

Welsh Government

Consultation Document

Future content and approach to data collection for the Welsh Health Survey (WHS)

Date of issue: 21 May 2014

Action required: Responses by 13 August 2014

Overview	This consultation is about the future content and approach to data collection for the Welsh Health Survey.
How to respond	<p>Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed/posted to the address below to arrive by 13 August 2014.</p> <p>A consultation document and response form can be accessed from the Welsh Government's website at www.wales.gov.uk/consultations</p>
Further information and related documents	<p>Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.</p> <p>Information on the Welsh Health Survey can be accessed at: http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/welsh-health-survey/?lang=en</p> <p>To be added to the Welsh Health Survey distribution list please contact: stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p>
Contact details	<p>Health Statistics and Analysis Team Welsh Government Cathays Park Cardiff CF10 3NQ</p> <p>stats.healthinfo@wales.gsi.gov.uk</p> <p>029 2082 6710</p>

Data protection

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

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1. Introduction

The Welsh Health Survey (WHS) provides unique information about the health and health-related lifestyles of people living in Wales. It covers a range of health-related issues, including health status, lifestyle and health behaviours, and health service use. The survey was established in October 2003 and runs all year round.

The survey is commissioned and analysed by statisticians and researchers at the Welsh Government and is designated as National Statistics. National Statistics are produced to high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice. They undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs, and are produced free from any political interference.

Information on the WHS and its outputs is available on the Welsh Government website: www.wales.gov.uk/statistics

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views of WHS users on the future content and approach to data collection for the survey. Consultation will provide an opportunity to consider options to maximise value for money of the existing WHS budget or potential for savings.

We are consulting at this stage to allow time for using consultation responses to inform the development of options for the WHS beyond 2015 and also to inform wider consideration of the survey landscape in Wales. The existing WHS contract will end on completion of the 2015 fieldwork.

Running alongside this consultation is a wider review of surveys with the aim of considering future options for carrying out large-scale surveys in Wales. The review covers large-scale social surveys commissioned by the Welsh Government and some WG funded bodies, as well as some other less frequent surveys, and includes the Welsh Health Survey. The review will be considering whether there is scope to combine, or streamline, some surveys to deliver the robust, detailed information that is needed as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible. Information from this WHS consultation will be considered alongside this wider review of surveys.

This work should ensure that what is collected in the future, in whatever form, provides a valuable and robust source of information, while delivering value for money.

This document includes options for consideration designed to stimulate thought. Tick-boxes and comment boxes are placed at the appropriate point within the document and are summarised in Annex A. Respondents are not required to complete all boxes if they prefer not to do so.

The consultation is open to all individuals and organisations.

A summary of responses received to this consultation will be published later in 2014.

The consultation exercise begins on 21 May 2014 and 13 August 2014 is the deadline for responses.

2. Users and uses of WHS

The Welsh Health Survey provides unique information about the health and health-related lifestyles of people living in Wales. It covers a range of health-related issues, including health status, lifestyle and health behaviours, and health service use. It presents a picture of the health of the Welsh population, variations between sub-groups and areas, and changes over time, and makes an important contribution to informing and monitoring public health strategy in Wales.

We are interested in finding out more about who users of WHS are.

Please complete the following details:

Name:		Email address:	
Organisation:		Telephone number:	
Type of respondent organisation: <i>please click the appropriate box</i>			
Welsh Government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Private sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
National government other than WG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Academia	<input type="checkbox"/>
Welsh Government Sponsored Body	<input type="checkbox"/>	Media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local government	<input type="checkbox"/>	Member of the public	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (<i>please specify</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Charity or voluntary organisation	<input type="checkbox"/>		
If we wanted to talk to you further about the Welsh Health Survey may we contact you? (<i>please enter your email address or phone number</i>)			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
			No <input type="checkbox"/>
Would you like your details to be added to our contact list to be kept informed of WHS related developments?			Yes <input type="checkbox"/>
			No <input type="checkbox"/>

We are interested in finding out more about the purposes for which the WHS is used.

How useful do you find the WHS?			
Very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quite useful	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't use	<input type="checkbox"/>
What do you use it for? (Tick all that apply)			
National estimates of health and health-related lifestyle			<input type="checkbox"/>
Examine results for local areas			<input type="checkbox"/>
Examine differences between population sub-groups			<input type="checkbox"/>
Evidence to inform and monitor targets, indicators and policies			<input type="checkbox"/>
Information to plan services			<input type="checkbox"/>
Research & analysis			<input type="checkbox"/>

Allocate resource	<input type="checkbox"/>
Make decisions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Develop policy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evaluate outcomes or manage performance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other <i>If other please specify:</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please describe in more detail how you use the WHS:	
<p>Please give specific examples of how you have used the Welsh Health Survey to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate resource • Make decisions • Develop policy • Evaluate outcomes or manage performance <p><i>Please indicate at what geographical level this work was undertaken</i></p>	
<p>Would you like to use the WHS for some purpose but are currently unable to do so? <i>If so please specify what and why</i></p>	
<p>Please let us know if you have any other comments about use and usefulness of the WHS</p>	
<p>If the WHS was not available, what impact would this have on your work (please indicate any financial impact too)?</p>	

3. Content of WHS

The survey relies on self-completion questionnaires. The results, therefore, reflect people’s own understanding and recording of their health, health-related behaviours and use of health services. By their nature, self-completion questionnaires need to be very clear, and ask short and simple questions in a way that is easy to understand. Questions need to be suitable for the general population, be useful to a wide range of users and fit together well to form a coherent overall survey. Given the desire not to place too much burden on respondents (which also helps attain high response rates), the current WHS keeps the number of questions to a minimum while aiming to cover the main topics of interest.

The main topics/modules of the survey focus on:

- health status, illnesses, and other conditions - findings for general health status (including the SF-36 set of questions), a range of reported illnesses (including high blood pressure, heart condition or respiratory illness), and other conditions (such as eyesight or hearing difficulty).
- health-related lifestyle - findings on reported lifestyle behaviours, including smoking, drinking, fruit and vegetable consumption, physical activity, and body mass index.
- health service use - findings on reported use of a range of health services including talking to a GP or using a dentist. It also includes information about medicines.
- health of children - findings on the general health, health-related lifestyle and service use of children.

We are interested in finding out more about use of specific variables within WHS data.

	How useful is the topic?				How frequent is it needed?			
	Very	Quite	Not very	Don't use	Every year	Every 2-3 years	Less frequent	Don't mind
Adults:								
General health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health status	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illnesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other conditions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Untreated symptoms	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Smoking	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fruit and vegetables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Body Mass Index	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

GP services use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hospital services use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other health services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Medicines	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Subjective wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Children:								
General health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Illnesses	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eating habits	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Physical activity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health service use	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please let us know about any other topics you feel should be included in the WHS <i>Please specify topic, frequency, and why it is needed</i></p>								
<p>Please let us know if you have any other comments about content of the WHS <i>Please include any topics no longer needed and thoughts about current balance of questions across main areas</i></p>								

The content of the WHS has been largely the same since it was established in 2003, with the inclusion of questions on the health of children in 2007 and changes to adults' health-related behaviour questions in 2008.

A consideration for the future is the introduction of core and rotating modules. This follows an approach, used by the Health Survey for England and Scottish Health Survey, to ask core questions every year and ask rotating modules of questions less frequently. Rotating modules would allow for greater coverage of issues, greater responsiveness and for the inclusion of more detailed questions. However, topics included in modules would be more limited in terms of the frequency of data collection, the availability of trend data and in the scope for sub-group analysis (for those sub-groups where estimates are produced by aggregating more than one year of survey data).

We are interested in finding out more about views on introducing core and rotating modules.

Please let us know your views on the benefits or otherwise of introducing core and rotating modules

Please let us know about any topics you think would be suitable as rotating modules and what should be retained as core information

4. Sample design of WHS data collection

The WHS is based on a representative sample of people living in private households in Wales. The survey currently aims to achieve a total sample of around 15,000 adults, with at least 600 adults in each local authority, and 3,000 children on an annual basis.

Sample design and size are central to considerations on maximising value for money of the existing WHS budget and potential for savings. The current sample design allows the production of survey estimates at local authority level following the oversampling of smaller authorities and the aggregation of two years' data. The aggregation of two years' data also allows for the production of local health board level estimates. Sample size also influences what other sub-groups of the population can be robustly analysed (e.g. commonly used sub-groups for WHS include age & sex, deprivation quintiles, socio-economic groups, etc). In some cases, it may be necessary to aggregate data from more than one year to produce robust estimates.

Reducing the sample size is an option to potentially reduce financial costs (or place more emphasis on other aspects of the survey such as more detailed content or additional analysis). However, doing so would mean that estimates may not be available as frequently at local authority and might also limit some other sub-group analyses that could be done.

We are interested in finding out more about sub-Wales level reporting of WHS results.

Sub-group:	How useful is the sub-group?				How frequent is it needed?			
	Very	Quite	Not very	Don't use	Every year	Every 2-3 years	Less frequent	Don't mind
Local authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local health board	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Age & sex	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deprivation quintiles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
NS-SEC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other..please specify	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
What would be the impact if sub-groups were no longer available or were available less frequently?								
What other sub-groups are you interested in? <i>Please specify sub-group and why it is needed</i>								

Please let us know if you have any other comments about sub-groups of the WHS

Please include any examples of how you have used sub-group information

Would information for larger areas rather than existing local authorities be sufficient?

If not, what more would be needed and why?

5. Frequency of WHS data collection and trends over time

The WHS was established in October 2003 and is currently an annual survey, with fieldwork running all year round on a calendar year basis.

This allows for annual publication of results. WHS data can therefore be used to look at trends over time with (up to) ten years of survey data available so far. Where questions stay the same, it is also possible to aggregate results from more than one year to increase sample size and produce more robust estimates for sub-groups (such as local authorities and health boards).

Changing survey methods and questions can help to keep pace with latest developments and interests, but can also lead to the loss of trend information. A balance is therefore sometimes needed between maintaining continuity of trend information and reflecting changing interests.

As already mentioned a consideration for the future is the introduction of core and rotating modules. This would allow for the annual collection of core information and less frequent collection of other information. A wider range of information would be collected but less trend data would be available.

We are interested in finding out more about frequency of WHS data collection and trends.

How useful is it to have an annual update of results for key topics?							
Very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quite useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not very useful	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't use	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Please explain</i>							
What would the impact be if WHS data were collected less frequently than annually?							
<i>Please explain</i>							
How important is the ability to examine WHS trends to your work?							
Very important	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quite important	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not very important	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't use	<input type="checkbox"/>
What impact would losing continuity of trends have on your work?							
Please let us know if you have any views on relative merits of consistency in approach (to maintain trends) versus regular development (to better reflect current interests)							

Please let us know if you have any other comments about frequency of WHS data collection and/or trends

6. Availability of WHS results

Initial national results for key measures from WHS are published in May each year following the calendar year to which they relate. This is followed in September by an Annual Report, which presents more detailed results. The main chapters of the report focus on health status, illness, and other conditions; health-related lifestyle; health service use; and health of children. Survey findings for adults are presented in more detail, including breakdowns by age and sex. For a selection of key measures, socio-demographic breakdowns are also shown, along with comparisons with earlier years. Methods and definitions are shown at the end of each main chapter; and there is a chapter covering technical aspects of the survey.

A separate bulletin is published alongside the Annual Report showing key findings from the WHS at local authority and local health board level. This bulletin uses data from the latest two survey years combined to improve the precision of the estimates due to the larger sample size used. Also published annually is a technical report, providing detailed information on the survey methodology, and a quality report, which details how the survey adheres to measures of quality, is published less frequently.

A range of WHS tables are published online, in either Excel documents or on StatsWales, to accompany latest results. Additional online tables are published from time to time, such as local authority and local health board level results broken down by broad age groups. Ad-hoc statistical bulletins on specific topics are also published occasionally. Recent bulletins have been on Health of carers and Physical Activity.

We are interested in finding out more about which outputs are used and how useful they are.

	How useful is the output?				
	Very	Quite	Not very	Don't use	
Initial results	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Annual Report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
LA / LHB bulletin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Technical report	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Trend tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
StatsWales tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	How useful do you find particular information?				
Commentary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Charts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Have you used any additional online tables? <i>If so please specify which and how useful they were</i>				Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
				No	<input type="checkbox"/>

<p>Have you used any ad-hoc statistical bulletins? <i>If so please specify which and any comments you have</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
<p>Please let us know about any topics you would like to suggest for future statistical bulletins should resources allow</p>		
<p>Would you find it useful if data visualisation / infographics in outputs were developed? <i>If so please specify what in particular you would like and, given limited resources, would this be in addition or instead of existing provision</i></p>		
<p>Please let us know if you have any other comments about WHS outputs <i>Please detail what you think of outputs and how they could be improved</i></p>		

Some additional information may be produced on request, subject to the availability of resources, data quality and robustness, and provided the confidentiality of respondents is preserved.

We are interested in finding out more about additional WHS information requested.

<p>Have you requested additional information from the WHS team? <i>If so please comment on the service received</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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An anonymised version of the main dataset, together with supporting documentation, is deposited with the UK Data Archive each year (some information is removed to ensure confidentiality is preserved). These datasets may be accessed by registered users for specific research projects. The UK Data Archive can be accessed via the UK Data Service website. From time to time, researchers may wish to analyse more detailed data than is available from the UK Data Archive. Requests for such data are considered by the WHS team on a case by case basis.

We are interested in finding out more about WHS datasets.

<p>Have you used WHS datasets? <i>If so please specify for what purpose and how useful you found them</i></p>	<p>Yes No</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p>
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Taking part in the WHS allows for the provision of information about the health and health-related lifestyles of people living in Wales. For 2013 and 2014, the Welsh Government also asks respondents for consent for the NHS in Wales and a Welsh Government funded research unit at Swansea University to link their survey answers to other records that the NHS and other public organisations hold (e.g. GP, hospital, and education records) in a completely secure and anonymised manner.

Linking survey answers to other records gives extra information that can be used to understand differences in health. The anonymous linked data will be made available to researchers from organisations like Universities and local authorities for projects that have been approved by the Welsh Government. Experience to date suggests that asking respondents for consent to link their survey answers reduces response rates to the survey slightly and so the benefits of the ability to link need to be balanced against the slightly lower response / smaller sample size.

We are interested in finding out more about potential uses of linkage.

What benefit would you find in linking WHS to other data sources?

Please detail any specific need you have identified

7. Priorities

We would like to ensure any future approach to our surveys continues to meet user needs while delivering good value for money. Factors such as sample size, frequency of conducting the survey, survey content, and amount of analysis / reporting all affect both the information available from the survey and its cost.

To help us decide the best option in the future, and to adapt if the structure of the survey or funding changes, please indicate how important each of the following aspects is to you.

We are interested in finding out more about priorities for the WHS.

	How important is the aspect?				
	Very Important	Important	Quite important	Not very important	Not at all important
Sample size	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Frequency of survey	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ability to add additional questions	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Continuity of trends	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Amount and depth of analysis published	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please let us know if you have any other comments on WHS priorities and preferences for the survey					
Would you consider funding questions or sample boost in future surveys? <i>If so please give further details</i>				Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
				No	<input type="checkbox"/>

Running alongside this consultation is a wider review considering future options for carrying out large-scale surveys in Wales, including WHS. It recognises the requirement to continue to collect high quality survey information, and that individual surveys are run in an efficient and cost-effective way, but there may be scope for efficiencies across surveys. The review will be considering whether there is scope to combine, or streamline, some surveys to deliver the robust, detailed information that is needed as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

We are interested in finding out more about views on the relationship between WHS and other large-scale social surveys commissioned or funded by the Welsh Government.

Which of the following other household surveys do you use?		
National Survey for Wales	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Active Adults survey (run by Sport Wales)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
Other...please specify	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
<p>Please let us know your views on rationalising or merging any of the surveys mentioned above with Welsh Health Survey. Do you see overlap between these surveys and WHS?</p>		

8. Next Steps

This consultation exercise begins on 21 May 2014 and **13 August 2014 is the deadline for responses.**

A summary of responses to this consultation will be published later in 2014.

We would be grateful for feedback on the future content and approach to data collection for the Welsh Health Survey, in particular the questions listed in this document.

We would welcome any other comments on the WHS not already covered.

Do you have any other comments on the content and approach to data collection for the WHS (not already covered) or future work on the WHS?

Annex A. List of consultation questions

Users and uses of WHS

- Q.** How useful do you find the WHS? What do you use it for?
- Q.** Would you like to use the WHS for some purpose but are currently unable to do so?
- Q.** If the WHS was not available, what impact would this have on your work?

Content of WHS

- Q.** How useful are current topics? How frequent are they needed?
- Q.** Are there any other topics you feel should be included in the WHS?
- Q.** What are your views on introducing core and rotating modules?
- Q.** Are there any topics you think would be suitable as rotating modules?

Sample design of WHS data collection

- Q.** How useful are current sub-groups? How frequent are they needed?
- Q.** What would be the impact if sub-groups were no longer available or were available less frequently?
- Q.** What other sub-groups are you interested in?
- Q.** Would information for larger areas rather than existing local authorities be sufficient?

Frequency of WHS data collection and trends over time

- Q.** How useful is it to have an annual update of results for key topics?
- Q.** What would the impact be if WHS data were collected less frequently than annually?
- Q.** How important is the ability to examine WHS trends to your work?
- Q.** What impact would losing continuity of trends have on your work?

Availability of WHS results

- Q.** How useful are current outputs? How useful do you find particular information?
- Q.** Would you find it useful if data visualisation / infographics in outputs were developed?
- Q.** Have you requested additional information from the WHS team?
- Q.** Have you used WHS datasets?
- Q.** What benefit would you find in linking WHS to other data sources?

Priorities

- Q.** How important are certain aspects?
- Q.** Would you consider funding questions or sample boost in future surveys?
- Q.** Which of the following other household surveys do you use?
- Q.** What are your views on rationalising or merging any surveys mentioned with WHS? Do you see overlap between these surveys and WHS?

Next Steps

- Q.** Do you have any other comments on the content and approach to data collection for the WHS (not already covered) or future work on the WHS?