Newsletter December 2021

Get the latest information about the Local Land Charges (LLC) Programme and the migration of local authorities' data to the central LLC Register.

LLC Programme wins geospatial award

We are delighted to have won Geospatial Innovation of the Year in the Digital Leaders 100 Awards 2021. These awards celebrate individuals and organisations who demonstrate a pioneering and sustainable approach to digital transformation in the UK.

While we are incredibly proud of the industry recognition, we are also grateful to local authorities and other stakeholders for working with us to create a truly transformational service. We are confident that through our concerted effort we will achieve our migration ambition and become an exemplar for digital transformation in the UK.

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What next for our delivery partners?

In June, we embarked on a robust mobilisation strategy with two Migration Services Delivery Partners (MSDPs), Cyient Europe and Landmark Information Group. During mobilisation, our team of experts spent six months sharing their tools, processes and knowledge with our new partners. We began working in tandem to embed this learning in November to ensure the MSDPs could work independently from next spring. It is our intention that Landmark and Cyient will undertake the majority of the data transformation work when the tandem-working transition is complete.

Arcus Global is our latest software supplier to begin working with local authorities. They will progress migrations alongside ldox, NEC, DEF and Agile Applications. These suppliers manage the data extraction, importation and creation of the local authority Application Programming Interface (API) integration services. We assign suppliers to authorities whose software systems are compatible with their tools. To increase our capacity and ensure every local authority IT system can be assessed prior to migration, we are developing the LLC knowledge of the software suppliers Civica, Ocella and StatMap.

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Wales to begin migrations in 2022

Our migration plans for Wales are well underway. All 22 local authorities have signed the Terms of Collaboration (ToC) agreement, and 13 have already begun their migration journey.

We are excited that we can support the remaining nine Welsh authorities through the first stage of migration, now the ToC agreements are signed. These agreements give us authority to assess their LLC data and to start work to make sure it meets our data standards. We expect Swansea, Cardiff and Gwynedd councils to migrate to the national register in 2022.

Swansea's Operations Lead, Andrew Pitson said:

"The migration process started off relatively low key, until our data needed to be assessed. Of the 25,000 paper planning files sent to HM Land Registry for scanning, they identified 10,000 had missing spatial data. HMLR worked hard to support us, creating the missing records that we then verified. We finished cleansing our data just before the November deadline and now have a robust dataset. From our perspective, the main benefit of this project is a cleaner Total Local Charges system for us, which will also ensure HMLR receives quality data in the future."

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Allison Bradbury Head of Local Land Charges Implementation



It's been 12 months since the Welsh Government decided to support the Local Land Charges (Fees) consultation. Since that time:

- the Local Land Charges (Fees) (Wales) Rules 2021 was introduced, making it possible for Welsh local authorities to transfer their LLC services to the national LLC Register from 1 April 2021;
- we have obtained support from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) for New Burdens principles and Compensation protocols; and
- HM Land Registry support material and the Search service on GOV.UK have been made available in a bi-lingual format.

The national register provides immediate and lasting benefit to property buyers and local authorities. When the Welsh migration is complete, LLC data users will be able view searches across local authority boundaries instantly and Wales will benefit from the economic and social benefits accessible and transparent data offers.

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Migration Hub feedback

Last December, we launched our Migration Hub. This replaced our old Knowledge Hub platform and was designed to allow users to access LLC information simply and quickly.

A year later, the Migration Hub has become the central source of information for local authorities. Information about every stage of the migration process is freely available, along with training material, videos, case studies, best practice guidance and the latest news.

We want to support authorities to have a smooth migration journey and help you to access the information you need when it is convenient. We are constantly looking for ways to improve the user experience and your feedback is important to us. Please <u>contact us</u> if you have a questions or need assistance.

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Events

November was a busy month for our events calendar. After months of lockdown, we had several opportunities to meet stakeholders and customers face-to-face at the LegalEx, Society of Licensed Conveyancers (SLC), Property Law and the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) Compliance conferences.

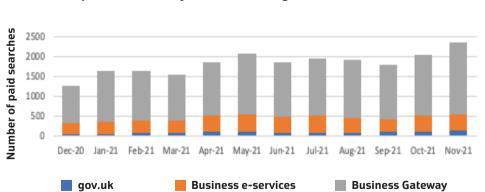
As the pace of local authority migrations accelerate, we want to create more opportunities for you to ask questions. Our meeting with personal search companies at the Association of Independent Personal Search Agents (IPSA) conference provided such an opportunity for us to support their members as they consider regulating the industry.

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Service statistics

Pendle and Scarborough are the latest councils to join the national register, bringing the total number of migrated authorities to 26. As the migration pace increases our suppliers and partners are enhancing our delivery capacity. We will continue to support local authorities to achieve smooth and timely migrations.

With 26 local authorities in the register by the end of November, we are seeing increased search activity that nearly doubles the levels recorded in November 2020. These increments show how more people in migrated areas are benefiting from easier, quicker and cheaper transactions from the LLC Register.



Number of paid searches by channel for migrated local authorities

This graph illustrates the number of official searches purchased through HM Land Registry's business channels for migrated local authorities.

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Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and will be used to improve and refine our service. Please contact our team with your comments.

Kind regards

A J Bradbury

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