

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee Minutes of meeting held on 8 June 2023 Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Phillip	Barlow	PB	Pembrokeshire County Council
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Michael	Cole	MC	Office for National Statistics
Heledd	Davis	HD	Cymen
Janine	Edwards	JE	North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative
Lloyd	Fisher	LF	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Yasmin	Friedmann	YF	Newport County Council
Eleri	James	EJ	Welsh Language Commissioner
Bea	Jeffries	BJ	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Leanne	John	LJ	Swansea Council
Helen	Jones	HJ	Senedd Research
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Mari Ann	Jones	MAJ	Public Health Wales
Steve	King	SK	Swansea Council
Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Victoria	Middleton	VM	Public Health Wales
Florence	Milne	FM	Welsh Government (Minute taker)
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Kay	Palmer	KP	Audit Wales
Joshua	Parry	JP	Welsh Government
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government
Dave	Phillips	DP	Blaenau Gwent County Council
Jonathon	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Hayley	Randall	HR	Data Cymru
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Thomas	Rose	TR	Welsh Government
Cat	Singleton	CS	Welsh Government (Minute taker)
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Mei-Ling	Trigg	MLT	Welsh Government
Sam	Voyce	SV	Welsh Government (Minute taker)
Alwyn	Williams	AW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Megan	Williams	MW	Welsh Government
Lowri	Wyn Morton	LWM	Cyngor Gwynedd
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	NWV	Cyngor Gwynedd

Speakers

Steph	Howarth	SH	Welsh Government (Chair)
Ben	Cooper	BC	Office for National Statistics
Jo	Maimaris	KM	Office for National Statistics
Hannah	Thomas	HT	Office for National Statistics
Craig	Thomas	CT	Welsh Government
Gerald	Williams	GW	Office for National Statistics
David	Roberts	DR	Welsh Government
John	Morris	JM	Welsh Government

Apologies

Gwyneth	Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Sioned	Cardew-Richardson	Estyn
Pamela	Chivers	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Rachel	Clegg	Carmarthenshire County Council
Shaun	Davies	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Vicki	Doyle	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Karen	Hawkes	Denbighshire County Council
Chris	Llewelyn	Welsh Local Government Association
Steven	Marshall	Welsh Government

1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Steph Howarth, Welsh Government	Actions
	<p>SH welcomed everyone. See apologies above.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation has been provided.</p> <p>Item on population estimates will not be covered in this meeting due to a delay in the publication.</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>Note of last meeting There were no comments on the minutes from the last meeting.</p> <p>Update on action points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action 1 – SH noted that Primary care is on the agenda today, WIMD will likely be included on the agenda for the next meeting. Action 6 – HR said that an addition to the contract has been agreed for LAs or consortium members to share data with public sector colleagues when appropriate. Action 7 – SH said that LHMA tool does not specify the data that should be used, it is for LAs to source an appropriate data source. The experimental admin-based income statistics may be suitable but as they are experimental their quality should be assessed for this purpose. WG does not have access to Rightmove data as far as we are aware. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions 1, 3, 4, 8 and 9 closed. <p>Statistics Wales quarterly update SH drew attention to a number of items set out in the quarterly update paper. There was interest in hearing more on the transformed Labour Force Survey at a future meeting.</p> <p>Demography update The delay to publication of the mid-year estimates was noted, and that they are now to be published in September.</p> <p>Data Cymru update HR drew attention to items in the Data Cymru update paper. LR praised Data Cymru as the work they have done has saved lots of time for LA colleagues. LWM requested that Data Cymru more regularly shares its planned work in order to avoid potential duplication.</p>	<p>Secretariat to consider transformed labour force survey for a future agenda item.</p>
3	Spreadsheet Accessibility – Hannah Thomas, Office for National Statistics	
	<p>HT, whilst indicating that Welsh Government had made good progress in making spreadsheets more accessible, provided a demonstration of how to improve the accessibility of spreadsheets by going through a number of Welsh Government examples. Advice included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not underlining text. • Hyperlinking URLs rather than writing out in full. • Providing a description of what is in the spreadsheet (e.g., how many tables and how set out). • Marking up tables correctly. • Adhering to presentation standards, like right-aligning numbers. • Not relying on colour alone to communicate information. • Using consistent shorthand <p>JR asked if there is guidance around producing tables in PowerBI. HT replied that PowerBI has poor accessibility in general. As part of Analysis in Government month a session was run where dashboards were tested with screen readers in order to identify improvements. analysis.function@ons.gov.uk can provide further information on any future sessions. Members can get in touch with analysis.function@ons.gov.uk if they want further information.</p> <p>Links to further information: Releasing statistics in spreadsheets Making spreadsheets accessible checklist Resources to use with our releasing statistics in spreadsheets guidance Accessibility empathy for spreadsheets Advice on use of symbols and shorthand</p>	
4	Primary Health Care Statistics – Craig Thomas, Welsh Government	
	<p>CT updated on work that has been carried out on primary health care analysis using primary health clusters, including linking them to WIMD.</p>	

	<p>For a long time, the only publication available at cluster level was the disease registers from QAIF. QAIF incentivises GPs to keep records on patients with a list of 18 different conditions.</p> <p>CT talked through the methodological challenges of using clusters for as an analytical geography, and also discussed the methods used to measure deprivation of primary care clusters. CT presented the results of some of this analysis.</p> <p>Looking forward, CT and team would like to publish further data at a cluster level and potentially at a primary care contractor level showing a wider range of activity in general practice.</p> <p>JE asked if there was any work in progress to improve analysis related to social care and primary care clusters? CT replied that they have only just started analysing data at a cluster level and are happy to consider what other topics would be useful.</p> <p>Links to information presented by CT: General practice and primary care cluster population and workforce by deprivation Disease registers – StatsWales Prescribing - StatsWales</p>	
5	<p>Census and Population Statistics - Gerald Williams, Jo Maimaris, Ben Cooper and Justine McNally, Office for National Statistics</p>	
	<p>Census 2021</p> <p>GW and JM covered recent census activity, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The recent multivariate release including the create a custom dataset tool, pre-built datasets and analysis reports. • GW provided a demo of the create a custom dataset tool. Feedback on the create custom dataset tool is welcomed. Please email: census.customer.services@ons.gov.uk • Further census analysis plans and releases. Feedback and user needs can be provided in order to shape future analysis plans. <p>Questions were asked about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The availability of data for local authorities minus National Park areas • Parish and community data • Clarification on whether data would be available from Nomis or Create a Custom Dataset. • Rural and urban classifications, and built-up areas. <p>The question on rural and urban classifications and built-up areas could not be answered at the meeting so an action was taken to provide a follow up answer.</p> <p>Upcoming ONS consultation on population and migration statistics</p>	<p>GW to ask ONS geography team to provide an update on the status of the rural/urban classification and on built up area geographies.</p>

	<p>BC covered ONS's upcoming plans for its consultation on population and migration statistics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation will open 29 June and will be open for 4 months. • 2 launch events are planned – one in Cardiff on 6 July and one in London. Online or in person attendance is possible and Welsh translation will be available. • There will be a series of webinars that will be running throughout first few weeks of July to present the research. <p>The following discussion covered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The evidence expected to be published between now and the consultation launch • Sources of administrative data on Welsh language ability. <p>There was an appetite among group members for an initial discussion on the consultation in July, as well as including an item on the October WSLC agenda. SH encouraged members to respond to the consultation and promote it across their networks. Members are also welcome to share their response with the Welsh Government so that user needs in Wales can be understood.</p> <p>LWM asked about the availability of data on fuel poverty at a geography smaller than local authority. SH said that a written update can be provided on this.</p>	<p>Secretariat to arrange a July discussion session on the consultation on future of population statistics.</p> <p>Secretariat to add the consultation on population statistics to the October agenda.</p> <p>SH to provide update on availability of fuel poverty data at small geographies.</p>
6	<p>Geography Deep Dive Session – Dave Roberts and John Morris, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>The afternoon session was an interactive session on geography, including a number of breakout sessions.</p> <p>Part 1: LSOA names JM covered the background to LSOA names and geography naming policies. Welsh Government and the House of Commons library have produced names for some statistical geographies (e.g., LSOAs, MSOAs) but they have not been formally adopted by ONS.</p>	

JM set out that the latest census resulted in changes to some statistical geographies which requires these names to be reconsidered. He presented a proposal for doing this.

- If the LSOA boundary is same as the ward, adopt the ward name.
- If the LSOA is a combination of wards, combine the ward names (A and B).
- If the LSOA is split across wards, then provide a hyphenated part name (e.g., Ward - South).
- If the above aren't possible then provide a name that is recognisable to the local community and is not similar to the ward name.

Breakout groups were asked:

- Does four step approach seem reasonable?
- Who should be consulted with? Who would do that? We should use Data Map Wales consultation tool to support.
- How long would this take?

Feedback from breakout rooms:

- Approach was considered reasonable however resources to do it were identified as a potential barrier.
- Descriptors such as north/south may not always work – numbers may work better in some cases.
- There was a recognition that there will be interest from local and community councillors, and they should be engaged in this work. Although the risk of politicisation was noted and the importance of having a set method to determine names (in order to reduce opportunities for “lobbying”).
- SH mentioned the timing of the next update to WIMD as potentially providing a deadline for this work.
- JM expressed the need to be transparent about what we do and ensure we create something that is future proof. JM will share a paper providing information, proposals and data spreadsheets.
- NWM also asked if the community councils are up to date on Data Map Wales. DR replied that they are being updated.

Part 2: Reviewing of existing geographies

The group was asked to consider which other geographies they use and if there are any unmet needs.

Breakout room questions:

- Is there any geography on the official list which you don't use?
- Is there any geography that you think is missing?
- Would economic regions work as higher-level geographies?

Feedback from breakout rooms:

The following were suggested as missing: police force areas, GP clusters, public service board areas. It was not clear what DCELLS areas were and whether they duplicated another geography, though potentially they relate to school regional consortia areas.

	<p>SH asked if geographies are not actively maintained are they archived in some way so that there is still a record they exist? JM confirmed that they are.</p> <p>Part 3: Demonstration of new DataMapWales functionality</p> <p>DR gave demonstration of new functionality on DataMapWales, including the ability to conduct surveys.</p> <p>LWM asked if it was possible to put their own logo on the map. DR replied that this is something they would like to be able to do, as well as embed DataMapWales into other web pages.</p> <p>ES asked about the accessibility of DataMapWales. DR replied that it is as accessible as it can be and that they have been working with Ordnance Survey to create a bilingual version.</p>	
8	AOB	
	<p>Reminder if you have thoughts about any future agenda items, please email KASevents@gov.wales</p> <p>Ideas for future agenda items discussed at this meeting include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ONS consultation of population and migration statistics - WIMD - Transformed labour force survey. <p>Next meeting 15 October 2023.</p>	

	Actions	
1	Secretariat to consider transformed labour force survey for a future agenda item.	Secretariat
2	GW to ask ONS geography team to provide an update on the status of the rural/urban classification and on built up area geographies.	Gerald Williams, ONS
3	Secretariat to arrange a July discussion session on the consultation on population statistics.	Secretariat
4	Secretariat to add the consultation on population statistics to the October agenda.	Secretariat
5	SH to provide update on availability of fuel poverty data at small geographies.	Steph Howarth, WG