

The Regulatory and Statistical Return Data Set in 2003: Technical Notes

Each year the Housing Corporation publishes a set of tables summarising the information provided by Housing Associations (HAs) in the Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR).

Prior to 2001, the data that are published in the summary tables were sourced from Part Two of the RSR. From 2002 however, the approach to data collection adopted by Section Two of the RSR changed in a number of fundamental ways which are outlined in *The New RSR Dataset in 2002: Technical Notes* available to download free from the Dataspring website (www.dataspring.org.uk) and from the Housing Corporation's RSR website (www.rsrsurvey.co.uk).

These notes focus specifically on the changes applied to the return in 2003 only, and it should be used in conjunction with its sister paper, *Comparison of the RSR data tables published by the Housing Corporation in 2002 and 2003*, also available from the Dataspring and HC websites.

The main changes to the RSR 2003 were as follows:

- A change in the way stock previously categorised as Registered Care Homes were reported following the implementation of the Care Standards Act 2000;
- Removal of the 'other' supported housing category in Part A;
- The addition of 'NASS contract asylum seeker accommodation' in Part B;
- Removal of questions C4 and C5, stock managed pending transfer;
- A change in the pre-printed activity categories included Part D;
- Removal of question H2;
- Gender of Governing Body members included in Part P; and
- A change in Performance Indicator questions in Part Q.

1. Care Homes

The Care Standards Act, 2000 introduced a whole new system of registration that effectively removed the two tier distinction between residential care homes and residential nursing homes (RCH parts I and II) as previously used under the Registered Care Homes Act 1984. The National Care Standards Commission defines all care homes as one of four service categories, although the majority are likely to be

either homes providing personal care or those providing nursing care. The following table presents a comparison of how the 2002 definitions transfer to the new Care Homes definitions in the RSR 2003.

RSR 2002 Registered Care Homes	RSR 2003 Care Homes
RCH Part I – falls under the definition of social housing and therefore included in Part A of the RSR.	Care Homes providing personal care Care homes providing adult placement – they do not fall within the definition of supported housing although this provision may take place in general needs social housing.
RCH Part II – Nursing homes that fall under Part II, are classed as non-social housing and therefore included in Part B, under the specialist housing category.	Care homes providing nursing care Care homes not providing medicines or medical treatment
Dual Registered – permanently dual registered stock is also classed as non-social housing and therefore included in Part B, under the specialist housing category.	Care homes providing nursing care Care homes not providing medicines or medical treatment

2. ‘Other’ supported housing

Other supported housing was introduced in the RSR 2002, although when the 2002 dataset was analysed it became apparent that the vast majority of units included in this category should have been reported as ‘unregistered’ supported housing units instead. Therefore, this ‘other’ category was removed from the RSR 2003 to avoid confusion and the guidance notes for ‘unregistered’ units were amended as follows:

[Unregistered supported housings units] should include supported housing stock that does not fall into the specific categories provided in line 8 (care homes), line 9 (asylum seekers), or line 10 (floating or move-on support).

3. NASS contract asylum seeker accommodation

Accommodation contracted by the Home Office to house asylum seekers under the National Asylum Seekers Scheme (NASS) is not considered to be social housing for the duration of the contract.

In 2002 the RSR required HAs to identify supported housing (social housing) provided for asylum seekers but it did not request the total stock used to accommodate them.

In order to provide a fuller picture of the extent to which HAs are assisting asylum seekers, HAs were required to identify all housing provided for asylum seekers. A total figure can be produced from the sum of the following in the RSR 2003:

- Part A: Social housing. Line 9, column E: Supported rented housing: Stock provided for asylum seekers (non-NASS contract).
- Part E: Social housing. Question E5, line 16: General needs: Non-NASS units/bedspaces used to accommodate asylum seekers on 31 March 2003.
- Part B: Non-social housing. Line 6, column E: NASS contract asylum seeker accommodation.

4. Stock managed pending transfer

Questions C3, C4 and C5 were introduced in the RSR 2002 as a means of monitoring stock managed by HAs pending transfer into their ownership at 31 March 2002.

This was a direct response to concerns raised by HAs in relation to their ability to reflect the fact that they manage some stock in every way as if it owned whilst pending transfer into their ownership. The questions were included in 2002 in order to measure the extent of this activity. They were not intended to become a longer term part of data collection in the RSR and were therefore excluded from the RSR 2003.

5. Other services provided by HAs

As a result of the evaluation of the RSR 2002, Part D changed in 2003. Firstly, instead of having one question asking if HAs provided other services that were not included in Parts A or B, but accounted for more than 5% of their gross capital employed or gross turnover, the question was split into two:

Question D1: Asked if the HA provided any services or activities between April 1 2002 and 31 March 2003 that were not included in Parts A or B. This allowed HAs to report that they did provide other non-housing services, even if these services did not account for more than 5% of their gross turnover/capital employed.

The HA then only needed to complete Part D if they answered 'Yes' to question D2 which asked if:

'when combined, the activities/services accounted for more than 5% of your gross turnover or gross capital used over the year 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

or

when they are combined with the non-social housing activities reported in Part B, the activities/services accounted for more than 5% of your gross turnover or gross capital used over the year 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.'

Secondly, the pre-printed categories listed in Part D were also amended in the RSR 2003 to better reflect the type of services that HAs provided and create broader categories. Analysis of the previous years data had shown that many units that had been included as 'Other' could have been reported in one of the pre-printed categories. The evaluation of the RSR 2002 data had also shown that there were a number of units in Part B that were non-residential and therefore should have been included in Part D, so a non-residential category was included to catch such units. The table below shows how the 2002 categories compare with those in 2003:

2002 Categories	2003 Categories
Maintenance and Improvements; Development Services	Development and management services
Financial services	Corporate services
Domiciliary care services; Homelessness services; Resettlement/outreach	Domiciliary care and support services
Training and employment	Regeneration and community development
	Non-residential units
Other	Other

6. Question H2

In the 2002 return question H2 (percentage increase in weighted average assured and secure rents for self-contained units) was included to allow comparisons with 2001 data. However, it was stated that this question would be deleted in future years and therefore it was removed from the 2003 return.

7. Gender of Governing Body Members

To gain a more detailed picture of Governing Bodies of HAs, a question asking the gender of Governing Body members was included in Part P of the 2003 return.

8. Performance Indicators - Part Q

Due to ongoing discussions with HAs about the difficulty in getting finance related information for the Performance Indicator questions in Part Q, a decision was made to remove the following questions from the RSR 2003, and include them in the financial returns:

- Q1: Management and repair costs: Total expenditure on repairs of all general needs dwellings; and, Total expenditure on management of all general needs dwellings.

- Q2 and Q7: Rent collection and arrears for both general needs and supported housing: Total rent and service charges due for all general needs dwellings in ownership; Total rent and service charges that could not be collected due to empty general needs dwellings; Total rent and service charges collected; Total arrears of rent and service charges of current tenants outstanding from previous years; Total arrears of rent and service charges of current tenants; Estimate of total arrears of current tenants that were due to late payment of housing benefit; Total rent and service charges of current and former tenants which were written off as unrecoverable.

It was also decided that more information on Decent Homes should be included in the 2003 return. The question was therefore expanded to the following:

- Q4: Decent homes – general needs and supported housing reported as owned in Part A: Do you know how many of your homes fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard? If Yes; The number of owned general needs and supported housing dwellings that fail to meet the Decent Homes Standard; and, is there a strategy in place to ensure all of the homes meet the standard by 2010?