

Rough Sleeping Snapshot Estimates 2020

National Lockdown FAQs

Will our chosen November night still be a 'typical' night?

We recognise that this year the night will not be 'typical' due to the global pandemic and with the new national lockdown throughout November. You are still able to go ahead with your chosen night, ensuring that no other circumstances would affect the night. For example, please continue to check weather forecasts and look at alternative dates if severe weather is looking likely on your night. The night not being 'typical' due to the pandemic will be made clear in the statistical release in 2021.

Are we able to complete our planned count-based estimate?

Yes. We are not asking local authorities to cancel their planned count-based estimates in the first instance. You must ultimately follow the Government COVID-19 advice and complete a COVID-19 risk assessment on the count. Local authorities must be confident they are able to carry out the count safely. However, if the count cannot be carried out safely then we would advise you look at completing an alternative approach. Local authorities can change their approach at their own discretion.

Please update Homeless Link (verifiers@homelesslink.org.uk) if your approach, or any aspect of your approach, changes.

Please make sure local Police are aware of the count taking place in your area. However, please emphasise to the Police that they should not share this date with anyone as this creates the possibility of disruption, resulting in a possible less accurate snapshot figure.

What about our spotlight count due to take place?

Again, spotlight counts are able to go ahead during this period. Please follow the advice noted above for the count-based estimates.

What will verification look like?

Verification will remain broadly the same. We have added extra questions this year on the verification forms related to COVID-19. All count-based estimates will still be verified, in person, by a Homeless Link Verifier. The remaining local authorities (choosing to complete either an evidence-based estimate or an evidence-based estimate, including a spotlight count) will be verified in one of two ways:

1. The estimate meeting will be attended by a Homeless Link Verifier (10% of estimate meetings across England)
2. Telephone verification to be arranged via the verifiers@homelesslink.org.uk email

If your approach changes from an original plan of a count-based estimate then a Homeless Link Verifier will be attending your estimate meeting. The Verifier will also be contacting a couple of the agencies involved in the approach separately, in order to complete verification of your snapshot estimate. Please keep Homeless Link up-to-date with all details of your estimate meeting.

Please contact Homeless Link (verifiers@homelesslink.org.uk) if your approach changes and/or you have any other issues or queries.