

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee Minutes of meeting held on 10 June 2021 Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Gwyneth	Ayers	GA	Carmarthenshire County Council
Gareth	Barclay	GB	Flintshire County Council
Lucy	Butler	LB	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Richard	Cardwell	RC	Natural Resources Wales
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Jay	Davies	JD	Flintshire County Council
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Lloyd	Fisher	LF	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Steph	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government
Eleri	James	EJ	Welsh Language Commissioner
Martin	Jennings	MJ	Assembly Commission
Leanne	John	LJ	City and County of Swansea
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Nia	Jones	NJ	Welsh Government
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Duncan	MacKenzie	DM	Data Cymru
William	Miles	WM	Monmouthshire County Council
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys Count Council
Sergio	Recio	SR	Estyn
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Alwyn	Williams	AW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Lowri	Wyn Morton	LM	Gwynedd Council
Nia	Wyn Jones	NJ	Gwynedd Council

Speakers

Ellen	Burgess	EB	Office for National Statistics
Daniel	Cummings	DC	Data Cymru
Kevin	Griffiths	KG	Welsh Government
Helena	Rosiecka	HR	Office for National Statistics
Kevin	Williams	KW	Welsh Government

Apologies

Steven	Marshall	Welsh Government
Brett	Davis	South Wales Police
Eifion	Rees	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Kate	Jones	HM Prison and Probation Service in Wales
Jonathan	Radcliffe	Sport Wales
Helen	Jones	National Assembly for Wales

1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	Actions
	<p>SH started the meeting and welcomed everyone. SH explained that simultaneous translation had not been arranged due to not meeting the criteria set out under the Welsh Language Standards. Members introduced themselves.</p>	
2.	Note of last meeting, update on action points, Statistics Wales quarterly update, demography update and Data Cymru update	
	<p>SH asked for any comments on the previous meeting's minutes. ES noted an error in item 5 where EJ had been recorded instead of ES.</p> <p>A number of members asked for an update on training from Data Cymru. DM noted that training packs will be released and offered to set up a meeting with ES to discuss the progress.</p> <p>ES asked for an update on Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) and training surrounding it. SL responded by suggesting she contact stats.inclusion@gov.wales who are gathering interest for training sessions.</p> <p>SH noted that all previous actions have been completed with the exception of the one around future trends – SH fed back an update that had been provided that morning. JE suggested there should be some further researchers or statisticians involved. SH said she will pass on this feedback.</p> <p>Statistics Wales quarterly update:</p> <p>SH explained that it's still busy with COVID still being a high profile part of the activity; and the election and new government bringing new priorities. SH said that the Annual Population Survey is due to be reweighted by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). JE suggested that it might be useful for ONS to come and talk to the group about what they are doing about weighting.</p> <p>SH said that there have been a range of outputs around post-16 education. JE commented that she doesn't think the note on higher education and student finance is a sufficient report and that saying 'nothing to report' would be more useful.</p> <p>SH reported that plans for future housing conditions surveys have been paused and work using administrative sources is being</p>	<p>Action – Correct error in item 5 of previous minutes - Secretariat</p> <p>Action – SH to pass on feedback on involvement of researchers and analysts to future trends team.</p> <p>Action – Look into having someone from the ONS give a talk on reweighting of the APS – Secretariat to add to forward agenda.</p>

	<p>progressed. SL noted that they are still having conversations on housing priorities and data collections as new strategies are developed with the new government. JE expressed interest regarding second homes and knowing what datasets were used and whether they could be used by local authorities. SL suggested that JE attend the upcoming Housing Information Group on 18 June. JE asked for the timing of publication of delayed or cancelled housing statistics to be shared. SL said she will provide the timings that have been determined. There was a discussion on Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs) where SL noted that there is a workshop updating local authorities on the work surrounding LHMAs and will circulate the details of this. Due to a lot of interest in second homes, it was suggested a separate meeting be set up to discuss this. Given the interest in housing data and LHMAs, SH suggested housing as a future agenda item.</p> <p>SH reported that, outside of the update, they are still looking at potential gaps in the national wellbeing indicators. As discussed at the previous meeting, digital inclusion looks like a good candidate but WG will continue seeking feedback on indicators through other engagement activity. SH shared the following blog where progress on work related to National Milestones, Indicators and Future Trends is being shared.</p> <p>Members were asked to circulate to their networks and encourage contributions on the blog.</p> <p>Data Cymru update:</p> <p>DM referred attendees to the written update and informed the group that Andrew Stephens has now retired. DM noted his longstanding contribution to the group and can pass on his email address if people wish to send their regards. JE suggested sending him an official note from the group sending him thanks for his participation and contribution. SH and SL expressed their gratitude for his long standing contribution and that he will be missed.</p> <p>RC reported that a new Head Operational Researcher, Luke Maggs, had been appointed in NRW</p>	<p>Action –Add housing as a future agenda item. Secretariat to add to forward agenda.</p> <p>Action – SL to share the timings of delayed housing publications.</p> <p>Action – SL to circulate details of LHMAs workshops.</p> <p>Action – SL to arrange separate meeting regarding second homes.</p> <p>Action – SH to send thanks on behalf of the group to Andrew Stephens for his contribution to the WSLC.</p>
3.	Local wellbeing assessments	
	<p>KG explained that the Public Service Boards (PSBs) were established as part of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. There are currently 19 PSBs. One of their duties is that they must prepare assessments of local well-being, to be published in the 12 months leading up to the ordinary local government elections. Therefore, PSBs are currently preparing their assessments and will publish by 5 May 2022.</p> <p>KG noted that feedback from the teams carrying out assessments is that, particularly during the pandemic, there is limited capacity to do these to the extent required by legislation. He noted that partners across organisations have worked with PSBs to provide</p>	

	<p>support for completing assessments. For instance, Data Cymru have provided core data, Coproduction Wales have provided support for engagement and the Future Generations Commissioner’s Office has supported work on futures.</p> <p>There were several comments about the scale of the exercise, the limited resources at a local authority level and in partner organisations such as health board and the timing of the Future Trends report. A number of members noted that they will be more or less finished with draft assessments by the autumn, due to having to get approval, so support would be needed before this point. KG acknowledged the challenge and noted that there were further improvements that could be made, e.g. the timing of the Future Trends report. VD noted that Gwent are formally merging their five PSBs which adds additional challenges. ES thanked KG for his presentation and for the resources provided by Data Cymru and supported the comments made.</p> <p>KG said that the feedback was helpful. He pointed out that the regional grant provides some support but the pandemic has affected preparations. He hopes that the next round can be better and will continue to provide support.</p> <p>JE emphasised that the local authorities are doing this task alongside their other work. She noted that there is a lot of pressure and expectation on a local level and that the feedback received on the reports previously was harsh. KG explained that it wasn’t the Welsh Government’s intention to put that pressure on them and thanked them for the work they do. It was noted that feedback does not just come from Welsh Government but also from other organisations such as the Future Generations Commissioner. Some members noted that feedback can sometimes be lengthy which can be difficult to respond to alongside other tasks.</p>	
4.	<p>Demonstration of Data Maps Wales</p>	
	<p>KW introduced himself as the lead product manager for Data Maps Wales (DMW). He explained that DMW has been in development for around two years and was used for the COVID-19 response. He described it as a ‘service’, allowing the user to search for geographic data and examine features of interest. As much data as possible is provided under Open Government License. Anyone can use Data Maps Wales and can use the data in their own applications. The service was created with accessibility in mind, including the Welsh language.</p> <p>KW performed a demo of the service. He showed the Data catalogue, consisting of over 400 datasets. He then showed the WIMD 2019 dataset map, and how to export this data in different formats.</p> <p>VD asked if there is guidance available regarding using the system. KW explained there is some guidance on the website and that some YouTube videos were being prepared.</p>	

	<p>VD asked about being a registered user and who in local authorities already have access to it. KW explained that at the moment they have targeted areas such as active travel, but they are setting up workshops to try and get a wider reach. VD suggested that the PSB support network might find this useful. He confirmed that users could login to DataMapsWales with a Government Gateway login for their organisational e-mail.</p> <p>LM asked if it is possible to add extra boundaries to the map to aid the wellbeing assessments, suggesting that it could reduce duplication of work. SH noted that this is something to consider in Stats as well, in terms of the presentation of National Indicators.</p> <p>LR asked if you are able to filter by local authority. KW explained that you can.</p> <p>KW noted that there is a lot of interest in the service as it's the first time it has been done in the UK.</p>	
6.	Prosperity and Deprivation	
	<p>This presentation came out of interest / action at the previous meeting (Feb 2021)</p> <p>DC described work by Data Cymru to triangulate data sets to shed more light on deprivation and prosperity. This included bringing in additional data and statistics, research and policy work (thematic papers, government policy, think tanks) and drawing in Labour Market Intelligence Working Futures data.</p> <p>The approach has been used for analysis for Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership, including deep dives into specific industries (e.g. automotive manufacturing), looking at questions such as how do we bring people into high value added industries?</p> <p>Work with Public Service Boards has looked to answer questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What jobs, exist in high value added industries for people with low skills? - How do we get people into these jobs? - What skills requirements for emerging green industries - How diverse is the volunteering sector in Wales? <p>DC demonstrated the EMSI tool, which is a commercial dataset tool, bringing together labour market intelligence data on a small scale (LA level).</p> <p>Members asked about the data sources, methods and quality of EMSI, as well as the cost. SS replied there is a cost attached to this tool. Costs could be shared and a joint procurement could be possible if some areas wanted to work together.</p> <p>DC offered to produce some small, simple pieces of analysis on behalf of group members.</p>	

7.	Census update	
	<p>HR gave an update on Census outputs. She stated that ONS will soon be launching an output consultations.</p> <p>HR said that they aiming to be more flexible and timely with outputs, aiming to get main results out within a year, and all results within two years. UK data will be delayed until after the Scottish Census in 2022.</p> <p>ONS are aiming to make published results more accessible through data tables, analysis, and richer content in visualisation.</p> <p>The structure of consultation has seven main areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shape of outputs and release schedule • Main changes to variables • New derived variables • Population base specifications • Geographies • Outputs in a period of change • Release of the para data <p>LR asked if veterans/armed forces could be considered for a small population table. HR confirmed that they are not putting forward veterans as a small population right now but there will be outputs covering the new veterans question.</p> <p>VD questioned if there will there be any consultation workshops. HR answered that there are plans for two webinars on how to fill in the consultation documents and ONS will look at repeating it if needed.</p> <p>SH asked if there was any scope in the consultation about looking at user needs for outputs through the medium of Welsh. HR replied that this was not in the consultation but that other work is happening on this topic and she will provide an update on this.</p>	<p>Action – HR to send note around about Welsh language outputs</p>
8.	AOB	
	<p>LR asked for advice on making PDFs accessible, given new accessibility standards.</p> <p>SH shared links containing some guidance. Within the Welsh Government, outputs are now regularly produced in HTML rather than PDF to improve accessibility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating accessible documents GOV.WALES • Accessibility Video Training <p>SH also shared the guidance for accessible spreadsheets that has been published by the Government Statistical Service: Guidance</p>	

	<p>ES stated that it is possible to include tables, visuals etc. provided tables are structured according to accessibility standards, alt text for visuals etc.</p> <p>Potential future agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reweighting Annual Population Survey estimates - Housing Statistics <p>Next Meeting: 7 October</p>	
9.	Close	

	Actions	
1	Correct error in item 5 of previous minutes	Secretariat / Completed
2	SH to pass on feedback for involvement of researchers and analysts to future trends team	Steph Howarth, WG / Completed
3	Look into having someone from the ONS give a talk on reweighting of the APS	Secretariat to add to forward agenda / Completed
4	Add housing as a future agenda item.	Secretariat to add to forward agenda / Completed
5	SL to circulate details of Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs) workshops.	Sue Leake, WG LHMA contacts from each LA have been invited to workshops on 30 June and 1 July
6	SL to share the timings of delayed housing publications.	Sue Leake, WG Members to note proposals for housing data collections and statistical outputs 2020-21. Confirmed publication dates will be announced on the WG Statistics and Research Upcoming outputs webpages
7	SL to arrange separate meeting regarding second homes.	Sue Leake, WG Members may like to note the presentation on Second Homes data prepared for the Housing Information Group on 18 June
8	HR to send note around about Welsh language outputs	Helena Rosiecka, ONS
9	SH to send thanks to Andrew Stephens for his contribution to the WSLC	Steph Howarth, WG