

CORE log form changes for 2019/20 for Lettings and Sales

This paper outlines the finalised changes to the CORE lettings and sales log questionnaires for 2019/20 forms, which will go live on 1 April 2019.

Log forms with and with guidance notes plus bulk upload templates for 2019/20 for both lettings and sales are now available from the 'Guides and Manuals' page of the CORE website. The updated CORE manual and data dictionaries for 2019/20 will be published on the same page before the go live date of 1 April 2019.

LETTINGS – Details of Proposals

Question 3 – Household characteristics

Change type: Change of wording to existing question, adding a new response category, and clarifying guidance notes

Proposed changes (in red):

Question: ~~Sex~~ Gender (M/F/X/R)

Response categories: Male, Female, ~~Other~~, Refused

Guidance notes: "~~Sex~~ Gender – Enter 'M' for male; 'F' for female; 'X' for ~~other~~ or 'R' for refused, as defined by the individual"

Rationale for change: The terminology on the form and in the guidance notes does not currently align so it is unclear whether respondents should input sex or gender. A person's sex is binary M/F and is determined by their birth sex unless formally reassigned. A person's gender is as defined by the individual, with broader gender identities beyond M/F. Gender is more relevant than sex for most analysis. Recording gender would also be more inclusive for those who do not identify as male or female and wish to be acknowledged as such (rather than being forced to answer 'refused').

Moving Chinese back to Asian or Asian British will align with the ONS harmonisation principles for ethnicity. Chinese was in this category before last year when it was moved.

Question 3 – Household characteristics

Change type: Re-grouping response categories

Proposed changes (in red):

~~E. Chinese~~ Other ethnic group

Chinese

Arab

Other

C. Asian or Asian British

Indian

Pakistani

Chinese

Other

Rationale for change: Moving Chinese back to Asian or Asian British will align with the ONS harmonisation principles for ethnicity. Chinese was in this category before last year when it was moved.

Question 4 – Armed forces service

Change type: Change of wording to existing question, adding a new response category, and clarifying guidance notes

Proposed changes (in red):

4ai) Has anyone in the household ever served in the UK Armed Forces as a regular or a reserve? (Excluding National Service)

Yes – regular (1), Yes – reserve (4), No (2), Refuse (3)

ii) If they've ever served as a regular, ~~did they leave: have they left within the last 5 years?~~

~~Up to and including 5 years ago (4), More than 5 years ago, (5) Are still serving (6), Refuse (3)~~

4b) Has anyone in the household been seriously injured or ill as a direct result of their time and activities serving as a regular or a reserve?

Yes (1), No (2), Refuse (3)

Rationale for change: The original question did not distinguish between armed forces personnel who had left the forces more than 5 years ago and those who are still serving which is needed for policy analysis. New categories address this.

Question 8 – tenants and partners income

Change type: Changing the question to increase its response rate.

Proposed changes (in red):

Tenants or tenant and partners ~~new weekly~~ income (after tax deductions) **for those receiving Universal Credit**, enter the net ~~weekly~~ income from employment, pensions and Universal Credit. Exclude child benefit, housing element of universal credit and council tax support.

For those not receiving Universal credit, enter net **weekly** income from employment, pensions and other benefits. Exclude housing benefit, child benefit and council tax support.

Please ✓ if Q8 refused Round to nearest £ **Weekly?..., Monthly?..., Annual?...**

Rationale for change: Income has a low response rate for CORE, affecting the quality of the data. The changes to this question would hope to increase the response rate by making it more flexible to how tenants may think about their income. This means detail is not lost and hopefully will increase the level of response. Categorising the possible response was also considered, but this will reduce the accuracy of the data collected and possibly lead to future needs for update as incomes rise. The proposal is to test if this change has a positive effect on the response rate before making bigger changes to how CORE collects income data.

Question 13 – Homelessness

Change type: Change of wording, response categories and guidance notes for an existing question

Proposed changes (in red):

Immediately prior to this letting, was this household...?

Not homeless (1)

~~Found 'statutorily homeless' by a housing authority and owed a main homelessness duty (2)~~

~~Found 'statutorily homeless' by a housing authority but not owed a main homelessness duty (6)~~

Assessed as threatened with homelessness within 56 days by a LA and owed prevention duty (8)

Assessed as homeless by a LA and owed a relief duty (9)

Assessed as unintentionally homeless and having priority need by a LA and owed a homeless main duty (10)

Other homelessness, i.e. not found 'statutorily homeless' by a housing authority but considered to be homeless by the letting landlord (7)

Rationale for change: To align our collection with the definition of homelessness as stated in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, i.e. homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days, and to reflect the amended homeless duties on local authorities introduced as part of the Act.

Question 14b – Reason for Reasonable Preference

Change type: Change of wording to existing question, changing a response category, and clarifying guidance notes

Proposed changes (in red):

If yes, which of the following reasons for Reasonable Preference apply?

- Homeless or about to lose their home (within ~~28~~ 56 days) (1)
- Living in insanitary, overcrowded or unsatisfactory housing (2)
- A need to move on medical and welfare grounds (including a disability) (3)
- A need to move to avoid hardship to themselves or others (4)
- Don't know (5)

Rationale for change: To align our collection with the definition of homelessness as stated in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, i.e. homeless or threatened with homelessness within 56 days.

SALES – Details of Proposals

Question 1 – Household characteristics

Change type: As per question 3 for lettings for both sex/gender and ethnicity

Proposal: As per question 3 for lettings for both sex/gender and ethnicity

Rationale for change: As per question 3 for lettings for both sex/gender and ethnicity

Question 5 – Armed forces service

Change type: As per question 4 for lettings

Proposal: Change of wording to existing question, replacing old question completely with new one.

Proposed changes (in red):

5a) Is the purchaser (or one of the purchasers) ever served in the UK Armed Forces as a regular and...?

Is still serving (4), Left up to and including 2 years ago (5), Left more than 2 years ago (6), No (7), Refuse (8)

5b) Is the purchaser (or one of the purchasers) the spouse or civil partner of a regular member of the UK Armed Forces who has did in service up to and including 2 years ago?

Yes (4), No (5), Refuse (6)

~~5ai) Has anyone in the household ever served in the UK Armed Forces as a regular or a reserve? (Excluding National Service)~~

~~Yes—regular 4 Yes—reserve 4 No 2 Refused 3~~

~~ii) If they've ever served as a regular, have they left within the last five years?~~

~~Yes 4 No 2 Refused 3~~

~~5b. Has anyone in the household been seriously injured or ill as a direct result of their time and activities serving as a regular or a reserve? (Excluding National Service)~~

~~Yes 4 No 2 Refused 3~~

~~5c. Is the purchaser (or one of the purchasers) a member of the UK regular armed forces or have they left the services in the last 12 months?~~

~~Yes 4 No 2~~

Rationale for change: The original questions were not aligned to the requirements for the Armed Forces Covenant. We have included categories that align with policies. We have also looked to simplify the question.