

User feedback on proposed changes to the Monthly Property Transaction publication

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) are currently reviewing the presentation of all our property publications with the aim of standardising and improving the outputs. Starting with our [Monthly Property Transactions release](#), we will be altering the format to make it consistent with other HMRC publications. This will include the removal of the quarterly tables; the addition of a commentary section on trends and patterns; an explanation of the methodology used to derive the figures; and a detailing of our policy for revisions.

Please note that we are not intending to change the methodology or scope of the statistics so the figures in the new release will be directly comparable to historic publications.

Before implementing these changes we would like to invite comments or suggestions on our proposals from our statistics users. The following questions give a bit more detail about some issues you might like to consider:

1. What do you use the Monthly Property Transactions statistics for? What decisions do they help inform?
2. The new format of the release will be similar to HMRC's Hydrocarbon Oils Duties Bulletin, which you can find here:

[Hydrocarbon Oils Bulletin](#)

Does this new format meet your needs? If not, how could we improve it?

3. We will be changing the rounding conventions for the data, presenting values to the nearest hundred or ten transactions rather than the nearest thousand. Would you find this useful and what would your preference be?
4. We will include commentary and charts on trends and patterns in the data, with month on month and year on year comparisons. What issues would you like the commentary to address? Are there any charts you would find particularly useful?
5. We will be adding background information on Stamp Duty Land Tax, the methodology used in producing the statistics, and links to other relevant statistical publications. Would this information be useful and what information or references would you like to see included?
6. Data for the latest two months is always incomplete and thus subject to significant revision. Minor changes are also often made to historic data. As part of the changes, we will be setting out our revisions policy and including a log of significant revisions. We will also publish analysis of the expected size of revisions. Would this information be of use?
7. To simplify the publication, we will be removing the quarterly property transaction count tables and just publishing monthly and annual figures. We feel the quarterly table adds little value and can still be derived from the monthly figures. What are your views on this?

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Closing date for responses: 8 February 2013