



National Audit Office

Homelessness

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Homelessness and temporary accommodation – lessons from
local government innovations – 5 September 2017

Our Homelessness report

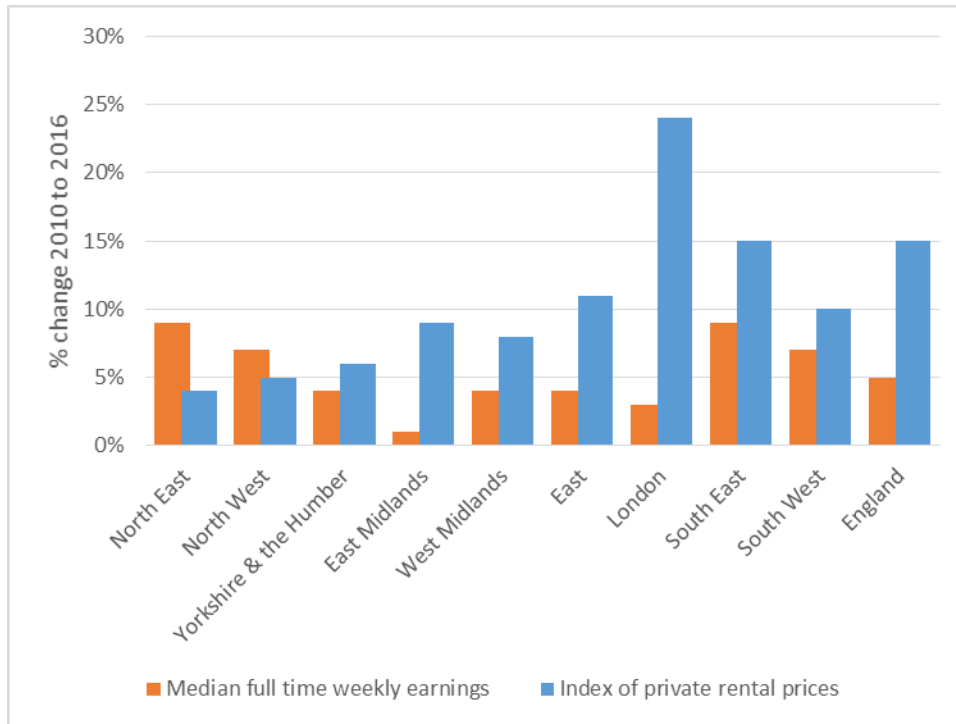
A **value for money** report

Publication is on **Wednesday 13 September**.

There will also be an interactive **data visualisation** released on the same day.

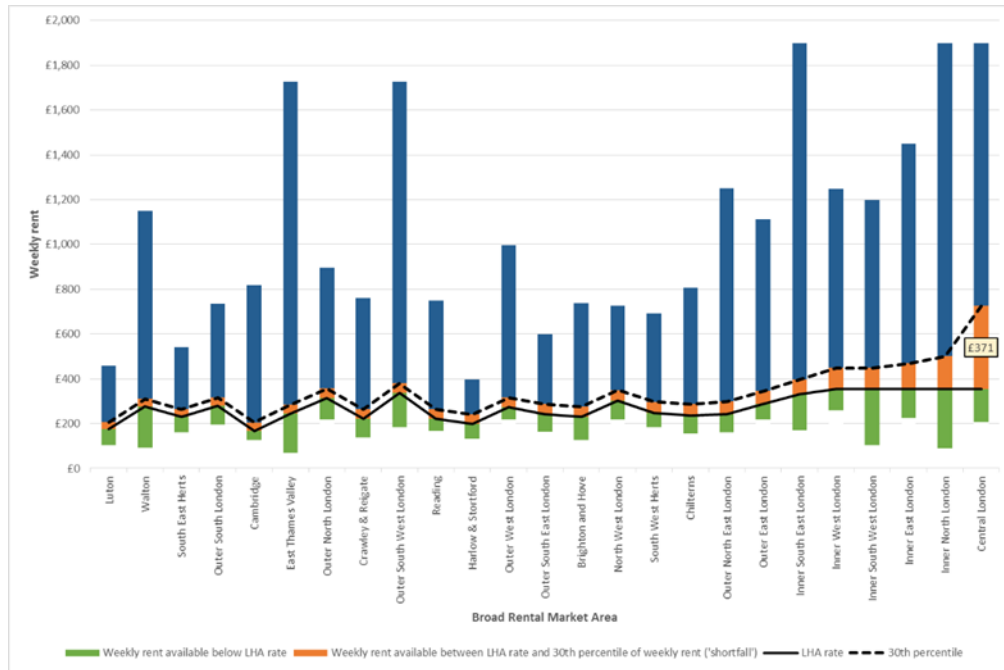
Some of our **key findings** are as follows.

What do we know: **Private renting is becoming less affordable**



Since 2010 rents in the private sector in London have increased by 24%, which is more than eight times the increase in median earnings over the same period.

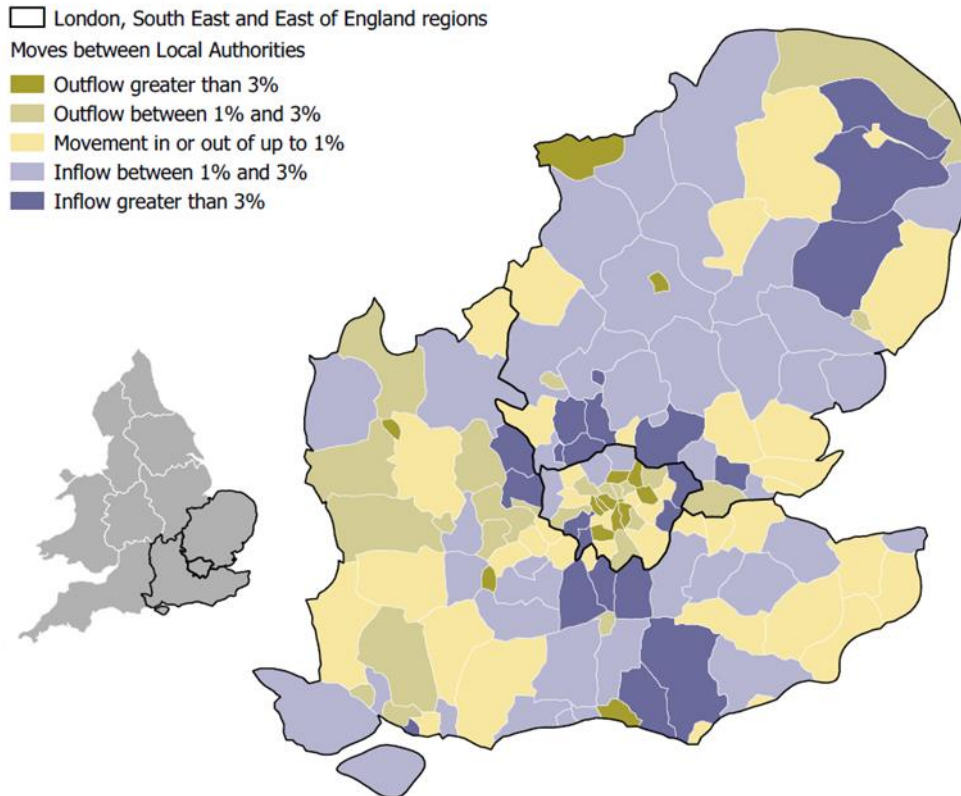
What do we know: **There are shortfalls in LHA**



The cost of renting property at the 30th percentile has increased faster than the Local Housing Allowance rate.

Two thirds of households where Local Housing Allowance applies had a shortfall of some size.

What do we know: **LHA claimants have moved**



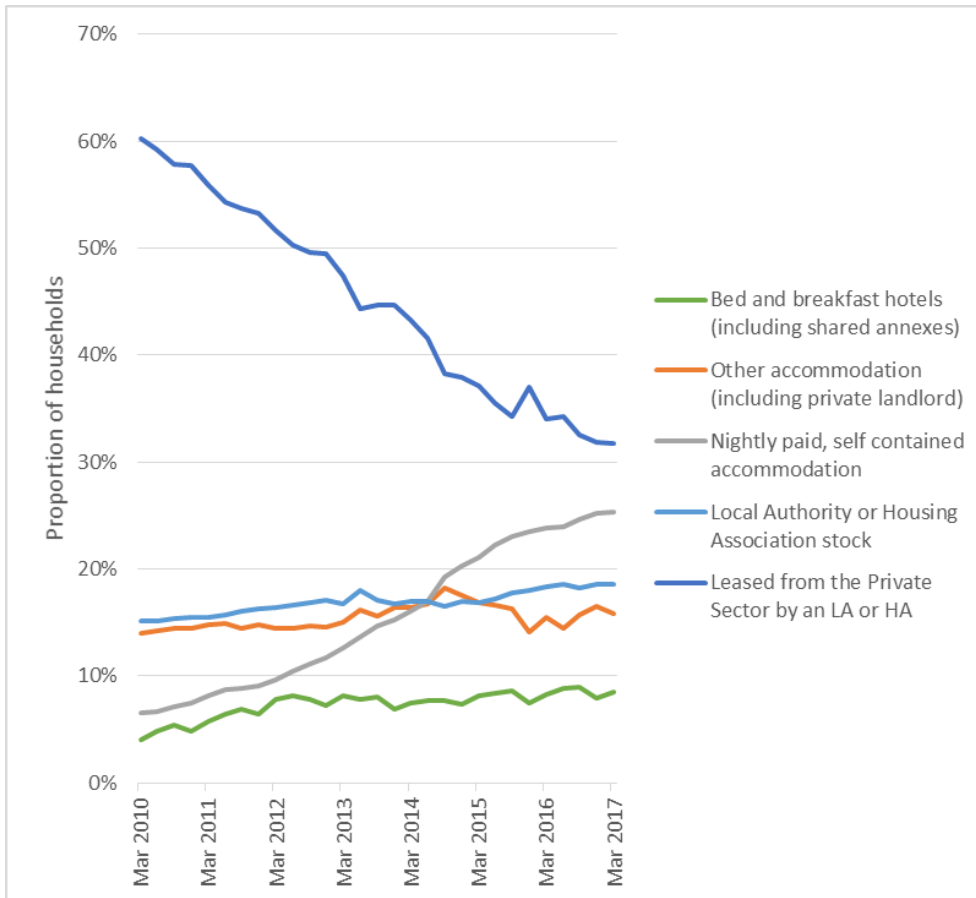
In inner London, 24% of the 35,400 claimants who moved did so to areas where market rents were at least 20% lower. Outside of inner London, only 3% of claimants who moved did so to areas where market rents were at least 20% lower.

Trends: Homelessness is taking up more resource



Local authority spending on homelessness services has increased while overall spending on housing services has decreased.

Trends: More TA is nightly paid & is costing more



A quarter of families in TA were in nightly paid accommodation at the end of 2016-17. As the use of this type of TA has increased, there has been a fall in held on a lease.

Questions...

- Has the government done enough to **evaluate the impact of welfare reform** on homelessness?
- Has the government put the right measures in place to **get the maximum out** of the resources it puts in?
- Is there a **clear strategy** for how it will achieve its objectives relating to homelessness?