.uk>; Enquiries Official statistics  
<[enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: 2016 Household Projections

You need to contact the Office for National Statistics – Click on the following link for the ONS's contact details.....

<https://www.ons.gov.uk/aboutus/contactus/generalandstatisticalenquiries>

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@dorsetcc.gov.uk>  
Sent: 26 March 2019 10:34  
To: Enquiries Official statistics  
<[enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries.officialstatistics@communities.gov.uk)> Subject: 2016 Household Projections

Hi,  
Please can you direct me to the governments guidelines regarding the use of the 2016 Household Projections. I took part in a consultation regarding whether to use the most recent projections or the 2014 data but cannot find a response to the consultation indicating the outcome. I am being asked by others which would be the most appropriate to use so would really appreciate some guidance as it seems the 2016 Household projections have been accepted as official statistics but I heard that the government are going to continue with using the 2014 based projections for the meantime.  
Thank you for your help,  
Kind regards,  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[\[REDACTED\]@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:[REDACTED]@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

Visit [Dorset Statistics](#) for the most up-to-date information on Dorset and its communities.

End of email chain (3 April 2019)

Start of email chain (22 March 2019)

From: [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
Sent: 22 March 2019 07:57  
To: Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: Government response to consultation: proposed text re methodological changes

Hi Jo,

Thanks for sending this through, I think it's a really good write-up of what I thought was a very useful conversation. I've shared with policy colleagues and will feed back to you if there's anything they'd like to clarify or potentially add.

Thanks again,  
[REDACTED]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | [Housing and Planning Analysis](#)

[Division](#) |

South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF

E: [Redacted] [@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk) | T: [Redacted]

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 08 March 2019 15:59

**To:** [Redacted] [@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk)

**Subject:** RE: Government response to consultation: proposed text re methodological changes

[See FOI\_2022\_3602\_attachment2]

Hi [Redacted],

Firstly, I'm really sorry for not replying to you sooner about the technical consultation response. Thank you for sending us notice of it as soon as you found out it had been published.

We're working on our line to take internally about this and I think this was discussed at the ONS/MHCLG key account meeting which took place on Monday. There are ONS local authority roadshows taking place on 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> March in Bristol, Leeds, Nottingham, Wrexham and London respectively. The content is mainly Census-focussed, though we are having a stand that will cover population and migration statistics transformation, ageing and household projections, in case people have questions or feedback for us.

For reference, I also wanted to send across the attached note of our meeting that took place on 14 February regarding variant household projections – do let me know if you have any questions or comments on it.

Kind regards,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Principal Research Officer, Population Statistics Research Unit

Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau Gwladol

[Redacted] | [Redacted] [@ons.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](mailto:[Redacted]@ONS)

**From:** [Redacted] [[mailto:\[Redacted\]@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk)]

**Sent:** 19 February 2019 17:02

**To:** Crofts, Sarah <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Harkrader, Joanna <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Government response to consultation: proposed text re methodological changes  
**Importance:** High

Hi all,

Very sorry for the lack of advance notice on this (I've only just found out myself) but the government response to the LHN consultation has now been published and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-planning-policy-and-guidance-including-the-standard-method-for-assessing-local-housing-need>

Very happy to discuss once you've had a chance to read.

Thanks,



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Housing and Planning Analysis  
Division |

South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF

E: [Redacted]@communities.gov.uk | T: [Redacted]

**From:** Crofts, Sarah <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Sent:** 14 December 2018 12:30

**To:** [Redacted] <[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Harkrader, Joanna <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich  
<[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Government response to consultation: proposed text re methodological changes

Hi [Redacted]

Thanks very much for giving us sight of this. We think it is very clear and are happy with the wording. Do you have a publication date for the consultation response? It would be helpful to know so that we can be prepared for any interest in the household projections on that day.

A really minor point – ONS is the 'Office *for* National Statistics' (not 'of').

Many thanks

Sarah

**From:** [Redacted] [mailto:[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk]

**Sent:** 14 December 2018 12:05

**To:** Crofts, Sarah <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Cc:** Harkrader, Joanna <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Pereira, Rich  
<[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

**Subject:** Government response to consultation: proposed text re methodological changes

**Importance:** High

Hi Sarah,

We agreed an action following the meeting between, [Redacted], [Redacted], Rich, [Redacted] and myself to include a paragraph in the Government's response to the consultation to provide additional clarity on the Government's position in relation to the methodological changes to the Household Projections. **The proposed wording below has been agreed at official level but has yet to be agreed with ministers and so remains subject to change.** I would however get in touch if you indicate you are happy with this, and it then subsequently changes.

Proposed text:

For the avoidance of doubt, the Government is clear that this does not mean that it doubts the methodological basis of the 2016-based household projections. It welcomes the work of the Office of National Statistics following the transfer of the projections from MHCLG and the steps they have taken to explain the projections for example in their recent blog [insert footnote number here]. The Government looks forward to the further work programme of the ONS to develop even greater confidence in the projections and is committed as the key customer to supporting the ONS ahead of the next projections.

Footnote: <https://blog.ons.gov.uk/2018/10/19/what-our-household-projections-really-show/>

We'd welcome your thoughts on this, however I'm out of the office for the rest of the afternoon at our team Christmas lunch and so perhaps we could discuss early next week if you have concerns?

Many thanks,

[Redacted]



Ministry of Housing,  
Communities &  
Local Government

[Redacted]

[Redacted] | Housing and Planning Analysis  
Division |

South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF

E: [Redacted] [@communities.gov.uk](mailto:[Redacted]@communities.gov.uk) | T: [Redacted]

End of email chain (22 March 2019)

Start of email chain (19 February 2019)

From: Harkrader, Joanna <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Sent: 19 February 2019 19:52

To: Gadsdon, Kerry <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; McKeown, Liz <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Cc: Pereira, Rich <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>; Crofts, Sarah <[Redacted]@ons.gov.uk>

Subject: MHCLG response to local housing need consultation published

Importance: High

Hi Liz and Kerry,

In light of Sarah and Rich (cc'd) being on holiday this week, I'm emailing to let you know that MHCLG have published the government response to the local housing need (LHN) consultation – [see here](#). This was the technical consultation that proposed still using the 2014-based household projections instead of the ONS 2016-based household projections that use a new methodology.

The wording we agreed with MHCLG (see email chain below) made it in to the consultation response in full and unchanged. However, MHCLG are continuing to state that the 2014-based household projections should be used in the short-term for calculating LHN and that the 2016-based household projections should not be used as a reason to justify lower LHN. The response says that MHCLG will look at reviewing their formula for calculating LHN over the next 18 months, which to me implies that this “short-term” guidance may last for that length of time, while a new LHN formula is developed. MHCLG are making these recommendations despite 55% of organisations and 84% of individuals disagreeing with the proposal to continue using the 2014-based household projections.

Unfortunately, we did not receive advanced warning of the consultation response being published, despite being assured that we would get some notice of it. However, from [Redacted]'s

email below it seems communication within MHCLG wasn't particularly clear either. I met with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (who leads on local housing need policy) from MHCLG on Thursday last week and was told there was no confirmed date for publishing the consultation response.

I imagine we may receive queries from users and possibly more specialist media outlets about our view on the consultation response; therefore, should we consider what our response would be? The line to take we had after the consultation launched was:

"In October, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published a Technical consultation on updates to national planning policy and guidance, which closes on 7 December. This is specifically about how the household projections are used as part of the standard method for calculating local housing need. MHCLG make it clear that the proposals made within the consultation are to ensure consistency with the objective of building more homes and provide the stability that Local Authorities need for their planning processes. Therefore they propose that in the short-term, the 2014-based household projections continue to be used. ONS have discussed this recommendation with MHCLG and have been assured that this recommendation has been made for practical reasons and to ensure consistency with home-building targets and is not a reflection of MHCLG's view on the quality of the 2016-based household projections."

Happy to discuss further and apologies for a long email.

Kind regards,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Grade 7, Population Statistics Research Unit  
Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau  
Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](https://ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

End of email chain (19 February 2019)

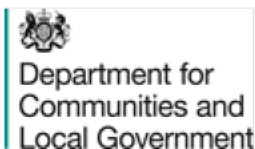
Start of email chain (29 November 2018)

**From:** [REDACTED] [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 29 November 2018 16:46  
**To:** Crofts, Sarah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>; [REDACTED] <[REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: URGENT - household projections please comment on Q&A line to take

Hi Sarah,

[REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (cc'd) should be your first points of contact.

Thanks  
Liz



[redacted]  
[redacted] | Housing and Planning Analysis Division |  
Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government |  
South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF  
E: [redacted]@communities.gov.uk | T: [redacted] |

From: Crofts, Sarah [mailto:[redacted]@ons.gov.uk]  
Sent: 29 November 2018 16:19  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: [redacted]; Harkrader, Joanna  
Subject: RE: URGENT - household projections please comment on Q&A line to take

Hi Liz,  
Many thanks for your advice following internal discussion and for responding so quickly to my draft text today. We are happy with your suggested addition to the text and will ensure that it is incorporated.

If we get MHCLG-related queries on Monday, is there an email address / contact number that we can provide so that users can approach you directly?

Sarah

From: [redacted] [mailto:[redacted]@communities.gov.uk]  
Sent: 29 November 2018 16:05  
To: Crofts, Sarah <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>  
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@communities.gov.uk>; Harkrader, Joanna <[redacted]@ons.gov.uk>  
Subject: RE: URGENT - household projections please comment on Q&A line to take

Hi Sarah

I passed on the queries from [redacted] and yourself to our policy colleagues who have just come back to us.

In terms of any lines we might take following the publication of the breakdown of household projections by household type, as we will still be within the LHN consultation, policy have said that they would not want to say anything other than a top 'we are consulting....' Line, and that we wouldn't do anything proactive so it will only be if asked.

In terms of your line below, policy are broadly happy with this but have suggested the following change:

A. In October, The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published a [Technical consultation on updates to national planning policy and guidance](#), which closes on 7 December. This is specifically about how the household projections are used as part of the standard method for calculating local housing need. MHCLG make it clear that the proposals made within the consultation are to ensure consistency with the objective of building more homes and provide the stability that Local Authorities need for their planning processes. Therefore they propose that in the short-term, the 2014-based household projections continue to be used. ONS have discussed this recommendation with MHCLG and have been assured that this recommendation has been made for practical reasons and to ensure consistency with home-building targets and is not a reflection of MHCLG's view on the quality of the 2016-based household projections.

Happy to discuss  
Many thanks  
[redacted]





[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] | **Housing and Planning Analysis Division** |  
**Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government** |  
South-west quadrant, 4th floor | Fry Building | 2 Marsham Street | London | SW1P  
4DF  
E: [REDACTED]@communities.gov.uk | T: [REDACTED] |

**From:** Crofts, Sarah [mailto:[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk]  
**Sent:** 29 November 2018 11:17  
**To:** David Evans  
**Subject:** URGENT - household projections please comment on Q&A line to take

Hi [REDACTED],  
I tried to call you earlier this week and left a message. Separately, Jo Harkrader has been in touch with [REDACTED].

As you are aware, we are publishing Stage 2 of the Household Projections on Monday, which breaks down the total figures by household type. We are preparing lines to take for media and other stakeholder queries. Related to this is the review of the Office for Statistics Regulation who are carrying out a compliance check of the 2016-based projections and as part of that they will review how the statistics are being used. We may be asked why MHCLG are recommending that 2014-based household projections are used by Local Authorities for planning purposes and whether that implies that there is something wrong with the 2016-based. In conversation with you on the telephone and in the meeting that Liz McKeown, Rich Pereira had with you and [REDACTED], we were advised that the decision behind the recommendation was to provide a period of stability for Local Authorities and was not a reflection of MHCLG's view on the quality of the 2016-based household projections. We need a line from you before Monday so that we are prepared and give the right messages. I have drafted the following for our Q&A:

**Q.** Why has MHCLG recommended that 2014-based household projections are used instead of the more recently published 2016-based?

**A.** In October, The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) published a [Technical consultation on updates to national planning policy and guidance](#), which closes on 7 December. MHCLG make it clear that the proposals made within the consultation are to ensure consistency with the objective of building more homes and provide the stability that Local Authorities need for their planning processes. Therefore they propose that in the short-term, the 2014-based household projections continue to be used. ONS have discussed this recommendation with MHCLG and have been assured that this recommendation has been made for practical reasons and to ensure consistency with home-building targets and is not a reflection of MHCLG's view on the quality of the 2016-based household projections.

Please do suggest any amendments or if there is a published line from MHCLG that we can refer to.

Many thanks  
Sarah

End of email chain (29 November 2018)

Start of email chain (20 November 2018)

**From:** Harkrader, Joanna <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 20 November 2018 14:19  
**To:** Crofts, Sarah <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Coombs, Ngaire <[REDACTED]@ons.gov.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: Update following meeting with [REDACTED]

Hi Sarah and Ngaire,

I tried phoning [REDACTED] this afternoon but it went to voicemail, so I left him a message and then phoned [REDACTED] [REDACTED]'s G7 who has been involved with our work previously) and spoke to her instead.

1. On the 2001 data issue, I explained we would be grouping categories because of issues with the 2001 data and that we think that couples with non-dependent children might be included in the "One family and no others: Couple households: No dependent children" category from the 2014-based. [REDACTED] said she'd check with someone who they think are included in this category – I'm not sure who she'll be able to check it with but I'll see what she says – I asked her to get back to me by the end of this week.
2. [REDACTED] said it would be policy colleagues rather than their analysis team looking after any lines to take for 3<sup>rd</sup> December, but that she wasn't aware of any specific ones yet. It's likely to be something like "we'll assess everything in the round", as their consultation is still open and they'll be waiting for the feedback from that. Generally, MHCLG's understanding is that Stage 2 data are used for establishing what types of houses should be built rather than determining overall numbers of houses to build. [REDACTED] will ask around and get back to me next week.
3. Finally, I explained about the OSR compliance check and asked whether they could send us lines on why they are proposing that LAs use the previous projections and that this does not reflect a lack of trust in the quality of the latest household projections. Again [REDACTED] said she'd check with people and get back to me, hopefully next week.

**Sarah** – as [REDACTED] needs to ask around within MHCLG about a lot of this, I'm wondering whether it would make sense for you to get in touch with [REDACTED] early next week to follow up, particularly if we don't hear anything back from [REDACTED] before the end of this week.

Many thanks,

Jo

**Joanna Harkrader** | Grade 7, Population Statistics Research Unit  
Centre for Ageing and Demography | Office for National Statistics | Swyddfa Ystadegau  
Gwladol

[REDACTED] | [REDACTED] [ons.gov.uk](https://ons.gov.uk) | [www.ons.gov.uk](http://www.ons.gov.uk) | [@ONS](https://twitter.com/ONS)

End of email chain (20 November 2018)