

**Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee
A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee
Minutes of meeting held on 3 February 2022
Via Microsoft Teams**

Attendees

Dan	Boon	DB	Welsh Government
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Andrew	Dring	AD	Public Health Wales
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Lloyd	Fisher	LF	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Rhian	Headon	RH	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Stephanie	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government (Chair)
Rebecca	Jeffries	RJ	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Leanne	John	LJ	Swansea Council
Helen	Jones	HJ	Senedd Research
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Wanda	Kirby	WK	Bridgend County Borough Council
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Fiza	Mahmood	FM	Welsh Government
Georgina	Mawdsley	GM	Welsh Government
Rob	Morgan	RM	Welsh Government
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Andrew	Parker	AP	Blaenau Gwent
Sam	Perry	SP	Flintshire County Council
Jonathan	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Helena	Snuggs	HS	Sport Wales
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Alwyn	Williams	AW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Megan	Williams	MW	Welsh Government
Lowri	Wyn Morton	LWM	Gwynedd Council
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	NWV	Gwynedd Council

Speakers

Catrin	Awoyemi	CA	Welsh Government
Michael	Cole	MC	Office for National Statistics
Andrew	Granville	AG	Welsh Government
Rhiannon	Jones	RJ	Welsh Government
Duncan	MacKenzie	DM	Data Cymru
Rob	Morgan	RM	Welsh Government
Becca	Sarasin	BS	Welsh Government
Vicky	Staples	VS	Office for National Statistics

Apologies

Ellie	Brodie	Welsh Government
Hywel	Butts	Welsh Government
Sioned	Cardew-Richardson	Estyn
Richard	Cardwell	Natural Resources Wales
Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Fiona	Clay-Poole	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Jay	Davies	Flintshire County Council
Shaun	Davies	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Brett	Davis	South Wales Police
Karen	Hawkes	Denbighshire County Council
Eleri	James	Welsh Language Commissioner
Paul	Jones	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Nathan	Lester	Public Health Wales
Steven	Marshall	Welsh Government
Shan	Morris	North Wales Fire Service
Anna	Nicholl	Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Eifion	Rees	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service
Neil	Townsend	Office for National Statistics
Andy	Wilson	Torfaen County Borough Council

1. Welcome, Introduction and Apologies	Actions
<p>SH welcomed everyone. See apologies above.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation was not provided as the ten percent quota was not met.</p>	
2. Note of last meeting, update on action points, Statistics Wales quarterly update, demography update and Data Cymru update – Steph Howarth, Welsh Government	
<p>Notes of last meeting No comments on the previous minutes</p> <p>Update on actions All previous actions have either been completed or will be completed in this meeting.</p> <p>Eleri James had fed back that she had received a number of helpful suggestions on creating accessible documents but would welcome more. Other members also welcomed support in this area. SH suggested Welsh Government colleagues bring together a package of information to share with members.</p> <p>Statistics Wales quarterly update SH noted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 has continued to have an impact but a number of data collections and publications that were paused are now returning to more normal publication timescales • We will continue to review the frequency and content of data on COVID-19, such as hospitalisations and care homes • Colleagues in economic stats are considering making changes to existing outputs/stopping them e.g. short term output indicators. They would like people’s feedback on these plans. • The school census date is 15 February, which was delayed due to Covid • Note that National Survey for Wales team are considering survey approaches for the future, following the change from face-to-face data collection during the pandemic • Some Welsh language statistical profiles are being developed. Members to get in touch if interested in providing feedback on the draft profiles. <p>JR asked about timing of the outputs from the School Census and SL confirmed outputs likely to be in line with timing in previous (pre-pandemic) years</p> <p>JE suggested that data being used for Local Housing Market Assessments could potentially be used more widely and suggested this could be an agenda item for a future meeting.</p> <p>Demography update Update included note on LAs being invited to take part in Census quality assurance (QA). SH noted that all but five LAs are involved</p>	<p>Action – Welsh Government colleagues to bring together guidance on preparing accessible documents and spreadsheets.</p>

	<p>in the QA of the census at local authority level so far. Other LAs are encouraged to consider being involved. AW noted the situation in Anglesey and RJ (RCT) indicated she would liaise with Merthyr Tydfil BC.</p> <p>Data Cymru update SS highlighted that there is training coming soon e.g. on capacity building. SS is happy to talk to anyone interested in this.</p> <p>Census update Written update on Census 2021 outputs consultation provided. SH confirmed that late May is intended to be the first release date.</p>	
3.	<p>Race Equality Action Plan & Equality Data Unit / Race Disparity Unit for Wales – Catrin Awoyemi and Becca Sarasin, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>CA and BS introduced themselves as joint Heads of the Equality, Race and Disability evidence units.</p> <p>A of lack of evidence about inequalities has been intensified by the covid-19 pandemic. Scoping work took place in the last year which has led to creation of the three new units. CA provided an overview of work already done to develop the units and their structure (e.g. what is covered in each unit, which policy areas are covered), noting that commitments relevant to improving evidence are included in a number of Welsh Government Action plans. She provided an overview of upcoming work within units and the how they were engaging stakeholders. They are currently undertaking an evidence audit of what is available and the gaps. She covered what they are doing now to plan for improved evidence, and the anticipated challenges with the work. Recruitment to the units is ongoing.</p> <p>BS mentioned that the team is multi-disciplinary, so covers social research, statistics and policy.</p> <p>Discussion: LR asked about what geographical level the units will cover and VD noted that LA level data would be valuable. CA said they would consider this because they want to take into account what stakeholders want.</p> <p>MC noted interest in discussing ONS’s current admin data equalities work with CA and BS to avoid duplication and to maximise the benefits of their work.</p> <p>RJ (RCTCBC) noted that it will be important to understand inequalities for those with multiple protected characteristics. CA and BS are conscious of this and will make sure that analysis of intersectionality will be included in their plans.</p> <p>RJ also asked if there was a recruitment page for interested parties. BS noted this as a good idea but said that currently roles were advertised on the Welsh Government website. Current vacancy (closes 24 March 2022):</p>	<p>Action – CA and BS to follow up with MC on future plans for equalities data.</p> <p>Action – CA and BS to consider setting up a recruitment page but in the interim to forward any job adverts to Secretariat to disseminate to members.</p>

	<p>https://cymru-wales.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-1/brand-2/candidate/so/pm/1/pl/6/opp/7442-Equality-Race-and-Disability-Units-Research-Officer-and-Senior-Research-Officer/en-GB</p> <p>SH mentioned a Chwarae Teg event on Tues 8 February entitled 'Why equality data matters'.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Well-being of Future Generations updates – Steph Howarth, Andrew Granville and Rob Morgan, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>SH gave an update on national indicators following the consultation which took place on national milestone and indicators last autumn, and which was discussed at the previous WSLC. Some new national indicators have been agreed with include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • % of people who have confidence in the justice system, • % of journeys by walking, cycling or public transport, • % of households spending 30% or more of income on housing costs, • status of digital inclusion. <p>Where data is available, these will be included in the Wellbeing of Wales report later this year. Data sources are not yet available for some new indicators. For example, a new travel survey will help to measure the indicator on journeys.</p> <p>AG gave an update on national milestones. The first nine milestones were agreed in December 2021, with some small changes introduced following the consultation. A second wave of national milestones are being developed this year. A wide range of areas are being covered including healthy life expectancy, mental well-being, income poverty and biodiversity. There will be a formal consultation in the summer and the final national milestone values will be agreed before the end of the year.</p> <p>JE mentioned that there are no milestones focusing on housing issues. SH said the next wave of milestones will include energy efficiency of housing, and that there are a wider range of national indicators on housing. There was some discussion of the need for interim milestones. AG indicated that there were already some interim milestones in place for a couple of the indicators.</p> <p>RM gave an update on the future trends report and noted that the latest report was published in December 2021. The report contains a narrative summary, evidence pack and infographics. The report is broken down into four mega trends which are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • people and population • inequalities and opportunities • planetary health and limits • technology evolution. <p>They have created a Shaping Wales' Future blog. In 2022 they will focus on looking at the longer term impact of Covid-19 on the</p>	

	<p>wellbeing of Wales and supporting Public Service Boards in translating Wellbeing Assessments into Wellbeing Plans.</p> <p>The following discussion centred around the timing of reports, support for identifying data sources and how to interpret the trends particularly in the light of the Covid-19 pandemic. It was recognised that an earlier future trends report would be beneficial in future.</p>	
5.	<p>Transforming our population, migration and social statistics system – Michael Cole and Vicky Staples, Office for National Statistics</p>	
	<p>MC covered ONS’s ambitions and current progress in transforming approaches to population and social statistics. More frequent estimates of population required and they are starting a radical approach to work towards achieving this. He showed a timeline of the transformation work. The aim is to provide more detailed and frequent outputs on population and migration, and embed these into official statistics.</p> <p>Two case studies were shared – producing admin-based population estimates, and developing admin-based social statistics (including income stats, housing and ethnicity).</p> <p>MC gave an overview of topics that cannot readily be covered by admin data. Work is being done to consider how such topics can be covered in future either through admin data or through large surveys.</p> <p>VS covered what is coming up in the next year – including census results and experimental stats for 2021 and 2022. They also want to engage with users on future outputs and recommendations.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>JE asked about mid-year population estimates and whether there is a date yet for release of rebased estimates for 2012-2020. And if LA level 2021 data is due Sep 2022 when are Small Area Population Estimates (SAPes) likely to be released?</p> <p>VS said mid-year population estimates for 2021 will be released in September 2022 with rebased population estimates at LA level in early 2023. She will find out when the SAPes are likely become available and let the group know.</p> <p>JE asked what data is available that helps with outputs for Wales as some admin based stats at the moment only cover England.</p> <p>VS said access to some data is limiting the analysis currently (only for England) and they are trying to work with WG and Digital Health and Care Wales to access data for Wales. This includes looking to use School census and HE data. MC said they are aiming to have data available for both nations when all outputs are released.</p> <p>SK asked if the next update of admin-based population estimates will line up with census outputs. MC said it will be close to end of 2022. SK also asked for clarity around range of available labour market stats as they can be confusing. MC said they are trying to</p>	<p>Action – VS to confirm date for release of SAPes based on 2021 census.</p>

	<p>make navigation accessible and easier for users to understand, but they are always keen to receive some feedback.</p> <p>JE noted the importance of the data we get from the Census about housing when they are looking at admin-based outputs. SL agreed this was important. MC said one of their key research areas for the 2023 recommendation is for housing, so it is in their scope to capture that as detailed as possible.</p>	
6.	<p>Paycheck Data – Duncan Mackenzie, Data Cymru and Rhiannon Jones, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>DM explained that they run a consortium that allows LA to access to CACI Paycheck data on income with a discount if they commit to three years. The current three year deal is coming to an end. They are now in position to review what the data has been used for. They believe the main use of data is in housing departments, but it may be used more widely across LAs. Discussion is ongoing with the WG about the income data to be used for Local Housing Market Assessments.</p> <p>RJ (WG) explained the new bilingual Local Housing Market Assessment (LHMA) Tool being developed. It considers the need for new housing (market or affordable housing) based on an understanding of existing needs and newly arising needs. The income data is a critical data source for the tool. The LHMA tool was demonstrated.</p> <p>The discussion recognised that whilst some LAs find the CACI data useful not all LAs have been able to commit to the CACI Paycheck three year deal. The potential for use of the admin-based income estimates being developed by ONS as an alternative in future was discussed. Welsh Government and Data Cymru are in discussion with CACI about options for future arrangements, including any potential consortium agreement.</p> <p>MC indicated that some further developments are planned for the admin-based income estimates though they are currently considered to represent early feasibility work and that they would be keen to discuss the use that could be made of the estimates.</p>	<p>Action – Data Cymru to seek feedback from those in the CACI Paycheck consortium on how the income data is used and to work with WG, LAs, and ONS on possible solutions for LA data access.</p>
7.	<p>Effectiveness Review – Steph Howarth, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>SH summarised the results of the effectiveness review of the WSLC.</p> <p>There was strong support for continuing to run meetings virtually or to use a blended approach. There may be potential to have themed meetings in the future. A suggestion was included in the survey to ask for agenda items closer to the meeting date. JE said it would be helpful if papers were provided early and in one bundle e.g. in one zip file or something similar prior to the meeting because it's more useful for members.</p>	<p>Action – Secretariat to contact members about potential agenda items prior to a meeting.</p> <p>Action – Secretariat to send all papers in one file/folder for future meetings</p>

	<p>JE asked about having breakout rooms in future meetings so we can have more informal chats in breaks.</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB</p>	
	<p>DM indicated that it would be his last WSLC meeting as he is due to move to a new role in Audit Wales. SH thanked him for his role in the group and said he would be welcome to remain a member in his new role.</p> <p>RJ (RCTBC) said it would be useful if there was a list of members, for people to contact and talk to for advice if they were new. JE said there was a community hub so could get that re-started again for new members?</p> <p>SH mentioned said WG are considering the future of the StatsWales open data portal and want feedback on how people currently use it and want to use it in the future. Let her or the secretariat know if anyone wants to volunteer.</p> <p>SH asked for members to email the secretariat with any topics they'd like to see included in future meetings, including any topics they'd like to present.</p> <p>The next meetings are on Thursday 9 June and Thursday 6 October.</p> <p>Close</p>	<p>Action – Secretariat to provide a list of members (with permission) so new members can network.</p> <p>Action – Members to let Secretariat know if they are willing to take part in some user research on StatsWales.</p>

	Actions	
1	Welsh Government colleagues to bring together guidance on preparing accessible documents and spreadsheets.	Will Perks
2	CA and BS to follow up with MC on future plans for equalities data.	Catrin Awoyemi and Becca Sarasin
3	CA and BS to consider setting up a recruitment page but in the interim to forward any job adverts to Secretariat to disseminate to members.	Catrin Awoyemi and Becca Sarasin
4	Confirm date for release of SAPEs based on 2021 census.	Vicky Staples / ONS census team
5	Data Cymru to seek feedback from those in the CACI Paycheck consortium on how the income data is used and to work with WG, LAs, and ONS on possible solutions for LA data access.	WG and Data Cymru teams
6	Contact members about potential agenda items prior to a meeting.	Secretariat
7	Provide all papers in one file/folder for future meetings.	Secretariat
8	Provide a list of members (if permission is given) so new users can network.	Secretariat
9	Let Secretariat know if you are willing to take part in some user research on the StatsWales portal.	All members