



HOUSING SUPPLEMENT

Weekly Parliamentary Round-up

19-25 October 2012

CONTENTS

PARLIAMENT

COMMONS DEBATE

- 18.10.12: Growth and Infrastructure Bill – House of Commons Committee Debate
- 19.10.12: Mobile Homes Bill – Private Members' Bill (Second Reading)
- 22.10.12: Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Bill – Motion (Money)

COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEES

- 19.10.12: Private Rented Sector

COMMONS WRITTEN ANSWERS

- 18.10.12: Housing Benefit
- 18.10.12: Housing Benefit: Ashfield
- 18.10.12: Housing Benefit: West Midlands
- 18.10.12: Empty Property: Council Tax
- 18.10.12: Housing
- 18.10.12: Social Rented Housing: West Midlands
- 19.10.12: Housing
- 19.10.12: Social Rented Housing
- 19.10.12: Housing Benefit: Young People
- 19.10.12: Private Rented Housing: Energy
- 22.10.12: Energy: Private Rented Housing
- 22.10.12: Squatting
- 22.10.12: Housing Benefit
- 23.10.12: Council Housing
- 23.10.12: Housing Benefit
- 24.10.12: Housing Benefit: Wales
- 24.10.12: Housing Benefit: Young People

COMMONS WRITTEN QUESTIONS

- 22 October: Housing benefit [1]
- 22 October: Housing benefit [2]
- 22 October: Housing benefit [3]
- 22 October: Housing benefit [4]
- 24 October: Housing benefit [5]
- 24 October: Homelessness

LORDS DEBATE

- 23.10.12: Housing: Park Homes – Short debate in Grand Committee

LORDS WRITTEN ANSWERS

18.10.12: Housing: Private Rented Sector – Written Answer

22.10.12: Homeless Families – Written Answer

22.10.12: Housing Benefit – Written Answer

LORDS ORAL QUESTION

24.10.12: Homelessness

EMERGING THINKING

22.10.12: A Wider Lens – latest report from Demos looks at family disadvantage in Scotland

WHAT'S COMING UP

In Parliament

Events

PARLIAMENT

COMMONS DEBATE

18.10.12: Growth and Infrastructure Bill – House of Commons Committee Debate

The Growth and Infrastructure Bill was presented and received its formal first reading.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard \(Full text\)](#)

19.10.12: Mobile Homes Bill – Private Members' Bill (Second Reading)

The Mobile Homes Bill passed its Second Reading on Friday, 19 October. The Bill includes proposals to allow the sale of mobile homes to be in the control of the occupier not the owner of the site.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard \(Full text\)](#)

22.10.12: Prevention of Social Housing Fraud Bill – Motion (Money)

The House of Commons was asked to agree to the funding of any local authorities' administrative costs resulting from any future Act.

Local authorities may incur some administrative costs if they choose to use the new data access powers contained in the current Bill.

The motion was agreed to.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard \(Full text\)](#)

COMMONS SELECT COMMITTEES

19.10.12: Private Rented Sector

The Communities and Local Government Committee has decided to conduct an inquiry into the private rented housing sector.

The Committee is inviting submissions from interested parties covering the quality and regulation of private rented housing, and levels of rent within the sector.

Those making submissions are asked to consider the following issues:

- the quality of private rented housing, and steps that can be taken to ensure that all housing in the sector is of an acceptable standard;
- levels of rent within the private rented sector – including the possibility of rent control and the interaction between housing benefit and rents;
- regulation of landlords, and steps that can be taken to deal with rogue landlords;
- regulation of letting agents, including agents' fees and charges;
- the regulation of houses in multiple occupation (HMOs), including the operation of discretionary licensing schemes imposed by a local authority for a category of HMO in its area;
- tenancy agreements and length and security of tenure; and
- how local authorities are discharging their homelessness duty by being able to place homeless households in private sector housing.

[Source: Parliament: House of Commons Communities and Local Government Committee](#)

COMMONS WRITTEN ANSWERS

18.10.12: Housing Benefit – Written Answer

Mr Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the potential effects of changes to housing benefit on the operation of sheltered housing. [123398]

Steve Webb: We have made no assessment of how changes to housing benefit might affect those in sheltered housing. The under occupation measure, being introduced April 2013, is unlikely to impact on this group as it applies only to those of working age. In a housing context sheltered housing is generally provided for those of pension age and is unlikely to have extra rooms. When universal credit is introduced assistance will continue fundamentally on the same basis.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what provision he has made for persons leaving care as part of any restriction on the payment of housing benefit to claimants under the age of 25. [123534]

Steve Webb: Current Government policy does not include withdrawing housing support from, people aged under 25.

Care leavers are currently exempt until age 22 from the shared accommodation rate restrictions that apply to single people claiming housing benefit under age 35.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

18.10.12: Housing Benefit: Ashfield – Written Answer

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much discretionary housing payment funding has been allocated to Ashfield for 2012-13. [123545]

Steve Webb: The Government contribution towards discretionary housing payments for 2012-13 allocated to Ashfield is £108,356. In addition to this sum, Ashfield district council can contribute funding of their own so that the maximum total expenditure on discretionary housing payments for 2012-13 does not exceed £270,890.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

18.10.12: Housing Benefit: West Midlands – Written Answer

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in (a) Coventry and (b) the west midlands are expected to receive a reduction to their housing benefit due to the under-occupancy penalty to be introduced in April 2013. [123489]

Steve Webb: The information is not available for Coventry.

The Department for Work and Pensions estimates that the introduction of the social sector size criteria measure is likely to affect an estimated 60,000 working age housing benefit claimants living in the social rented sector in the west midlands at the time of its introduction in 2013-14.

This estimate is contained in the impact assessment of the housing benefit change,

which can be found at:

<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/social-sector-housing-under-occupation-wr2011-ia.pdf>

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

18.10.12: Empty Property: Council Tax – Written Answer

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities in England charge 100 per cent council tax for empty properties that have been vacant for over six months; and how many local authorities in England charge 100 per cent council tax for second homes. [122818]

Brandon Lewis: As at October 2011, 205 local authorities in England reported that they were charging 100% council tax for long-term empty dwellings ie those that had been empty for more than six months and were not exempt from council tax.

Under the current legislation, no authority is permitted to charge 100% council tax for dwellings registered as second homes; the maximum they can charge is 90%.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

18.10.12: Housing – Written Answer

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations he has received on (a) Regis Group and (b) Thorpe Bay Estates. [122682]

Mr Prisk: The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Ministry of Justice have no record of representations on (a) Regis Group or (b) Thorpe Bay Estates in relation to residential leasehold or freehold covenant issues. However, both my Department and Ministry of Justice have received correspondence about an estate owned by these companies.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

18.10.12: Social Rented Housing: West Midlands – Written Answer

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many (a) one, (b) two and (c) three bedroom homes for social rent there are in (i) Coventry and (ii) the West Midlands. [123491]

Mr Prisk: These statistics are not available in the form requested because the data held on the size/type of social dwellings does not identify those on social rents.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

19.10.12: Housing – Written Answer

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the need to change the law relating to payments demanded as a result of covenanted properties that are (a) leasehold and (b) freehold. [122716]

Mrs Grant: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Ministry of Justice.

Where a landowner (A) in England and Wales is subject to an obligation to obtain the consent of another person (B) before altering A's property, the terms of the covenant will be set out in the land register, title deeds or lease. It is quite usual for the covenant to provide for B's consent not to be unreasonably withheld and for A to be obliged to reimburse costs reasonably incurred by B in the course of considering the application. These payments are separate from any obligation on A to pay a service charge. Subject to the terms of any relevant statute, the extent of A's obligations and B's rights will be defined by the express terms of the covenant.

Disputes regarding the covenants can, if necessary, be resolved by the court.

Examples of relevant statutes include: Schedule 11 to the Commonhold and Leasehold Reform Act 2002, which enables residential tenants (leaseholders) to challenge the reasonableness of administration charges in the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and section 19(2) of the Landlord and Tenant Act 1927, which gives landlords the right to recover legal or other expenses property incurred in connection with an application for licence or consent to carry out improvements to the tenanted property.

The Government considers that the present law generally works satisfactorily and does not have any plans to change it. We will, however, keep the situation under review.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

19.10.12: Social Rented Housing – Written Answer

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the potential savings to the Exchequer of removing access to social housing for households earning over (a) £30,000, (b) £40,000 and (c) £60,000 in each of the next three years; and how many people would be affected in each case. [124054]

Mr Prisk: We have no plans to remove access to social housing for existing social tenants, hence we will not be estimating the savings from such a policy.

We have been consulting on whether high income tenants in social housing should continue to receive a taxpayer-subsidised rent. A copy of the consultation paper on high income social tenants can be found at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/paytostayconsultation>

A response to the consultation paper will be published in due course, and any policy proposal down the line would be accompanied by an Impact Assessment. It would be premature to pre-empt the response to the consultation.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

19.10.12: Housing Benefit: Young People – Written Answer

Mr Byrne: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many recipients of housing benefit under the age of 25 years (a) have children, (b) are orphans, (c) are care leavers and (d) have parents in prison. [124055]

Steve Webb: Information on the number of housing benefit recipients who are orphans, care leavers or who have parents in prison are not collected on the housing benefit data source (SHBE). The information that is available for those aged under 25 years by family type is shown in the following table.

Housing benefit recipients under the age of 25 by family type, May 2012

<i>Family type</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
All under 25s	383,650	—	—

Single:

No child dependent	164,810	89,150	74,630
With child dependent(s)	171,690	1,700	168,960

Couple:

No child dependent	14,550	—	—
With child dependent(s)	32,610	—	—

Notes: 1. The figures have been rounded to the nearest ten. 2. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems.

It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and May 2012 is the latest available. 3. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either: (a) the recipient if they are single, or (b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple 4.

Components may not sum to total due to (i) independent rounding (ii) exclusion of claimants with unknown age. 5. This information is published on the department's website at: <http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paae=hbctb> Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE)

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

19.10.12: Private Rented Housing: Energy – Written Answer

Chris Williamson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will extend and increase the Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance to encourage early improvements to the private rented sector before the introduction of the minimum energy efficiency standard in 2018. [123127]

Sajid Javid: The Government is considering the ways in which the market has made use of the Landlord's Energy Saving Allowance, which is scheduled to come to an end in 2015. As with all tax policy, any announcements about the Landlord's Energy Savings Allowance will be made at Budget.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

22.10.12: Energy: Private Rented Housing – Written Answer

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he has taken to investigate whether commercial landlords operate transparently when re-charging tenants for energy supplies. [123864]

Gregory Barker: Ofgem is responsible for regulating gas and electricity markets in the non-domestic sector, including whether further regulatory protection is required. Gas and electricity resold and consumed for non-domestic purposes is a contractual matter between the landlord and tenant. The maximum resale price (MPR) provisions that govern the reselling of gas and electricity by landlords and resellers for domestic purposes do not apply. Any dispute about terms and conditions of a contract should be pursued through the courts.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

22.10.12: Squatting – Written Answer

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will estimate the total cost of damage to buildings by squatters in the latest period for which figures are available; [123497]

(2) if he will estimate the total amount that property owners spent on removing squatters in the latest period for which figures are available. [123499]

Damian Green: Figures are not held centrally but responses to last year's consultation on 'Options for Dealing with Squatting' showed that property owners could spend hundreds or even thousands of pounds seeking to evict squatters and repairing any damage they had left behind. The new offence of squatting in a residential building should mean that residential property owners no longer need to spend time and money seeking to evict squatters because they can report them to the police.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

22.10.12: Housing Benefit – Written Answer

Stephen Timms: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department plans to take to monitor the effect of the Housing Benefit (Amendment) Regulations 2012 on residents living in supported and sheltered housing. [124280]

Steve Webb: We think it unlikely that many people in this type of accommodation will be affected by the social sector size criteria reductions for working age housing benefit claimants. This is because most sheltered accommodation is occupied by pensioners who are exempt from the size criteria.

The regulations also contain a provision to exclude people living in supported exempt accommodation, which includes supported or sheltered housing, from the social sector size criteria reductions.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

23.10.12: Council Housing – Written Answer

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will commission a survey of local authorities to ascertain which councils have asked housing applicants to move to another local authority; and how many households were affected between January and August 2012. [122107]

Mr Prisk: We collect and publish official statutory homelessness statistics on a quarterly basis. A table has been placed in the Library of the House, showing the number of homeless households from each local authority in England placed in temporary accommodation in another local authority district as at (a) 31 March 2012, (b) 30 June 2012 (the latest available figures).

The law makes it clear that local authorities must secure accommodation within their own borough so far as reasonably practicable. The Government wants to go further

on this and has recently consulted on how best to strengthen requirements in relation to location and suitability when local authorities secure accommodation for the use of households owed duties under the homelessness legislation.

Statistical releases on Statutory Homelessness are available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationhomelessness>

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

23.10.12: Housing Benefit – Written Answer

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department has received information that local authorities have reduced rents for their housing stock as a means of avoiding the housing benefit cap; if his Department will commission research into this issue; and if it will take steps to enforce adherence by local authorities to the housing benefit cap. [118725]

Mr Prisk: The housing benefit cap was introduced to ensure that claimants were not able to live in properties beyond the means of those not on benefit. The housing benefit cap only affects claimants living in the private rented sector and therefore tenants of local authority owned housing stock are not affected.

My Department, with the Department for Work and Pensions, is funding research into the impact of the local housing allowance changes on private rented sector tenants, landlords and local authorities. The housing benefit cap is one of the changes to the local housing allowance regime. An initial report was published on 14 June and can be found on the DWP website. There will be an interim early next year and the final report later in 2013.

The most recent official statistics published by the Valuation Office Agency in August 2012 show that median private sector rents across England rose by 0.9% in the year to June 2012, compared to a rise in RPI inflation of 2.8% over the same period. Rents have thus fallen in real terms, although there are local variations.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

24.10.12: Housing Benefit: Wales – Written Answer

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of housing benefit claimants in Wales are in active employment. [124170]

Steve Webb: The requested information is in the following table:

Number and proportion of housing benefit recipients in Wales who are in employment, May 2012

	<i>All HB recipients</i>	<i>All non-passported</i>	<i>Of which are in employment</i>	<i>Percentage of all HB recipients who are in employment</i>
Great Britain	5,031,740	1,753,430	903,440	18.0
Wales	251,310	74,340	33,940	13.5

Notes: 1. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple. 2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month. 3. Data is rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to one decimal place. 4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data is available monthly from November 2008 and May 2012 is the most recent available. 5. This data refers to people receiving housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified and are therefore not included in this analysis. Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

24.10.12: Housing Benefit: Young People – Written Answer

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people under 25 years of age who will be affected by the withdrawal of housing benefit in each Parliamentary constituency. [123938]

Steve Webb: Current Government policy does not include withdrawing housing support from people aged under 25.

[Source: Parliament: Commons Hansard](#)

COMMONS WRITTEN QUESTIONS

22 October: Housing benefit – House of Commons Written Question (For answer on 29 October)

Sheila Gilmore (Edinburgh East): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what assessment he has made of the capacity of parents of housing benefit claimants aged under 25 to house their children. (124767)

[Source: Parliament: Order Paper](#)

22 October: Housing benefit – House of Commons Written Question (For answer on 29 October)

Sheila Gilmore (Edinburgh East): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of claimants of housing benefit under the age of 25 who are (a) undertaking apprenticeships and (b) undertaking another form of training. (124768)

[Source: Parliament: Order Paper](#)

22 October: Housing benefit – House of Commons Written Question (For answer on 29 October)

Sheila Gilmore (Edinburgh East): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what estimate he has made of the number of recipients of housing benefit under the age of 25 years who are unable to live with their parents due to (a) overcrowding, (b) a breakdown of the relationship and (c) abuse experienced in the home. (124769)

[Source: Parliament: Order Paper](#)

22 October: Housing benefit – House of Commons Written Question (For answer on 29 October)

Sheila Gilmore (Edinburgh East): To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many housing benefit recipients under the age of 25 live in a (a) homelessness hostel and (b) domestic violence refuge.(124771)

[Source: Parliament: Order Paper](#)

24 October: Housing benefit – House of Commons Written Question (For answer on 29 October)

Sheila Gilmore (Edinburgh East): To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, what estimate he has made of the number of housing benefit recipients aged under 25 who have (a) been accepted as homeless by a local authority and (b) slept rough in the latest period for which figures are available. (124770)

[Source: Parliament: Order Paper](#)

24 October: Homelessness – House of Commons Written Question (For answer on 26 October)

Ian Mearns (Gateshead): To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how many people in each age category, who were accepted as homeless, had lost their last settled home because their parents were no longer willing or able to provide accommodation in each of the last five years. (125499)

[Source: Parliament: Order Paper](#)

LORDS DEBATE

23.10.12: Housing: Park Homes – Short debate in Grand Committee

Baroness Scott of Needham Market (Lib Dem) hosted a short debate in the House of Lords on the plight of mobile home owners and, particularly, the problems faced by home owners in relation to site owners.

Scott stated:

"Service charges often bear no relation to the actual expenditure of the site owner on the site but it is difficult for the residents to dispute the bills. Some site owners are levying a VAT rate of 20% on the re-charges for gas and electricity. Many charge what home owners regard as excessive fees for site maintenance that is often not done at all. It is the growing evidence of serious criminality within the sector that gives most cause for concern."

Whilst welcoming Peter Aldous MP's private member's Bill on the subject - and the Government's support for it - Scott expressed concern that the legislation may not be enough to help up to 160,000 park home owners who are vulnerable to abuse from irresponsible site owners.

Responding for the Government, the communities minister **Baroness Hanham**, said:

"The [Aldous] Bill's objective is to put the park home business on a proper footing for the future, where honest and professional site owners can prosper, while those who abuse their legal powers and have no regard for the welfare and rights of their residents or their health and safety will no longer be able to profiteer."

Hanham accepted that the legislation would not be able to operate retrospectively but she added that - once enacted - the Bill's provisions would protect all new home owners.

[Source: Parliament: Lords Hansard \(Full text\)](#)

LORDS WRITTEN ANSWERS

18.10.12: Housing: Private Rented Sector – Written Answer

Lord Browne of Ladyton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what steps they are taking in respect of the affordability of rents in the private rented sector.[HL2246]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): The most recent official statistics published by the Valuation Office Agency in August 2012 show that median private sector rents across England rose by 0.9% in the year to June 2012, compared to a rise in RPI inflation of 2.8% over the same period. Rents have thus fallen in real terms, although there are local variations. The package of measures we announced on 6 September aims to ensure that demand is matched by an increasing supply of new build homes for rent. The package includes a £200 million equity fund, coupled with £10 billion in government guarantees to stimulate the development of new build homes for rent.

[Source: Parliament: Lords Hansard](#)

22.10.12: Homeless Families – Written Answer

Lord Ouseley: To ask Her Majesty's Government how they intend to reduce the number of homeless families being forced into temporary bed and breakfast accommodation.[HL2449]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Baroness Hanham): It is unacceptable for families to be placed in bed and breakfast accommodation. Indeed, it is avoidable. Legislation remains in place that prohibits the use of bed and breakfast accommodation for families unless in an emergency, and then for no more than six weeks. The law is also clear that local authorities must be satisfied that any accommodation they secure is suitable for the applicant and their household.

The vast majority of local authorities in England, including most of the local authorities

in London, are not in breach of the order, so we are confident that the numbers of households in bed and breakfast over six weeks can be reduced.

In the recent Ministerial Working Group report on homelessness, Making Every Contact Count, we called on local housing authorities to deliver on 10 challenges. These included a commitment not to use bed and breakfast accommodation for families.

In addition, in April the previous Minister for Housing, the right honourable Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), wrote privately to 20 local authorities with the most families with children in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than six weeks, offering help and assistance from the department to reduce those numbers.

Several of those authorities have made improvements since then.

On top of all this, we have invested £400 million in homelessness prevention over four years (2011-12/2014-15) and announced an additional £70 million investment over the past year to tackle homelessness. We have also made available £450 million to local authorities to ease the transition across the welfare reforms in this Spending Review. This includes around £400 million for discretionary housing payments.

We look to local authorities to improve the situation and not place families in bed and breakfast accommodation except in an emergency.

[Source: Parliament: Lords Hansard](#)

22.10.12: Housing Benefit – Written Answer

Baroness Brinton: To ask Her Majesty's Government what proportion of, and how many, (1) 16 year-olds, (2) 17 year-olds, (3) 18 to 21 year-olds, and (4) 22 to 24 year-olds, claim housing benefit in England; and, for each category, how many are (a) employed not on apprenticeships, (b) employed on apprenticeships, (c) claiming job seeker's allowance, (d) claiming employment and support allowance, and (e) claiming income support.[HL2547]

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Lord Freud): The number of claimants of housing benefit (HB) and jobseeker's allowance (JSA) and employment support allowance (ESA) is not available. Information is available for those HB claimants whose claim is passported: that is, for those who receive either income support, jobseeker's allowance (income-based), employment and support allowance (income-based), or pension credit (guaranteed credit). The department does collect information on those in receipt of JSA or ESA on the housing benefit data source (SHBE) but to assess the completeness of recording and quality assure the figures would

incur disproportionate cost.

Such information as is available is in the table below.

Housing benefit recipients in England by age, passported status and employment, May 2012					
	Percentage of age group (%)	Number	All non-passported	Of which in employment	Passported-in receipt of Income Support
All HB recipients	8.2	4,295,670	1,533,780	814,350	935,380
Age 16	0.2	1,030	170	50	780
Age 17	0.8	5,390	870	300	3,850
Age 18-21	4.7	131,750	24,150	16,540	57,380
Age 22-24	8.6	188,390	55,010	40,860	77,290

Source: Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE), ONS Mid-Term Population estimates for 2010.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, percentages to one decimal place.
2. Percentage population figures have been calculated using ONS Mid-Term Population Estimates for 2010.
3. The data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
4. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
5. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and May 2012 is the most recent available.
6. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either:

(a) the recipient if they are single, or

(b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple

7. This data refers to people receiving housing benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit and are recorded as being in employment if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award. People receiving passported benefits who are working part-time cannot be identified and are therefore not included in this analysis.

[Source: Parliament: Lords Hansard](#)

LORDS ORAL QUESTION

24.10.12: Homelessness – Oral Question

Lord Sheldon to ask Her Majesty's Government what proposals they have to reduce the number of people sleeping on the streets of London.

[Source: Parliament: Lords Minute](#)

EMERGING THINKING

News from the think tanks

22.10.12: A Wider Lens – latest report from Demos looks at family disadvantage in Scotland

A report published by the think tank Demos has reported that around 24,000 Scottish families are living in "severe hardship".

The report said that four per cent of Scotland's 600,000 families with children faced severe disadvantage, struggling with problems such as low incomes, overcrowding, ill health, unemployment and lack of educational qualifications.

Additionally the report identified that three-quarters (77 per cent) of families with children are living in social rented housing.

The report was published as the Scottish Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon announced additional funding for housing and money to help thousands of vulnerable people.

Sturgeon told the SNP conference in Perth that £45 million would be spent building 1,200 new homes across Scotland and the Scottish Government would commit £9m to provide essential crisis support for 100,000 vulnerable people.

[Source: Demos Publications](#)

WHAT'S COMING UP

In Parliament

30.10.12 Growth and Infrastructure Bill

The House of Commons will take Second Reading of the Growth and Infrastructure Bill.

[Source: Parliamentary Bills](#)

30.10.12 Homelessness

Lords oral question on reducing the number of people sleeping on the streets of London (Lord Sheldon).

[Source: House of Lords Business](#)

31.10.12 Housing in Poplar and Limehouse

Westminster Hall adjournment debate on housing in Poplar and Limehouse (Jim Fitzpatrick) [11am-11.30am].

[Source: House of Commons Business](#)

Upcoming Events

26.10.12 Future Homes Commission launches final report

The Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) will release the final report of The Future Homes Commission. The Commission has been tasked with conducting an inquiry into the quality of newly built housing with the aim of understanding how people live today, what they need and expect from their homes and whether the design and delivery of new homes is fit for purpose.

[Source: RIBA](#)

30.10.12 Nationwide releases house price index

Nationwide is expected to release its monthly housing survey for October.

[Source: Nationwide](#)