

Welsh Economic Statistics User Group: minutes of meeting

Tuesday 11 October 2022 – 11:30-13:30

Attendees			
Jonathan	Bonville-Ginn	JBG	Welsh Government (Business and Regions)
James	Carey	JC	Welsh Government (Employability and Skills)
Liam	Evans	LE	Development Bank Wales
Alex	Fitzpatrick	AF	Welsh Government (KAS)
John	Gossage	JG	Natural Resources Wales
Steph	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government (KAS) (Chair)
Debbie	Hudd	DH	Welsh Government (Transport)
Guto	Ifan	GI	Wales Governance Centre
Llinos	Jenkins	LJ	Welsh Government (Trade)
Martin	Jennings	MJ	Senedd
Luned	Jones	LuJ	Welsh Government (KAS)
Melanie	Jones	MeJ	Cardiff Business School, Cardiff University
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea (LA representative)
Neil	Paull	NP	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Cerys	Pointing	CP	Welsh Government (KAS)
Jonathan	Price	JP	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Julian	Revell	JR	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
David	Swarts	DS	Transport for Wales
Additional Presenters			
Blessing	Chiripanhura	BC	Office for National Statistics

Chris	Goldsworthy	CG	Office for National Statistics
Ffion	James-Hargreaves	FJH	Office for National Statistics
Libby	Richards	LR	Office for National Statistics
Leigh	Skuse	LS	Office for National Statistics
Minute takers			
Florence	Milne	FM	Welsh Government (KAS)
Joseph	Nicholson	JN	Welsh Government (KAS)
Apologies			
Rhys	Ap Gwilym	RA	Bangor University
Thomas	Nicholls	TN	Welsh Government (Treasury)
Nigel	O'Leary	NO	Swansea University
Sian	Price	SP	Development Bank Wales
Helen	Tilley	HT	Wales Centre for public policy

1	Welcome and Introduction	Chair – Steph Howarth, Welsh Government
<p>SH welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the group and thanked everyone for agreeing to join the user group. She explained that the purpose of the group is to engage with and advise Welsh Government analysts on their strategic priorities and work plan for economic statistics in Wales</p> <p>Apologies were noted.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation was not provided as the ten percent quota was not met, but several WG staff were able to speak Welsh, and Welsh contributions (verbal or chat) were encouraged</p> <p>Where possible, presentations will be shared online after the meeting.</p>		
2	Terms of Reference	Luned Jones, Welsh Government
<p>LuJ – went through the draft terms of reference. She suggested that, in future, meetings should focus on a particular theme within the scope of Economic statistics.</p> <p>No preference was expressed on whether the group should meet twice or three times a year.</p> <p>MeJ – asked whether facilitating access to data sources should also be included within the scope of the group. SH agreed that this could be added.</p>		SH / LuJ will update terms of reference accordingly

	No further comments were made, but SH asked for any further comments by correspondence by 21/10/22.	All – provide further comments on ToR by 21/10/22
3	Welsh Government presentation on Economic Statistics	Luned Jones, Cerys Pointing, Alex Fitzpatrick, Jonathan Bonville-Ginn and Jonathan Price, Welsh Government
	<p>LuJ, CP, AF, JP, JBG gave presentations relating to their work within the Welsh Government.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Economics mailbox: economic.stats@gov.wales - Feedback welcomed on trade data dashboard - https://walesdtp.ac.uk/events/welsh-government-internship-applications-deadline/ <p>Discussion:</p> <p>SK – very useful presentation. He asked about general plans for the labour market aspects of the 2021 Census outputs. He noted that these were a priority for local authorities, and a challenge especially due to the timing on the census.</p> <p>LuJ – Welsh Government have a plan to publish initial summary results including labour market from the 2021 Census. She acknowledged the challenges – in particular the timing of Census and the furlough scheme which will have impacted the data.</p> <p>JG - Labour market: labour productivity growth is on a UK level – would be good to see on a Wales level. It would be useful to have more granular data on distributions. Also mentioned the importance of the circular economy and notions of polycentricity.</p> <p>LuJ will look into productivity stats to share.</p>	<p>LuJ to share information on productivity statistics. (Sub-regional productivity: 2002 to 2020 GOV.WALES)</p>
4	Office for National Statistics Presentation	Libby Richards, Leigh Skuse, Blessing Chiripanhura, Ffion James-Hargreaves, Chris Goldsworthy, Office for National Statistics
	<p>LR started off the presentation discussing ONS's current work and plans for subnational data.</p> <p>CG then moved into subnational and inter-regional trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highlighted how helpful CP and her team have been. <p>LS then discussed Labour Force Survey transformation. Covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why ONS are transformation the labour force survey - The timeline for this transformation 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Priority areas for improving quality - What the transformed labour force survey means for the annual population survey - Latest article sharing progress and plans: https://www.ons.gov.uk/employmentandlabourmarket/peopleinwork/employmentandemployeetypes/articles/labourmarkettransformationupdateonprogressandplans/september2022 - Direct any feedback / questions to labour.market.transformation@ons.gov.uk <p>BC then delivered a presentation covering GVA and GDHI.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>MeJ asked in the chat: Is it possible to say more about the implications of the transformation for the longitudinal element of the LFS?</p> <p>MeJ also mentioned the importance of managing discontinuities. It is important to know if the changes in time series are real or due to different survey methodology– need to understand that before the data goes public. Especially when the data gets broken down into local authorities etc.</p>	<p>LS to respond to MeJ question following the session.</p>
5	Further Discussion	Chair
	<p>BC – feedback is encouraged as we develop GDHI. If there are particular areas anyone wants to be looked into, that can be factored into the development plans.</p> <p>JG – in 2017 ONS did some work on 4 wellbeing questions with lots of granularity – would be useful to have an updated granular look on these 4 points so that they can be related to labour market stats etc. SS linked a similar publication by Data Cymru and encouraged feedback on the dashboard: https://www.data.cymru/dashboards/wellbeing</p> <p>SK – welcomed all developments on granularity. Also mentioned timeliness around GVA and GDHI – time lag has improved over the years, but it still feels too long.</p> <p>BC – ONS is bringing in administrative datasets that feed into these stats so are working to decrease timelines.</p>	
6	Potential topics for next meeting	Chair
	<p>SH suggested labour market impacts as a potential theme.</p> <p>Wellbeing economy was also mentioned as a potential topic to be focused on in future meetings.</p> <p>LuJ - Would welcome presentations on work undertaken by other organisations at future meetings.</p>	

DS - happy to deliver presentation on transport monitoring framework		
9	Any Other Business	Chair
<p>DS - TfW will shortly be advertising for an SEO equivalent Statistician role. (From chat: <i>We have a number of activities planned to promote this in the Stats world – but if anyone would be willing to share across their networks or offer additional suggestions to promote in addition to our planned activities that would be much appreciated – particularly as I am warned that there might be a shortage of applicants for such roles.)</i></p> <p>Link to post (closing date 31 October)</p> <p>Statistics Manager (Statistician) Rheolwr Ystadegau (Ystadegydd) Transport for Wales LinkedIn</p>		

Third Sector Statistics User Panel for Wales 28 April 2022 Summary of Action Points		
1	Update terms of reference to facilitating access to data sources.	LuJ
2	All – provide further comments on ToR by 21/10/22	All
3	LuJ to provide information on productivity statistics (Sub-regional productivity: 2002 to 2020 GOV.WALES)	LuJ
4	LS to respond to MeJ question (<i>Is it possible to say more about the implications of the transformation for the longitudinal element of the LFS?</i>)	LS