

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee Minutes of meeting held on 9 June 2022 Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

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| Dan | Boon | DB | Welsh Government (minute taker) |
| Lee | Clarke | LC | Cardiff County Council |
| Fiona | Clay-Poole | FC | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council |
| Rachel | Clegg | RC | Carmarthenshire County Council |
| Karen | Deehan | KD | Welsh Government |
| Vicki | Doyle | VD | Caerphilly County Borough Council |
| Janine | Edwards | JE | Conwy County Borough Council |
| Brandon | Farrer | BF | Office for National Statistics |
| Lloyd | Fisher | LF | Vale of Glamorgan Council |
| Leanne | John | LJ | Swansea Council |
| Helen | Jones | HJ | The Senedd/Welsh Parliament |
| Paul | Jones | PJ | Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council |
| Steve | King | SK | City and County of Swansea |
| Fiza | Mahmood | FM | Welsh Government (minute taker) |
| Geraint | Morgan | GM | Powys County Council |
| Rhys | Powell | RP | Public Health Wales |
| Jonathan | Radcliffe | JR | Sport Wales |
| Hayley | Randall | HR | Data Cymru |
| Sergio | Recio | SR | Estyn |
| Lesley | Rees | LR | Carmarthenshire County Council |
| Elaine | Smith | ES | Wrexham County Borough Council |
| Helena | Snuggs | HS | Sport Wales |
| Ana | Stan | AS | Welsh Government (minute taker) |
| Sam | Sullivan | SS | Data Cymru |
| Caitlin | Theodorou | CT | Ceredigion County Council |
| Alwyn | Williams | AW | Isle of Anglesey County Council |
| Megan | Williams | MW | Welsh Government |
| Andy | Wilson | AnW | Torfaen County Borough Council |
| Lowri | Wyn Morton | LWM | Gwynedd Council |

Speakers

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| Ellen | Burgess | EB | Office for National Statistics |
| Owen | Davies | OD | Social Care Wales |
| Helene | Hayes | HH | Citizens Advice |
| Lindsey | Kearton | LK | Citizens Advice |
| Sue | Leake | SL | Welsh Government (Chair) |

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| Chris | Shine | CS | Office for National Statistics |
| David | Williams | DW | Welsh Government |
| Gerald | Williams | GW | Office for National Statistics |
| Abigail | Woodham | AbiW | Welsh Government |

Apologies

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| Gwyneth | Ayers | Carmarthenshire County Council |
| Hywel | Butts | Welsh Government |
| Sioned | Cardew-Richardson | Estyn |
| Shaun | Davies | Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council |
| Karen | Hawkes | Denbighshire County Council |
| Steph | Howarth | Welsh Government |
| Steven | Marshall | Welsh Government |

| 1. | Welcome, Introduction and Apologies | Actions |
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| | <p>SL welcomed everyone. See apologies above.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation was not provided as the ten percent quota was not met.</p> <p>The secretariat sent papers in one email as requested last meeting – worked well for everyone.</p> | |
| 2. | Note of last meeting, update on action points, Statistics Wales quarterly update, demography update and Data Cymru update – Sue Leake, Welsh Government | |
| | <p>Note of last meeting: LR said she was at the previous meeting but was not noted – Secretariat to amend</p> <p>SL talked about the milestones mentioned in the previous meeting. New milestones are due to be set out for consultation in the summer. The LHMA tool mentioned in the previous meeting was published on 31 March.</p> <p>Actions update: SL said that the accessibility guidance will be an agenda item at the next meeting. Catrin/Becca to share job adverts for equalities unit vacancies. The date for the next SAPE data has not been confirmed yet. Paycheck data – CACI option pursued for now before Admin-based Income Statistics data can be confirmed as official statistics.</p> <p>Stats quarterly: SL mentioned the COVID transition plan, which has meant they have reviewed the need for COVID statistics and how often they are released. Still getting weekly data on school attendance until the end of school year. Post 16 stats aiming to publish more data broken down by ethnicity. Housing stats have been catching up on outputs delayed by pandemic. SL also highlighted the fuel poverty modelled estimates published in April for the year 2021. NSW new data coming out on 14 July, and they are looking</p> | <p>Action: Secretariat confirmed LR is listed as an attendee</p> |

into more ways of recording responses e.g., telephone survey and online. Update on Ukraine refugee data and the sponsorship scheme – data being published weekly by DLUHC. The Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan was released on 7 June.

JE mentioned there are small area estimates available on various housing aspects from the VOA website. She added a link to this in the Teams chat - [Valuation Office Agency: Council Tax statistics - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/council-tax-statistics)

LWM asked if there is any research looking into the risk of children becoming NEETs – SL to look into this.

Demography update: See paper for more details. Main update is that first 2021 census outputs are to be published on 28 June but will only cover basic population and household estimates.

JE mentioned a recent meeting of the WASP group who are considering the methodology for the next sub-national population projections for Wales, including consideration of whether these could be made available at a small area level. In response to a question about any changes in the methodology JE said it would mostly stay the same although there may be some slight changes once the census data is released.

Data Cymru update: SS said a few dashboards have been published recently including one on Wellbeing of Wales and one on “a review of poverty.” SS asked for any feedback from members once they have had a chance to look. They are also trying to produce profiles for local areas at an LA level, and at ward level which will come out soon. Some analysis on using social media data and how it can be used has been done – guidance should be out in a couple of weeks.

SS is doing a seminar on 23 June on the release of census data, and they also have other sessions running. One session per quarter will be free for LA members. They are putting guidance together on data visualisation with WG and Wales Data Leaders Network.

JE asked if Public Service Boards (PSBs) could be added as geographies on the dashboards. SS will check.

VD asked what data the local area profiles will include as LAs. SS said many data sources are used so there may be some overlap but will be different to what the LAs currently produce.

JE asked about the implications of adding the ward level data. SS said they are still working on this but there are still things to consider.

Action: SL to see if there is any research taking place on the risk of children becoming NEETs

Action: SS to look into adding PSBs as geographies on dashboard.

Action: VD to look into the new ward boundaries that have been released and email them to SS.

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| | <p>There was a discussion about the new ward boundaries introduced prior to the 2022 local government election and where to find information about them. VD said the new ward boundaries have been released. She will share details with SS. PJ said they got ward boundaries for their LA from the boundary commission and will also send details of this. LR asked who is responsible for informing everyone of when the boundaries are updated. It is not clear where provision of advice on ward boundaries should be coming from as wards are not statistical boundaries. SL to investigate this and then get back to members.</p> <p>HJ shared a link to Ordnance survey election maps: Election Maps (Ordnance Survey)</p> <p>EB said ONS are due to release their new statistical LSOA boundaries in July.</p> | <p>Action: SL to check who is responsible for informing everyone of when ward boundaries are being updated and get back to members.</p> |
| <p>3.</p> | <p>Census update – Michael Roskams, Gerald Williams and Ellen Burgess, Office for National Statistics</p> | |
| | <p>EB shared a presentation.</p> <p>Local authorities (LAs) have taken part in a QA exercise which compares census data with other sources. All LAs in England and Wales were encouraged to participate, and results will be published later this year. A total of 18 out of 22 LAs in Wales have signed up. A total of 160 responses were received across England and Wales.</p> <p>The first census results will be published on the 28 June 2022. This release will include the data, commentary, and some exploratory and explanatory products</p> <p>There will be five datasets on population and household estimates for England and Wales, rounded to the nearest one hundred at LA level.</p> <p>Alongside the data, there will also be two statistical bulletins that will be published on the rounded population and household estimates for both England and Wales combined and Wales separately.</p> <p>A blog will be published on the ONS website and there will be</p> <p>a digital content interactive (scrolly-telling) article will be used to tell a story about population changes by LA in England and Wales Users can choose a LA they are interested in and compare with other LAs and the wider country</p> <p>The Exploratory product is an online game that will let you test your assumptions and knowledge about the population of England and Wales, the game will also be embedded in social media platforms.</p> <p>Supporting information will be published alongside the release such as a quality and methodology information (QMI) report, available in English and Welsh.</p> <p>You can find the census results on the ONS website and the census campaign website. As per the 2011 census, the first</p> | |

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| <p>results will not be available on Nomis. However, future datasets will be on Nomis during later releases.</p> <p>What comes next? Between autumn and winter 2022 topic summaries data will be released. See presentation for a full list of these topics.</p> <p>A few examples of Welsh specific products that will be available are datasets about Welsh Language Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speaking Welsh • Writing Welsh • Reading Welsh • Understanding Welsh • Detailed Welsh language skills dataset, <p>together with a bulletin about Welsh language skills.</p> <p>In Phase 2 multivariate and cross tabulated datasets will be available. These are 'readymade' datasets and datasets users can change themselves to meet their needs. Examples of planned Welsh specific multivariate datasets: ability to speak Welsh by industry, national identity by age, occupation, etc. (see PowerPoint for full list) though plans may be subject to change. Area Profiles are likely to be delivered in later phases.</p> <p>Questions and Answers</p> <p>VD had a question regarding the QA exercise with LAs, there were concerns about the initial results from the QA as the LA had not received any feedback from ONS following the exercise. This is a problem faced by other LAs as well. GW will liaise with someone from the QA team about what can be shared the relevant people before the Census first release.</p> <p>There was interest from members about when the new LSOA boundaries will be released and who names them and also when an updated urban rural classification will be made available.</p> | <p>Action: GW to liaise with the someone from the census QA team about what can be shared with the relevant people before the Census first release.</p> <p>Action: GW to advise on when new LSOA boundaries will be released and when an updated urban rural classification will be mad available.</p> |
| <p>4. StatsWales: User research and development – David Williams, Hugo Vine, Abigail Woodham and Rachel Andrews, Welsh Government</p> | |
| <p>DW gave a presentation on the plans to update the current version of StatsWales based on users' needs (StatsWales 3). Slides were made available to the attendees. Aiming to meet all the requirements and to start building the new StatsWales in October.</p> <p>The current version became live in 2012. It was not developed with any significant user research, and feedback has been received that it is not the easiest to use and manage. StatsWales 3 aims to meet the needs of users,</p> | |

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| | <p>therefore will undertake a discovery phase to understand these needs.</p> <p>They have a growing list of volunteers willing to take part in user research, comprising of internal and external users, and stakeholders.</p> <p>High level business requirements could change based on the user research/feedback. If anyone wants to get involved, please let DW know to be added on the list.</p> <p>Discussion:</p> <p>JE asked what the target audience is for this project. DW replied that they would like as wide a range of users as possible. Some members expressed their view that NOMIS was an example of an easy-to-use data system, also that keeping the name StatsWales may be beneficial.</p> <p>LR noted that it would be useful if StatsWales had all of the data that is required by WG legislation, to make it easy for policy to access. LR to be added to the user research list to communicate her feedback to the team.</p> <p>DW mentioned that open dataset links will still be available.</p> | <p>Action: anyone who would like to be involved in the User Research email David Williams - david.williams001@gov.wales. Note if you would prefer any interviews/user research to be in Welsh.</p> <p>Action: LR and VD to be added to the list for user research.</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Exploring the latest trends and insights from ONS and Citizens Advice data on the cost of living – Chris Shine, Office for National Statistics and Lindsey Kearton, Citizens Advice</p> | |
| | <p>CS shared his slides – these included an overview of the latest insights on topics such as inflation, household costs and transport costs which all have contributed to increased cost of living. Data was at a UK level and not available for Wales individually. In terms of inflation/cost of groceries, ONS want to look more into whether people have changed to buying different products and which brands of certain foods have increased prices more than others. They are also looking at whether there is a disproportionate impact on those in deprived areas or in particular age groups. The labour market has remained stable despite the increased cost of living, however CS mentioned that the unemployment rate only includes those out of work and looking for work, so is different to the economic inactivity rate which shows a different story. The impact of the pandemic is not fully understood yet especially concerning self-employed people. The slides also highlighted the upcoming releases from ONS on the cost of living. CS is also happy to take questions by email after the meeting if members wish.</p> <p>LWM asked how they might go about doing analysis on this at a local area level, and LR asked if the data is available at</p> | |

LA level. CS said that the data would be more granular and more difficult to produce robust estimates at a lower level but LAs can look at the population level data and try to apply to local area level according to their understanding of the local population

ES mentioned jobs that are not being taken up and asked if this has been covered by ONS research. CS said they are looking into whether demand has returned to pre-pandemic levels – with inflation, people are cutting down on spending so may not want to use services.

AW mentioned the Mosaic Cost of Living dashboard from Experian which breaks down data to local area level though there is a cost involved.

LWM asked about the work statement, CS added a link to [‘The Cost of Living, current and upcoming work’](#) in the chat.

CS to also put a link to [House of Commons briefing on the rising cost of living](#) which may be of interest.

LK shared Citizens Advice Cymru’s slides, which were presented by HH and LK. HH provided some background to Citizens Advice Cymru and the work they do, as well as some recent developments and work they have been doing. LK ran through the latest (May 2022) data trends for Citizens Advice Cymru. The largest number of those needing help for the last five years was seen in March this year. Requests for help on debt and crisis support have rapidly increased since Sept/Oct 2021 and numbers continue to be above pre-pandemic levels. Numbers of people seeking help who are living on a negative budget is also increasing in Wales. It was noted that women and disabled people were overrepresented in the profile of Citizens Advice Cymru clients, but they are still seeing higher proportions of these groups seeking help on debt or being referred to crisis support. HH then showed a case study of someone’s story to explain the issues that some people experience. See slides for more detail.

SS asked if any of this data is available at a local area level or lower geographies - LK said it is possible to look at it from a LA level. Some local Citizens Advice cover more than one LA. They also each have their own relationship with their LA(s). VD said they receive lower-level data regularly from local CABs and offered to share what they do get. Members agreed that this would be useful.

LK left her email in the chat:
lindsey.kearton@citizensadvice.org.uk

Action: VD to share the type of information she receives from her local CAB.

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| 6. | Update of National Social Care Data Portal for Wales – Owen Davies, Social Care Wales | |
| | <p>OD provided an update on the Social Care Wales Data Portal Programme. The SCW Data Portal aims to bring together data about Social Care in Wales including on children and adults’ services and carers, as well as integrating the former ‘Daffodil’ system which considered projections of need for social care.</p> <p>They are coming to the end of the ‘continuity portal’ which will be launched soon. Most of the work was focused on replacing the technology and updating the look and feel of the platform. They are creating a specification for the ‘discovery portal.’</p> <p>For a full timeline please see the PowerPoint slides.</p> <p>Specification of the portal – this has involved working with UI/UX experts to make it more accessible and easier to use. The next stage is focusing on what is coming up next – they want to provide additional functionality to users, such as being able to create their own insights from the data.</p> <p>An initial look at the platform was shared. The platform has been designed so that it can be used on a variety of devices such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptops. PowerBI is used to create visualisations on the platform, within is interactive and presents data on key social care topic areas. Search options are available on the platform. The platform is expected to include information on levels of confidence in data quality for various sources.</p> | |
| 7. | AOB | |
| | <p>SL asked for members to email the Secretariat at KASevents@gov.wales with any topics they would like to see included in future meetings – and any topics they would like to present on too.</p> <p>The next meetings are on Thursday 6 October 2022 and Thursday 2 February 2023.</p> | |

| | Actions | |
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| 1 | Add Lesley Rees to the attendees list for the previous meeting | Secretariat Completed |
| 2 | See if there is any research taking place on the risk of children becoming NEETs | Sue Leake, Welsh Government |
| 3 | Look into adding PSBs as geographies on their dashboard | Sam Sullivan, Data Cymru |

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| 4 | Look into the new ward boundaries that have been released and email them to SS | Vicki Doyle, Caerphilly County Borough Council |
| 5 | Check who is responsible for informing everyone of when ward boundaries are being updated and get back to members. | Sue Leake, Welsh Government |
| 6 | GW to liaise with the someone from the census QA team about what can be shared with the relevant people before the Census first release | Gerald Williams, Office for National Statistics |
| 7 | GW to advise on when new LSOA boundaries will be released and when an updated urban rural classification will be made available. | Gerald Williams, Office for National Statistics |
| 8 | Anyone who would like to be involved in the User Research email David Williams - david.williams001@gov.wales . Note if you would prefer any interviews/user research to be in Welsh. | All members |
| 9 | LR and VD to be added to the list for StatsWales user research. | David Williams, Welsh Government |
| 10 | VD to share the type of information she receives from her local CAB. | Vicki Doyle, Caerphilly County Borough Council |