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By email to: [ehs@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ehs@communities.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear DCLG

### **English Housing Survey**

This is a response from the Chartered Institute of Housing to the consultation on the future of the English Housing Survey.

We understand the Department's need to look for economies in running its housing research. However, we believe that the possible changes to the EHS should be seen in the light of changes that have already been made to statistical series relating to housing, due to the cuts made by ONS. The EHS has become the default source for many data series, covering a range of issues which are highly relevant to government policy, such as mobility between tenures, overcrowding and under-occupation, energy efficiency, dependency on welfare benefits and many more. Its position as the default source of data when other sources have disappeared or become narrower in their coverage should be a major factor in deciding its future.

For this reason it is very difficult to agree either that the survey should be run every two years or that its scope should be reduced. The yearly cycle produces invaluable annual snapshots at a time when (for example) tenure patterns are shifting rapidly, especially for younger households. Nor is there anything in the scope of the survey which appears to be unnecessary. Indeed, given the changes which the coalition government has made to housing policy (help for first-time buyers, right to buy discounts, the under-occupancy penalty, etc.) it is surely vital that the data series is maintained so the effects of the changes can be seen and evaluated?

The Chartered Institute of Housing makes use of the EHS on a regular, probably daily, basis in its policy, research, educational and PR work. It is very important to have access to authoritative data that are regularly updated, as the EHS data are. Most especially, the EHS is perhaps the single most important source for the annual *UK Housing Review*, which contains around 200 charts and tables, many incorporating or based on EHS data. It would be extremely difficult to maintain the UKHR in its present form, with consistent

comparisons across the UK, without the vital component of the data which the EHS provides.

The Chartered Institute of Housing would therefore like to assure the Department that it regards the EHS as an invaluable source of data and urge that it be maintained in its current form and with the current frequency of publication. Given the scale of government investment in housing – some £30 billion supporting the private sector and some £16 billion in support for affordable housing – its cost is surely a relatively small and very worthwhile item of expenditure.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Perry', written in a cursive style.

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