

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee
A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of meeting held on 6 June 2019
Llandudno (with VC link to Cathays Park Cardiff)

Attendees

Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government(WG) – Chair
Tom	Brame	TB	Data Cymru
Daniel	Cummings	DC	Data Cymru
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Duncan	Harris	DH	Sensible Code
Leanne	John	LJ	City and County of Swansea
Glyn	Jones	GJ	Welsh Government (WG)
Hywel	Jones	HJ	Cardiff University
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Duncan	McKenzie	DM	Data Cymru
Aine	McGuire	AM	SensibleCode.io
Lowri Wyn	Morton	LWM	Gwynedd Council
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council (via Skype)
Zoe	Strawbridge	ZS	Public Health Wales
Alison	Vaughan	AV	Ceredigion County Council
Nia	Wyn Jones	NWJ	Gwynedd Council

Note takers/ Simultaneous Translators

Rebecca	Large	RL	Welsh Government
Chelsea	John	CJ	Welsh Government
Siôn Aled	Owen	SO	Geirda, Simultaneous Translator
Sioned Elin	Jones	SJ	Lingo, Simultaneous Translator

Speakers not attending all day

Suzie	Dunsmith	SD	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Sean	Harper	SH	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Adam	Kelly	AK	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Neil	Townsend	NT	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Melanie	Brown	MB	Welsh Government
Rachel	Dolman	RD	Welsh Government
Gareth	Hall	GH	Welsh Government
Luned	Jones	LJ	Welsh Government
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government

Apologies

Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Lee	Clarke	Cardiff County Council
Owen	Hathway	Sport Wales
Martin	Jennings	Assembly Commission
Helen	Jones	National Assembly for Wales
Paul	Jones	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Ann-Marie	McCafferty	Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
William	Miles	Monmouthshire County Council
Geraint	Morgan	Powys County Council
Rhys	Powell	Public Health Wales
Nita	Sparkes	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Andrew	Stephens	Data Cymru
Andy	Wilson	Torfaen County Borough Council

1	Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	
	SL opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
2	Note of last meeting and update on action points	
	The note of the last meeting was agreed. DM proposed to update on his action points agenda item 3. No other outstanding action points were discussed.	
3	Review of information papers	
	<p>On the Welsh Government (WG) Statistics Newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SL provided further information on the more detailed Fuel poverty report due out in the summer, which will be at all-Wales level, but with breakdowns by tenure and household type, dwelling type etc. It is anticipated that lower level maps of predicted fuel poverty levels will become available in the Autumn. GJ updated the group on the National Statistics assessment of the Well-being of Wales report. This has been paused until next year due to the change in format for the next publication (September). He added that some initial feedback from the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) suggested Welsh Government should gather more evidence on how the report is used, and he encouraged all attendees to provide feedback on how they use product, preferably in writing. GJ also updated the group on WG's contribution to the UK Voluntary National Review (VNR) against the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This work will be presented at the UN High Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development in New York in 	<p>Action: All to provide any feedback on how they use the Well-being of Wales report to OSR (or to WG to be passed on)</p> <p>Action: WG to circulate UK Voluntary National Review (VNR) when available</p> <p>Action: Invite ONS to future meeting to talk about their development of income data</p> <p>Action: GJ to circulate email from Geraint Morgan around claimant count data</p> <p>Action: DM to circulate response re. MSOA naming when received</p> <p>Action: DM to circulate initial version of guidance on data and methodology used for scores in Thriving Places work.</p>

July, and offers a comprehensive look at sustainable development in Wales, as well as third sector case studies. It will be circulated to the group when ready.

- GJ provided an update on Lle, of which a new version was to be launched (an alpha version) in the next few weeks. This work has generated a lot of interest, especially as a flagship project for the Valleys Taskforce. There are plans to expand Lle to include more than environmental data, and to add the possibility of using secure logins to access licensed data, for example. It is likely that the name will change. A demo will be available in September.

On the Demography Update:

- SL updated the group briefly on work happening in preparation for the 2021 Census, following the Census Advisory Group for Wales earlier in the week
- JE raised a query around input from ONS for sub-national population projections, due for publication on 29 August 2019. GJ said that WG would be in contact with the ONS about this.

On the Data Cymru update:

- DM provided an explanation of the Built-up Area geographies used for Profiling Places Wales. He requested feedback from members on the look and feel of the tool, on any additional data that should be included or on the administrative geographies used
- A question was raised about crossover with the Carnegie Trust's work on Understanding Welsh Places. DM confirmed that the projects were aware of each other
- Following a discussion around the use of CACI products relative to free ONS outputs, it was suggested that ONS be invited to talk to the WSLC about their income data (which is taken from admin data). SL noted that the ONS plans to publish this data at LSOA level as official statistics by 2022
- There was a discussion around the Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) dataset published by the ONS. It was noted that changes in measures used (due to the roll-out of Universal Credit) could lead to apparent rises in unemployment.
GJ referenced an email from Geraint Morgan (Powys CC) on the subject of the claimant count, and said he would circulate the email to the group
SK noted potential confusion over which measure to use as the DWP launches a new count. It was agreed that any knowledge should be shared as and when possible
- DM requested feedback on DataCymru's blog, and noted that guest posts would be welcomed
- There was a discussion on MSOA naming. DM has

	<p>made contact with ONS about this and will circulate the response when received</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GJ also updated on ONS approach to OA geographies for the 2021 Census. ONS have stated that they only plan to change output areas based on population thresholds. They are not intending to consult on this; however a consultation will be launched later this year for changes to be made following the 2021 Census. Concerns were raised about certain geographies masking deprivation. WG have raised repeatedly in Census Advisory Group the need for LAs to be consulted on output area boundaries. • A query was raised around the indicators used for the Thriving Places Index. DM offered to circulate an explanation of the data used and methodology within the next couple of weeks. This was welcomed by the group in order to add context to scores given and to any changes to the measures over time • TB shared that Jenny Murphy had recently left DataCymru. Her leaving blog can be found on the DataCymru website. The group thanked her for all her contributions to the WSLC • GJ added that Ann-Marie McCafferty recently left her post to take up a role in Bridgend. The group thanked her for her contribution to the WSLC and looks forward to working with her again if appropriate when she has settled into her new position. 	
4	National Development Framework Wales	
	<p>GH gave an update on the drafting of the National Development Framework (NDF). He indicated that a consultation would soon be launched on the draft NDF, running for 12 weeks from July until October, and encouraged attendees to spread the word, and to sign up to the NDF newsletter for further updates. Drop-in events will happen around the country as part of the consultation, and feedback can be offered at by appointment.</p> <p>Four main updates were given:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The significance of the estimates of housing need, which enable WG to link housing and the planning system • New areas will be proposed for wind and solar farms • Support for the development of Strategic Development Plans (SDPs), which will have scope to address regional issues in a way that existing Local Development Plans (LDPs) cannot. SDPs will take a bottom-up approach. It is hoped that increasingly available regional data will support development plans at all levels • Strong support for the Place making approach 	<p>Action: Circulate link to the National Development Framework Consultation when it is published</p>

	<p>introduced by Planning Policy Wales and the importance of creating successful, functioning places.</p> <p>Questions were raised about the use of the term ‘sustainable growth’ and about distinctions made between growth and development; about the consideration of the Well-being of Future Generations Act; and about housing need targets in the NDF and the currency of data used.</p> <p>GH explained that while terms around growth may be used, consideration has been given to wider development issues such as socio-demographic changes. The focus of the NDF has not been on developing large, urban areas, but on consolidating and supporting existing communities. The Future Generations Commissioner has been involved in this work, and the draft NDF has been subject to an integrated sustainability appraisal to review the impact of any plans made on factors such as environmental impact.</p> <p>While the NDF includes data on housing need, it will not be setting explicit housing targets for regions. While the consultation draft is based on 2014 projections for this data, it is hoped that this (and other data used) will be updated for subsequent versions where possible.</p> <p>GH offered to provide a further update at the next meeting in October, which will be in the final weeks of the consultation.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Housing Need and Demand Analytical Tool</p>	
	<p>LJ presented on the recently published Estimates of Housing Need in Wales by Tenure (2018-based). Slides available.</p> <p>This second publication (following the Estimates of Housing Need in Wales at a national and regional level, published in January 2019) splits the estimates of housing need into two housing tenures of Market housing and Affordable housing, for the first five years of estimates (2018/19 to 2022/23).</p> <p>MB demonstrated an Excel tool published alongside the article, allowing users to explore data split by four tenures. These were not included in the main article as the assumptions were less sure.</p> <p>Clarification was requested on what exactly the data was referring to. LJ offered the following definition: Figures in the articles relate to the need for additional housing units. Terms are defined as follows: Overall Housing Need is based on two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing Unmet Need: The number of households that do not have access to adequate housing and would require an additional housing unit. Those who may be in need of a more appropriate housing that would not require an additional unit are excluded from this analysis • Newly Arising Need: The projected number of newly 	

	<p>forming households that will require additional housing units for a period in the future</p> <p>Housing need estimates should not be used as a housing target in Wales. Feedback on the article and/or the Excel tool is welcomed.</p>	
6	Regional Statistics	
	<p>Presentation given by RL informing group of recent publication by WG providing statistics on key topics for the three economic regions of Wales, as defined in the Economic Action Plan. Slides available.</p> <p>These reports were prepared to support the drafting of the NDF, and also to respond to user need. The development was welcomed by members.</p> <p>The next stage of this work in WG is to update data published on StatsWales to incorporate the three regions, and then to produce dashboards to present this data.</p> <p>RD explained that the work would be an iterative process, with teams updating cubes based on what data is appropriate and helpful at a regional level.</p> <p>A question was asked about how this work fitted in with other regional data, for example for the Regional Skills Partnerships. RD explained that while these could be used together, the breadth of data included in the WG reports and in the proposed dashboards would be wider and more cross-cutting.</p>	
7	Overview of work with Office for National Statistics, UK for census 2021 (dubbed flexible dissemination system)	
	<p>NT and SH advised that the ONS are still committed to delivering 2021 Census results earlier, more flexibly and with greater accessibility than previously. They have been working with Sensible Code on a prototype for disseminating Census data. The National Statistician has agreed to the methods and approach subject to rehearsal. The prototype will be moving to build stage soon.</p> <p>Some work is being done at the moment on Welsh language requirements. Members to contact ONS if this is of interest.</p> <p>ONS noted that OSR were due to publish a first stage assessment report on NS accreditation on 12th June. Whilst OSR have completed user feedback work for this they would still welcome any additional user feedback.</p> <p>DH and AM presented on the background to their work with ONS and gave a demonstration of the prototype. Slides available.</p> <p>The flexible dissemination system (known as Tablebuilder) incorporates a real-time Statistical Disclosure Control</p>	<p>Action: ONS to send contact details for dissemination package Welsh Language requirements to Chair for circulation to group</p>

	<p>technique enabling users to be able to create outputs in real time</p> <p>AM demonstrated how the prototype handles analysis which would fail confidentiality tests.</p> <p>A number of questions were asked about the way in which the prototype worked, and comments made on what members would want to see in the final product:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AM confirmed that should you run the same table various times you would get the same results. • AM/DH confirmed that the prototype enables more detail to be presented for different population groups if the specific area of interest is more diverse (thus allowing data to be presented without breaking confidentiality rules). This was an objective set by ONS for the product. • Members confirmed that it would be useful to be able to save queries that could be re-run or shared with others. • Members also indicated it would be helpful if specific analysis/tables could be identified by a label or metadata so that different users could be sure they were referring to the same analysis. • Detailed questions were raised about how the system would manage reporting of data which was 'not available'. It was recognised by ONS and Sensible Code that data with the value 0 needs to be distinguishable from non available data. • It was confirmed that the system would not be constrained so that summations of smaller areas may not equal the result for a wider area e.g. sum of OAs in LA might not add up exactly to LA total. <p>DC queried how the model worked with regards to built up areas and was advised to get in touch with the ONS Census Outputs team (Chris Ashford).</p> <p>LR asked if the model is going to replace SASPAC. ONS responded that everything that is on SASPAC is now on Nomis and as SASPAC is a GLA product it will be for the GLA to determine the future of SASPAC.</p> <p>Following a question from VD regarding the timeframe for the final product, ONS indicated that the release schedule has not yet been confirmed. VD also asked if there would be an opportunity for users to test the system in advance. ONS indicated that ideally they would like it to be available with test data well in advance of the Census.</p>	
8	<p>Census update and questionnaire development including Welsh language questions</p>	
	<p>SH presented on behalf of Adam Kelly regarding the development and testing of the Welsh language questions for the 2021 Census questionnaire. Slides Available.</p> <p><i>Mode:</i> Members in general noted the potential mode effect in moving from a predominantly paper census to a predominantly online census, including the impact on the</p>	<p>Action: NT to provide update to Welsh Government on ONSs view on the issue of ethnicity</p>

	<p>Welsh language estimates.</p> <p><i>Location in the questionnaire:</i> Members were generally supportive of keeping the order the same as 2011 as much as possible to maximise comparison with 2011 Census data (accepting the mode effect above) – this was seen as the ideal solution from a survey design perspective. A member also suggested using propensity scoring in the analysis (suggesting an R package) to better understand ‘real’ differences given the slightly different profile of the sample in V1 and V4.</p> <p>There was little discussion about having a different order on paper and online.</p> <p><i>Presentation of WL question:</i> Members in general noted the issues around the quality of the data when the Welsh language question was split into four questions.</p> <p>The focus of the discussion was around the mutually exclusive functionality. The group was in broad agreement that the mutually exclusive functionality should not be used. They were of the opinion that if a respondent ticked any Welsh Language skill and ‘None of the above’, then the skill ought to have precedent over ‘None of the above’, i.e. ‘None of the above’ ought to be deleted. Members asked if it was possible to use the online functionality and have a warning message if someone did select an incongruous combination.</p> <p>In addition to comments on proposals for the Welsh Language question members commented on the proposed ethnicity question which allows for the category ‘Welsh’ to be included only within the ‘White’ ethnicity. Members noted that the proposed Scottish questionnaire allows for Black/Asian Scottish, and they recalled the concerns expressed in previous Censuses from those who wished to identify as Welsh. Members agreed that this is an equalities issue rather than a user need issue. GJ has made representations to ONS about this issue.</p>	
	<p>Information Sharing</p>	
	<p>JE advised that there would be three LDP events in North Wales including two relating to replacement LDPs in Conwy and Denbighshire.</p> <p>VD - Annual reporting for PSBs. As the wellbeing assessment was prepared over two years ago it is being reviewed and refreshed soon. They have been working with Data Cymru to develop an online wellbeing assessment, using Power BI, which will be launched at the annual conference on 15 July 2019. If this is of any interest she could present on this at a future meeting.</p>	
<p>9</p>	<p>Any other business</p>	

<p>Some items of AOB from GJ were shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS have published an article on high streets in Great Britain which can be circulated if of any interest • John Pullinger the National Statistician is due to depart and Jon Athow will be filling in as a temporary replacement • The next meeting will be on 3 October 2019 with a suggestion that we have a combined meeting with the Third Sector Statistics User Panel. <p>Views were expressed as to whether a joint meeting would work well and the extent to which the whether Third Sector organisations involved would find the agenda of relevance to them. Welsh Government to reconsider whether a joint meeting is appropriate.</p> <p>Ideas for agenda items for future meetings were discussed and included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS's work on small area income estimates • Use of Power BI • National Development Framework • JSA data and Welfare Reform • Census Updates • Population and Household projections <p>Members recommended that in future meetings included the option to videoconference wherever the meeting was hosted as it enabled wider participation.</p>	<p>Action: WG to consider if joint WSLC/TSSUP meeting is appropriate</p> <p>Action: Secretariat to arrange videoconferencing for future WSLC meetings</p>
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No.	Summary of Action Points	
1.	All to provide any feedback on how they use the Well-being of Wales report to OSR (or to WG to be passed on)	All
2.	WG to circulate UK Voluntary National Review (VNR) when available	GJ
3.	Invite ONS to future meeting to talk about the development of income data	GJ
4.	Circulate email from Geraint Morgan around claimant count data	GJ
5.	DM to circulate response re. MSOA naming when received	DM
6.	DM to circulate initial version of guidance on data and methodology used for scores in Thriving Places work.	DM
7.	Circulate link to the National Development Framework Consultation when it is published	SL
8.	ONS to send contact details for dissemination package Welsh Language requirements to Chair for circulation to group	SD (ONS)
9.	NT to provide update to Welsh Government on ONSs view on the issue of ethnicity	NT
10.	WG to consider if joint WSLC/TSSUP meeting is appropriate	SL/GJ
11.	Secretariat to arrange videoconferencing for future WSLC meetings	Secretariat