

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee
A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of meeting held on 3 October 2019
Cathays Park, Cardiff (with VC link to Llandudno)

Attendees

Glyn	Jones	GJ	Welsh Government (WG) - Chair
Rose	Almond	RA	Welsh Government (WG)
Richard	Cardwell	RC	Natural Resources Wales (NRW)
Chris	Clarke	CC	Torfaen County Borough Council
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council (via Skype)
Leanne	John	LJ	City and Council of Swansea
Helen	Jones	HJ	National Assembly for Wales
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Steve	King	SK	City and Council of Swansea
Megan	Luker	ML	Public Health Wales Observatory
Duncan	MacKenzie	DM	Data Cymru (DC)
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government (WG)
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Nita	Sparkes	NS	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Rob	Starr	RS	Ceredigion County Council
Lowri	Wyn Morton	LWM	Gwynedd Council (via Skype)

Note takers

Holly	Flynn	HF	Welsh Government (WG)
Yasmin	Parekh	YP	Welsh Government (WG)
Dylan	Stocker	DS	Welsh Government (WG)
Niamh	Yale-Helms	NYH	Welsh Government (WG)
Paul	Dingle	PD	Welsh Government (WG) (via Skype)

Speakers

Dave	Jones	DJ	Welsh Revenue Authority
Dave	Roberts	DR	Welsh Government (WG)
Neil	Townsend	NT	Office for National Statistics (ONS)

Apologies

Lucy	Butler	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Hywel	Butts	Welsh Government
Owen	Hathaway	Sport Wales
Martin	Jennings	Assembly Commission
Sue	Leake	Welsh Government
William	Miles	Monmouthshire County Council
Jenny	Murphy	Data Cymru
Andrew	Stephens	Data Unit Wales
Alison	Vaughan	Ceredigion County Council
Andy	Wilson	Torfaen County Borough Council

1	Welcome, Introductions & Apologies	
	<p>GJ opened the meeting and welcomed everyone, including VC from Llandudno.</p> <p>There was a late change to agenda with a presentation from ONS on small area income estimates postponed to a future meeting.</p> <p>GJ thanked Alison Vaughan from Ceredigion County Council for her contributions to WSLC as she has now left her post.</p>	
2	Note of last meeting and update on action points	
	<p>The note of the last meeting was agreed.</p> <p>Update on Action Points from previous meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. GJ to produce one-page summary from feedback on how Well-being of Wales report is used. 2. Attendees confirmed they had received link. 3. Action carried forward. 4. GJ still needs to circulate email. 5. DM gave update on Middle layer Super Output Area (MSOA) naming – unofficial request put out by the House of Commons library to suggest names for MSOAs, to be published in next month, DM will circulate link when published. GJ questioned if this list should be used as it is unofficial. 6. DM gave update – methodology statement on website, will publish shortly and circulate link to members. 7. GJ to share update later in meeting. 8. Contact details given. 9. Concerns were raised about ethnicity question on census due to descriptive text not being consistent across different ethnic groups. GJ has raised this issue with ONS as it is not 	<p>Action: GJ to produce one-page summary from feedback on how Well-being of Wales report is used.</p> <p>Action: DM to get in touch with ONS to find out what their position is on unofficial MSOA names list and circulate response.</p> <p>Action: DM to circulate link to the guidance on data and methodology used for scores in Thriving Places work.</p>

	<p>perceived to be equitable, ONS are not proposing to change question. HJ said Assembly Members would agree with concerns given previous experience. LWM saw on social media that some may not fill out census due to this question. GJ asked for evidence of this to be passed on and confirmed he would raise the issue again with ONS.</p> <p>10. GJ confirmed that SL and he have considered and now have no intention to combine meetings in future.</p> <p>11. Completed.</p> <p>No other comments were made on Action Points.</p>	
3	Review of information papers	
	<p>On the Statistics Wales update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GJ noted ONS had published first estimates of quarterly GDP for the UK countries and the regions of the England using VAT data – significant event, positive move made possible due to funding for ONS. WG are interested in feedback on their use. • Housing Need team won Highly Commended (3rd) at GSS awards in the Impact Category. • Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) 2019 publication date is 27 November 2019. Call for LAs to be involved in QA sessions – only 14 LAs signed up so far. GJ explained that QA meetings would give opportunity to scrutinize WIMD data as part of QA processes. Members provided some suggestions on how to approach remaining LAs. • JE flagged the need to talk to the press and LA officials to provide some understanding of the uses and limitations of WIMD ahead of publication. GJ said that a pre-publication brief with the press is planned. • VD suggested that, in terms of dealing with the press, WG should cover it on a national level and LAs should deal with it on a local level. It was agreed it would be useful to share any material that could be used to brief LA officials and local media. • GJ mentioned Well-being of Wales report has been published. <p>On the Demography newsletter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ONS has reclassified migration statistics to experimental statistics. • Sub-national population projections due to be published on 31 October 2019, delay due to receiving data. Members noted concerns in LA capacity to engage with the projections 	<p>Action: WG to send out briefing materials to LAs, which could be used by local press to better inform reporting on WIMD.</p> <p>Action: WSLC members to contact internal LA comms teams to make them aware they can contact WG for guidance on reporting on WIMD.</p>

	<p>work, and that variant projections would not be published at the same time as the principal projections. GJ also appealed for any interested LA demographers to join WASP group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later in the meeting GJ confirmed that variants of Local Government Population Projections will be published on 31 October 2019. QA session will be held before then and a formal paper will be circulated to those not attending. <p>Data Cymru (DC) update by DM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Profiling Places (PP) to be updated after WIMD publication. • Project on Future Trends: Data Cymru considering how to provide data that would help LAs understand how their areas will look in the future. • DC are doing lots of work with Open Data and there has been continued interest in this from LAs. • Clarification was sought over the difference between DCs PP tool and the Understanding Welsh Places (UWP) tool. GJ explained that UWP was being developed by Carnegie Trust and Institute of Welsh Affairs (IWA), and was based on a smaller population unit of 1,500. • A discussion was had around how accurate place descriptions would be on UWP, and GJ explained that IWA moderated any descriptions provided by town councils through One Voice Wales (OVW). LR and VD queried how place description submissions would work in areas where there are no town councils, or the town council is not registered with OVW, and GJ said he would investigate this. Members offered to support the provision of place descriptions. • GJ added that feedback on UWP launch event would be appreciated, and link to the tool will be circulate when it goes live on Tuesday. 	<p>Action: GJ to send information to WSLC members on how to provide placed descriptions for Understanding Welsh Places</p> <p>Action: GJ to send link to UWP when it is live to WSLC members can provide feedback.</p>
4	Lle redevelopment	
	<p>GJ introduced Dave Roberts (DR), Head of Geography and at Welsh Government. GJ explained how Data Map Wales (DMW) previously Lle, is a more robust geospatial platform that should allow local authorities to publish open geospatial data.</p> <p>Lle was a joint project between WG, Natural Resources Wales (NRW) to deliver the EU INSPIRE commitment. However, the old system was becoming unstable so has been overhauled to cope with greater usage and to expand the range of data that is included to meet policy demand. It will also become more</p>	

	<p>accessible and will incorporate secure user groups to allow restricted data to be uploaded as well as open data.</p> <p>The Steering Group for DMW consisted of members of WG, NRW and Neath Port Talbot (NPT) Council. Workshops are being planned for North and Mid Wales; invites to be sent to Ordnance Survey (OS) Liaison Officers.</p> <p>The data provided by DMW is not solely terrestrial, there is a Marine Planning Portal which is continuously being improved. It is due to launch within the next month.</p> <p>GJ asked for clarification on whether StatsWales data was being utilised within DMW. DR explained that further work was required to make StatsWales compatible with the new tool.</p> <p>Data will be able to be edited online for certain datasets, but only by registered users. The resources within Lle will be slowly reduced as DMW becomes more reliable.</p> <p>DR clarified that LAs would have the ability to upload their own local datasets to DMW, and a policy will be introduced to clarify roles and responsibilities, ensure correct data is uploaded and confidentiality is maintained.</p> <p>Workshops relating to DMW will happen on a six month basis to keep public sector users up to date with any new developments.</p> <p>NS noted that NPT have currently outsourced work looking at identifying risk of poverty at household level and asked if this could be done through DMW. DR confirmed the ability to host these data, but it was noted that DMW would be a repository of information rather than providing new data. GJ proposed a representative from NPT giving a talk on their projections work at the next meeting. On the issue of household poverty, it was also noted by a member that WSLC hadn't received an update on Universal Credit recently.</p> <p>GJ encouraged WSLC members to attend workshops which will be held about DMW where possible.</p>	<p>Action: NS to identify a suitable representative of NPT to present on their household poverty work in future meeting</p> <p>Action: Update at next WSLC meeting on impact of Universal Credit.</p>
5	Information sharing	
	<p>Gareth Hall and Nick Lloyd (WG) are not available to present but provided the following update on the National Development Framework Wales (NDF):</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on draft NDF runs from 7 August to 1 November 2019 and can be found online • Any questions can be emailed to NDF@gov.wales • NDF will be submitted to the National Assembly for Wales in April 2020 and published in September 2020. <p>GJ added that NDF will be updated with population estimates and housing need projections if available.</p> <p>JE voiced confusion among urban planners in North Wales over housing figures being included in NDF, and the need for clear differentiation either in Planning Policy Wales or NDF between provision and demand. JE is happy to assist with this.</p> <p>SK mentioned an email had been circulated to the Central and Local Information Partnership (CLIP) group within LAs asking for feedback on the qualifications question in the LFS, but no context was given. Questions were from the Labour Market Division in ONS. GJ suggested this could relate to understanding user need of Labour Market statistics as ONS is undergoing a transformation of their Labour Market Survey. NT offered to follow up at ONS.</p>	<p>Action: GJ to raise concern over lack of clarity on provision and demand in the NDF with policy leads</p>
6	Census update	
	<p>Presentation given by Neil Townsend (NT) to outline the Census rehearsal.</p> <p>The rehearsal is scheduled to take place 13 October 2019. One of its aims will be to identify areas of non-response for action prior to the 2021 Census.</p> <p>Invitation letters sent out 23-26 September 2019 to four locations selected for cross-section representation.</p> <p>Reminder letters will be distributed and field staff will go door-to-door to increase response rates for the rehearsal.</p> <p>NT presented a demonstration of the bilingual e-questionnaire which was praised for its usability by RS. Following the rehearsal, bilingual responses will be analysed to understand when/where the Welsh language option is preferred. It was suggested that the Electronic Questionnaire analytics team might be invited to join the ONS Welsh Language assurance group.</p> <p>NT showed the committee examples of advertisements which will be used as part of the rehearsal campaign. GJ questioned</p>	<p>Action: NT to raise the potential for EQ analytics to be discussed as part of the Welsh Language assurance group for the 2021 Census</p> <p>Action: WSLC members encouraged to follow</p>

	<p>whether these advertisements were targeted to appeal to specific areas and to be wary of reinforcing stereotypes. LR also commented that few young adults were featured in the advertisements shown. NT stressed that effort will be made to target groups who are likely to not participate and those who may require more support to participate.</p> <p>NT explained that resources have been provided to schools as part of the Counter Cats campaign. This campaign aims to engage children, particularly in areas of anticipated low response, to try and increase parental participation.</p> <p>It was noted that the work ONS had undertaken on community engagement would be useful good practice to share with local authorities who are being challenged to engage effectively with all groups of society.</p> <p>All LAs should have a named Census Liaison Manager (CLM) and Assistant Census Liaison Manager (ACLM). Some members raised concerns that their CLM or ACLM had recently left their post or wasn't receiving ONS Census emails. Members noted that they would welcome regional meetings of CLMs/ACLMs with ONS to share experiences.</p> <p>Next Census Advisory Group meeting is scheduled for January 2020.</p>	<p>Census 2021 Twitter and Facebook accounts to help raise awareness (@Census2021 and @Cyfrifiad2021).</p> <p>Action: NT to write to Powys County Council to confirm who CLM is.</p> <p>Action: NT to confirm if CLM mailing list is up to date.</p> <p>Action: Possibility of NT coming back to next WSLC to share advice on good practice with community engagement based on ONS findings from Census rehearsal.</p>
7	<p>Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) publications</p>	
	<p>Presentation given by DJ to provide details about the newly formed WRA, responsible for the first two devolved taxes in Wales.</p> <p>DJ noted that the new HTML publishing has been well-received within the WRA.</p> <p>DJ stated that the Land Transaction Tax (LTT) statistics aren't fully comparable with the statistics provided by HMRC due to the differing rates for Wales.</p> <p>The WRA received some challenging media coverage when the first land transactions statistics were published due to the misleading publication of articles about additional homes.</p> <p>The geographical data which was released did not give the full stock of properties as only 95 percent returned the required</p>	

	<p>data. GJ enquired about the ability to increase the number of returns by making geographical identifiers mandatory.</p> <p>GJ asked about the comparability to ONS' own releases. DJ responded that the ONS exclude some properties that are included within the WRA's. This includes any company bought/sold property.</p> <p>JE questioned the use of LA level data and suggested breaking it down to a local level to increase utility. DJ explained that there is a taxpayer confidentiality issue that surrounds this, confined by legislation. It was suggested that approximations could be used as an alternative. DJ stated that he would explore the potential for this.</p> <p>DJ informed the group that built-up areas data is to be released soon.</p>	<p>Action: DJ to explore potential for approximations to be used in order to break down data from Unit level to Local level.</p>
8	Brexit – round table to discuss any issues/concerns	
	<p>GJ raised the potential risk to data flows in the event of a no deal Brexit, and in particular if data is currently stored within the European Union. Significant guidance was available and GJ advised members to contact Brexit leads in their organisation with any queries.</p> <p>PJ noted that LAs were struggling to identify data sources on EU residents to enable them to inform them of the settled status scheme</p> <p>ML informed the committee that Public Health Wales have produced several reports relating to Brexit outcomes</p>	
9	Any other business	
	<p>Next meeting to be held 06/02/20 in Cathays Park, Cardiff (with VC from Llandudno available).</p>	

Summary of Action Points

No.	Action	Who?
1	GJ to produce one-page summary from feedback on how Well-being of Wales report is used.	GJ
2	GJ to get in touch with ONS to find out what their position is on unofficial MSOA names list and circulate response.	GJ
3	DM to circulate link to the guidance on data and methodology used for scores in Thriving Places work.	DM
4	WG to send out briefing materials to LAs, which could be used by local press to better inform reporting on WIMD.	WG
5	VD and DM to contact internal LA comms teams to make them aware they can contact WG for guidance on reporting on WIMD.	VD, DM
6	GJ to send information to WSLC members on how to provide placed descriptions for Understanding Welsh Places.	GJ
7	GJ to send link to UWP when it is live so WSLC members can provide feedback.	GJ, All
8	NS to identify a suitable representative of NPT to present on their projections work in future meeting.	NS
9	Update at next WSLC meeting on impact of Universal Credit.	Secretariat
10	GJ to raise concern over lack of clarity on provision and demand in the NDF with policy leads.	GJ
11	NT to raise the potential for EQ analytics to be discussed as part of the Welsh Language assurance group for the 2021 Census.	NT (ONS)
12	WSLC members encouraged to follow Census 2021 Twitter and Facebook accounts to help raise awareness (@Census2021 and @Cyfrifiad2021).	All
13	NT to write to Powys County Council to confirm who CLM is.	NT (ONS)
14	NT to confirm if CLM mailing list is up to date.	NT (ONS)
15	Possibility of NT coming back to next WSLC to share advice on good practice with community engagement based on ONS findings from Census rehearsal.	NT (ONS)
16	DJ to explore potential for approximations to be used in order to break down data from Unit level to Local level.	DJ