

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee

A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 2 February 2023

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Andy	Bates	AB	Office for National Statistics
Phillip	Barlow	PB	Pembrokeshire County Council
Annie	Campbell	AC	Welsh Government
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Rachel	Clegg	RC	Carmarthenshire County Council
Michael	Cole	MC	Office for National Statistics
Hugo	Cosh	HC	Public Health Wales
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative
Kerry	Earnshaw	KE	Office for National Statistics
James	Falkner	JF	Welsh Government (Minute taker)
Lloyd	Fisher	LF	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Faye	Gracey	FG	Welsh Government
Steph	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government
Steph	Harries	SH1	Welsh Government
Eleri	James	EJ	Welsh Language Commissioner
Bea	Jefferies	BJ	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Leanne	John	LJ	City and County of Swansea Council
Nia	Jones	NJ	Welsh Government
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Helen	Jones	HJ	Senedd Research
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea Council
Emily	Knipe	EK	Office for National Statistics
Pete	Large	PL	Office for National Statistics
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Morgan	Lowden	ML	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Ceri	Lewis	CL	Office for National Statistics
Chris	McGowan	CMG	Welsh Government
Edward	Morgan	EM	Office for National Statistics
Victoria	Morgan	VM	Vale of Glamorgan Council
John	Morris	JM	Welsh Government
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Joseph	Nicholson	JN	Welsh Government (Minute Taker)
Llio	Owen	LO	Welsh Government
Kay	Palmer	KP	Audit Wales
Joshua	Parry	JP	Welsh Government

Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government
Rhys	Powell	RP	NHS Wales
Jonathan	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Hayley	Randall	HR	Data Cymru
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Heledd	Rees	HR1	Office for National Statistics
David	Roberts	DR	Welsh Government
Vickey	Rose	VR	Office for National Statistics
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Helena	Snuggs	HS	Sport Wales
Jacob	Squires	JS	Welsh Government
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Sarah	Waite	SW	Office for National Statistics
Louise	White	LW	Welsh Government
Alwyn	Williams	AW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Gerald	Williams	GW	Office for National Statistics
Megan	Williams	MW	Welsh Government
Andy	Wilson	AW	Torfaen County Borough Council
Lowri	Wyn Morton	LWM	Cyngor Gwynedd
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	NWV	Cyngor Gwynedd

Speakers

Steph	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government (Chair)
Chris	McGowan	CMG	Welsh Government
John	Morris	JM	Welsh Government
Dave	Roberts	DR	Welsh Government
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government
Ceri	Lewis	CL	Office for National Statistics
Heledd	Rees	HR	Office for National Statistics
Pete	Large	PL	Office for National Statistics
Gerald	Williams	GW	Office for National Statistics
Ed	Morgan	EM	Office for National Statistics
Andy	Bates	AB	Office for National Statistics
Kerry	Earnshaw	KE	Office for National Statistics
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Hugo	Cosh	HC	Public Health Wales

Apologies

Gwyneth	Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Shaun	Davies	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Brett	Davis	South Wales Police
Karen	Hawkes	Denbighshire County Council
Steven	Marshall	Welsh Government

1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Steph Howarth, Welsh Government	Actions
	SH welcomed everyone. See apologies above.	

	<p>Simultaneous translation was provided.</p> <p>All presentations will be shared online after the meeting.</p>	
2	<p>Note of last meeting, update on action points, Statistics Wales quarterly update, demography update and Data Cymru update – Steph Howarth, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>Note of last meeting: JE's organisation will be amended in the minutes. No other issues from last meeting's minutes were raised.</p> <p>Actions update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SH noted that the majority of actions from the previous meeting have been completed. Action 6 – LWM noted that the action was in regard to 2011 census data for new ward boundaries. Action to be raised again under the census item on the agenda. <p>Statistics Wales quarterly update:</p> <p>SH drew members' attention to a number of items from the quarterly update.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School attendance data continues to be published weekly. The impact of strikes will be analysed in the next collection of this data. Health: NHS performance measures are published monthly, and we have been supporting people to make comparisons with England more effectively. We have expanded the range of primary care statistics, including prescription analysis and deprivation. JE noted that primary care clusters are often not a suitable analytical geography. Primary care could be considered as potential future agenda item. On cost of living, data from the Discretionary Assistance Scheme is now regularly published, and a local authority breakdown is being explored. A blog on sources of cost of living data has been published. The publication of the first statistics from the census on Welsh language was noted, and a blog was published to explain comparisons with survey data. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LR asked if it would be possible for LAs to have access to high profile data like this before publication to help handle requests and questions? SH confirmed that only a small number of WG statisticians have early access to census data and that under arrangements set out in the Code of Practice for Statistics, pre-release access has to be minimised and is only permitted for specific reasons. VD asked if WIMD could be discussed at the next WSLC. <p>Population and Demography update: Updates to be covered in presentations later.</p> <p>Data Cymru update: SS: Upcoming webinars and training sessions were noted in the paper and on the website. Data Cymru's dashboards will be covered later in the agenda.</p>	Secretariat to consider primary care and WIMD when planning future agenda topics.

3	National Survey for Wales – Chris McGowan, Welsh Government	
	<p>Chris McGowan presented this item. Slides are available online.</p> <p>Chris covered the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changing survey contractors and a break in data collection 2023-2024. • Changes in survey design • 2024/25 survey topics are currently in development. Publishing results from the 2024/25 fieldwork will be July 2025 • Members are welcome to get in touch if they have requests for topics or discuss with established policy contacts. <p>Members asked questions about the comparability of data between contractors, the potential for regional results and the response rate for the survey.</p>	
4	ONS Local – Ceri Lewis and Heledd Rees, Office for National Statistics	
	<p>Heledd Rees introduced the work of ONS Local, a new team in ONS. Slides are available online.</p> <p>Heledd covered the following key points about the aims of ONS Local:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aim to improve local, regional, and national decision making. • Acts as a front door to ONS • Joining up areas with similar challenges to be able to share solutions • There will be a phased introduction • Establishing monthly newsletters and ONS webinars • A Wales stakeholder roundtable is planned for 16 March <p>Members asked questions about who ONS Local considers to be its stakeholders and about the nature of the roundtable on 16 March.</p>	
5	Census	
	<p>Census outputs update (Gerald Williams and Pete Large, Office for National Statistics)</p> <p>Slides are available online.</p> <p>GW summarised census outputs published so far and plans for the coming months. PL described the process for producing census estimates, including statistical disclosure control, and the resources available to support use of this data.</p> <p>Members raised a number of discussion points, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with tables summing to different totals. Information is available in the Quality and Management Information (QMI) for Census 2021 to explain this matter. • Availability of data in the build-an-area tool. • Geography matters, such as being able to compare 2011 and 2022 wards. A look-up tool will be made available, using a best fit method. • When specific products and analysis would be available. <p>Upcoming consultation on population and social statistics (Ed Morgan, Office for National Statistics)</p> <p>Slides are available online.</p>	Members to contact secretariat if interested in

	<p>Ed Morgan presented on the upcoming consultation on population and social statistics, noting the proposed timings, the role of the census and admin data, and engagement activities planned to take place.</p> <p>SH said that the Welsh Government will be setting up an advisory group to inform their response to the consultation. Anyone interested in joining this group should get in touch.</p> <p>Members asked questions about the scope and coverage of the consultation. Experience of being a pilot authority was shared by CT.</p> <p>Census Geographies (John Morris and Dave Roberts, Welsh Government and Andy Bates, Office for National Statistics)</p> <p>AB updated members on recent developments in geography related to the census. New census estimates lead to some geographical boundaries being redrawn where populations have changed. An area of Newport was used to demonstrate some changes.</p> <p>Members asked questions related to geographic changes in their areas and about whether different geographies nested into each other. Some members expressed concern that community councils were not a standard geography.</p> <p>JM went through Welsh Government plans to update the names used for statistical geographies like LSOAs. A co-production approach with local authorities will be used. A blog will set out options (e.g., do nothing, keep existing names where possible, full re-naming exercise) and then detailed work will take place to produce names.</p> <p>The value of having names for small areas was strongly recognised by members, with some already producing their own names. Principles such as when to rename, whether to use the same name across multiple geographies (e.g., a ward and an LSOA) were discussed.</p> <p>DR answered questions from members regarding data availability and functionality on DataMapsWales.</p> <p>Given the substantial interest in geography, it was suggested that a separate deep dive on the topic could be held, either in a future meeting or separately.</p> <p>Census Benefits Project (Kerry Earnshaw, Office for National Statistics)</p> <p>KE briefly described the purpose of the Census Benefits Project and made members aware they may be asked for their input on the project in future.</p>	joining the Welsh Government advisory group on future of population and social statistics
6	Population estimates update - Martin Parry, Welsh Government	LWM and DR to discuss issues with Data Map Wales (e.g., changing boundary colours)
	<p>Slides are available online.</p> <p>MP summarised recent and upcoming work on population by both ONS and WG, including mid-year estimates and projections.</p>	Secretariat to arrange Census Geography Deep dive session

	Members asked how changing population data was feeding through into policy and funding decisions.	
7	<p>Cost of living</p> <p>Cost of Living dashboard (Sam Sullivan, Data Cymru) Slides are available online.</p> <p>Sam Sullivan summarised work by Data Cymru related to cost of living, including dashboards on poverty and inflation. If members have any feedback on the dashboards, they should get in touch.</p> <p>Questions were asked on how information about data quality is presented. There was also a discussion on access to CACI Paycheck data, given that only some LAs are part of the consortium that has arranged access. LAs that are part of the consortium should contact SS to gain access to the dashboard using this information, if they don't already have a log-in. SS to check advice from CACI on use of data for those LAs not part of the consortium.</p> <p>A question was asked about the role of CACI data in local housing market assessments. SH and SL will report back on this.</p> <p>Indicators at LSOA level to help target interventions for cost of living and winter pressures in Neath Port Talbot (Hugo Cosh, Public Health Wales)</p> <p>Slides are available online.</p> <p>HC presented on work by PHW with Neath Port Talbot council related to the cost of living crisis, including how relevant indicators were selected and profiles were produced. He mentioned some potential work on local area profiles relating to GP primary care cluster geographies.</p> <p>JE expressed interest in the profiles as others are doing similar work and keen to avoid duplication. HC offered to share information outside the meeting on this.</p>	SS to check advice from CACI on use of data for those LAs not part of the consortium and share with relevant LAs.
8	AOB	SH and SL to provide an update on arrangements for income data in LHMA.
	LWM asked if Welsh Government was familiar with Rightmove data and whether it had any plans to purchase this.	HC to contact JE in regard to health and GP cluster data.
9	Close	SH to look into whether Welsh Government is purchasing Rightmove data
	SH thanked presenters and members for attending and contributing. The next meeting will be on 8 June.	

	Actions	
1	Secretariat to consider primary care and WIMD when planning future agenda topics.	Secretariat
2	Members to contact secretariat if interested in joining the Welsh Government advisory group on future of population and social statistics	All members
3	EM to follow up with CT regarding experience from the population pilot.	EM/CT
4	LWM and DR to discuss issues with Data Map Wales (e.g., changing boundary colours)	LMW/DR
5	Secretariat to arrange Census Geography Deep dive session	Secretariat
6	SS to check advice from CACI on use of data for those LAs not part of the consortium and share with relevant LAs.	SS
7	SH and SL to provide an update on arrangements for income data in LHMA's.	SH/SL
8	HC to contact JE in regard to health and GP cluster data.	HC/JE
9	SH to look into whether Welsh Government is purchasing Rightmove data	SH