

- 1) I'd like to know how many properties there are in Wigan on a year by year basis from 1990.

This data is all published online via the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities see here: [Live tables on dwelling stock \(including vacants\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/live-tables-on-dwelling-stock-including-vacants)

This data is only from 2009, for anything prior to 2009, this can be found on the national archives [The National Archives](https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk).

- 2) I'd like to know how many of those are social housing/housing association/council houses.

As above, this can be found on the suggested sites.

- 3) I want to know the criteria for giving council/social housing/ housing association properties to people and who gets priority.

**Council/Social housing** – priority is given to applicants for a large range of reasons which can be specifically explained within our allocation policy. Priority is awarded based on individual circumstances. Properties are allocated on a 'Needs' or 'Times' basis. Properties allocated on a 'Needs' basis are offered to the applicant with the highest band/level of points who meet the property criteria. Properties allocated on a 'Times' basis are allocated with preference to council tenants who have been on the housing register the longest (only 10 per cent of properties are allocated in this way)

**Housing association properties** – the rules differ on these properties based on the registered provider who owns the property. The housing association will send across an advertisement request which highlights the property type, bedrooms but also any specific criteria which needs to be met by the person being offered the property. This is set and managed by the Housing association themselves. Some properties have a Local lettings policy which needs to be adhered too. A Local lettings policy is created usually for new build properties and is agreed between the council and the housing association. It highlights what percentage of applicants we send over who meet a certain criteria.

- 4) I want to know what policy/criteria/rule you have for giving social housing/housing association/council houses to people not from the area.

Within our policy we have a local connection rule. Applications from households who have no local connection with Wigan Borough will be accepted onto the Housing Register provided the household contains eligible persons, but will be placed in Group C or in Group B with their points reduced to 2 if they are seen to have a housing need.

(ii) Local Connection for applicants who live outside the Borough as defined by this policy is a connection the applicant has with the Wigan Borough because he/she:

- a. needs to give or receive support or
- b. for employment where commuting is a problem and has lived in the UK for at least 5 years or
- c. Was born in the Borough and spent most of their life in the Borough or
- d. Lived in the Borough for at least 5 out of the last 10 years or
- e. Has parents or siblings who have lived in the Borough most of their life or
- f. for hardship reasons or other special circumstance

If a person is deemed to have a local connection and falls into the criteria set above, they will not remain in Group C or have reduced points for this reason. They are eligible to bid on any properties which they meet the criteria for and will be offered these properties if they come in turn.

Housing association properties follow our ruling on local connection.

- 5) I want to know what policy/criteria/rule you have for giving social housing/housing association/council houses to people on student visas.

Students on a student visa who are under 18 would not be eligible for social housing as they do not meet the legal age to hold a tenancy.

Students who have a student visa who are over this age, will be accepted onto the housing register on the provision that evidence is provided to show that they have leave to remain in the United Kingdom.

- 6) I want to know how many houses are being built and projected number of houses in Wigan by the year 2025. This includes submitted plans for housing estates, housing estates currently being built and recently built ones.

The number of homes (houses and flats) built in Wigan in recent years is set out in Figure 3.1 of the [Wigan Authority Monitoring Report](#). Appendix A of the [Wigan Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment](#) sets out a housing trajectory that shows projected housing growth each year (01 April – 31 March) to 2025 and beyond. An updated Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment will be published later this year.