

Open the door to a decent home for all this Christmas



24 facts that highlight the importance of solving the rent crisis in Wales:

1. In 2020, 205,000 homes in Wales were rented from a private landlord, more than double the number twenty years ago.
2. A quarter of privately rented homes have some sort of hazard, with by far the most common being cold, damp and fire risk.
3. A typical privately rented home costs £3.50 a week more to heat than a typical social home.
4. The average price of an owner-occupied home in Wales is £196,216 - nearly 7 times the salary of a typical full-time worker.
5. In the last year just 442 new 1-bedroom homes were built for social rent.
6. Average house prices have gone up by 15.4% in the last year – more than twice as fast as the increase in average wages.
7. A family of two adults, a 15-year-old and a 9-month-old baby are only entitled to a two-bedroom home if they want help with private rent costs.
8. The maximum amount of help that an under 35-year-old can get for a private rental is the cost of a room in a shared house or flat.
9. One in twenty houses and a quarter of flats in Wales do not have access to private outdoor space.
10. Article 25.1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights gives every man, woman and child the right to adequate housing.
11. On 31 August 2021, 6,817 people in Wales were in temporary accommodation because they were homeless.
12. There are 25,700 long-term empty homes in Wales. Carmarthenshire, Swansea and Rhondda Cynon Taf have the largest number of empty properties.

13. The peak year for building social housing was 1975/76. More homes were built in that one year than in the seven years from 2011 to 2018.

14. The oldest house in Wales is Hafodygarreg in Powys. Its cruck-truss dates from Owain Glyndŵr's revolt of summer 1402.

15. There are at least 24,900 second homes in Wales. Two-thirds of all second homes are in Gwynedd, Pembrokeshire and Cardiff.

16. Homes in Newport and Cardiff are nearly twice as likely to have an energy efficiency score of C or above than in Gwynedd, Ynys Mon, Ceredigion and Denbighshire.

17. 40,000 social tenants in Wales have been pushed into poverty by above-inflation rent rises.

18. When an asylum seeker is granted leave to remain in Wales they have just 28 days to find accommodation – often it is much less.

19. Since 1980, 155,669 social homes have been sold. The peak years for sales were 1981- 83 when 273 homes a week were sold.

20. Cardiff has the highest proportion of privately rented homes in Wales at 20.3%. Torfaen has the lowest, at 9.3%.

21. The average rent of a 2-bedroom house provided by a housing association is £26 a week cheaper than the median rent of a 2-bedroom property rented from a private landlord.

22. Wales' tallest residential building is Meridian Tower in Swansea at 350ft high. It could soon be overtaken by several proposed tower blocks in Cardiff – Custom House Street Tower will be 433 ft tall when built.

23. More than four in ten private tenants do not have a fixed term tenancy, making them vulnerable to 'no fault' eviction e.g. if they ask for repairs.

24. There are 160 homes in the village of Bethlehem, Carmarthenshire, almost all detached. There's also a holiday cottage you can rent called Y Stabl (The Stable)!