

Response ID ANON-RUQD-RP22-2

Submitted to Consultation: Traveller Caravan Count Statistics
Submitted on 2025-12-18 12:04:56

Proposal A: To reduce the frequency of data collection to a single annual snapshot

Question 1a Do you agree with the proposal to move the Traveller Caravan Count from a bi-annual to annual collection and statistical release?

No

Question 1b Please provide us with more detail on your response here

Text box to provide more explanation for why the answer to question 1a was selected:

It is necessary to collect data twice per year due to the seasonal nature of nomadic life. Though it is true that the difference in numbers between the two counts (winter and summer) is small, this partly is a consequence of the suppression of the nomadic way of life. This cause is evident in the fact that the difference is biggest in relation to the type of caravans which are stationed in unauthorised locations. As experts in the field, we need to be able to monitor improvements in the accommodation of nomadic living, including by tolerating caravans parked in unauthorised locations. Absent the bi-annual count, the only source of data about seasonal nomadism would come from negative coverage in local news about Gypsy and Traveller "incursions" in the summer. To sum up, it is both good practice to adapt the method of collecting data to the nature of the social phenomenon that is studied, and it is also a key component in the protection of a population with a protected characteristic which is expressed in seasonal nomadism. Therefore, the count should continue to be conducted bi-annually.

Question 2a Do you have a preference for retaining the summer or the winter count?

Not Answered

Question 2b Please provide us with more detail on your response here

Text box to provide more explanation for why the answer to question 2a was selected:

We ask for both counts to be retained.

Proposal B: To stop collecting data at site level for all caravan site types

Question 3a Do you support the proposal for MHCLG to stop collecting and publishing site-level data for socially rented sites?

Oppose - site-level data adds value but I could adapt to local authority-level data

Question 3b Please provide us with more detail on your response here, especially with regard to how you use the site level data for socially rented sites

Text box to provide more explanation for why the answer to question 3a was selected:

We obtain site-level data from site visits ourselves when we need it so we would need additional resources - in a context where resources for small charities are scarce - in order to conduct site visits consistently. We do need site-level data so as to monitor overcrowding as hidden homelessness, and to advise on reducing fire risks on sites. Councils often rely on our advice to manage these aspects of socially rented sites.

Proposal C: Discontinue the collection of specific data items for socially rented sites

Question 4a Do you support the proposal for MHCLG to discontinue collection and publication of data on the year socially rented sites opened and were refurbished?

Strongly oppose - I rely on this data for my work

Question 4b Please provide more detail on your response here, especially with regard to how you use these specific data items

Text box to provide more explanation for why the answer to question 4a was selected:

We campaign for more additional sites to rectify the under-supply, and for refurbishment of derelict sites. We rely on the caravan count as an authoritative source of information for our campaigns. This is part of the democratic decision-making process and the scrutiny of the planning process, since the requirement to audit existing sites and address repair issues through regular refurbishments is part of the London Plan Policy H14 (as well as national Decent Home Standards), which needs to be met for a local plan to be sound. As far as we know, no audit of any site has been conducted in London since the London Plan was passed in 2021.

Proposal D: Discontinue collection of data on Travelling Showpeople (TSP) caravans

Question 5a Do you support the proposal for MHCLG to discontinue collecting and publishing Travelling Showpeople data once a year?

Oppose - Travelling Showpeople data adds value but I could adapt

Question 5b Please provide us with more detail on your response here, especially with regard to how you use the Travelling Showpeople data

Text box to provide more explanation for why the answer to question 5a was selected:

Our organisation does not often work on travelling showpeople sites but when we do, as in Bromley and Camden, there is a shocking lack of data and we need the caravan count to fill that gap.

Proposal E: Move the question on New Affordable Residential pitches to LAHS

Question 6a Do you support the proposal that the questions on New Affordable Residential pitches be moved to another data collection (such as LAHS) and published as part of a different statistical release?

Strongly oppose - moving the questions would negatively impact my work

Question 6b Please provide more detail on your response here

Text box to provide more explanation for why the answer to question 6a was selected:

The question of new affordable pitches should be collected in the caravan count, as it is a simple sub-question to the question of new pitches in general. In London, the catastrophic undersupply is specifically in the area of affordable homes, of which culturally suitable accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers are but one type. The data can also, additionally, be shared with the LAHS as part of their statistical research.

About you

7a Please select the option that best describes your work

NGO or charity

7b Would you be willing for us to contact you for further information to better understand your views?

Yes

About you - contact information

7c Please provide your email address so that we can arrange a follow up conversation if required

Text box to provide email address if you consent to a follow up conversation to better understand your views:
policy@londongandt.org.uk