

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 08 February 2024

Via Teams

Attendees

Phillip	Barlow	PB	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Vicky	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Suzanne	Draper	SD	Data Cymru
Janine	Edwards	JE	North Wales Social Care and Well-being Improvement Collaborative
Bea	Jeffries	BJ	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Nia	Jones	NJ	Welsh Government
Helen	Jones	HJ	Senedd Research
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Henry	Knowles	HK	Natural Resources Wales
Sue	Leake	SL	Chair, Welsh Government
Morgan	Lowden	ML	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Andy	O'Rourke	AO	Welsh Government
Kay	Palmer	KP	Audit Wales
Jonathan	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Hayley	Randall	HR	Data Cymru
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Helena	Snuggs	HS	Sport Wales
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Sian-Elin	Wyatt	SEW	ONS Local
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	NWV	Gwynedd Council

Speakers

Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government
Stefanie	Taylor	ST	Welsh Government
John	Morris	JM	Welsh Government
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Ana	Harries	AH	Data Cymru
Scott	Clifford	ScC	Welsh Government

Samantha	Collins	SC	Welsh Government
Andy	O'Rourke	AO	Welsh Government
Nathan	Hughes	NH	Welsh Government
Luke	Raymond	LR	Welsh Government

Minute takers

Ciaran	Lewis	CL	Welsh Government
Nathan	Hughes	NH	Welsh Government

Apologies

Sioned	Cardew-Richardson	Estyn
Brett	Davis	South Wales Police
Caryn	Furlow	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Steph	Howarth	Welsh Government
Eleri	James	Welsh Language Commissioner
Steve	King	Natural Resources Wales

1	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Sue Leake, Welsh Government	Actions
	<p>SL started by introducing everyone and giving a brief overview of the agenda.</p> <p>JE indicated it would be helpful to have all the documents for the meeting circulated together in one Zip file.</p>	Secretariat to consider sending meeting papers together in Zip file
2	Note of last meeting, update on action points, Statistics Wales quarterly update, demography update and update on the future of population and migration statistics in England and Wales – Sue Leake, Welsh Government	
	<p>Note of last meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No comments were raised on the notes of last meeting. <p>Update on action points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The progress made on the actions from last meeting was discussed. - Two out of three actions completed, with the Welsh Government response to the consultation on population and migration statistics being submitted to ONS in October 2023, and an update of the LSOA naming's occurring in this meeting. <p>Statistics Wales quarterly update: SL drew attention to several sections of the update such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The labour market statistics and the issues relating to the quality of the labour force survey data recently. Noting also 	<p>SL to consider inviting a representative from Social Care Wales to take part in these meetings and consider a future agenda item on social care data –</p> <p>SL to check situation in relation to POPGROUP with Martin Parry and let members know</p>

	<p>that just released a blog and article about reweighting of the Labour Force Survey statistics in February.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School absenteeism data after and before the pandemic - Post-16 education stats have a refreshed dashboard on apprenticeship data, the move of some of the post-16 education statistics team to CTER has been delayed to August - Data on homeless individuals in temporary accommodation housing data has been updated - Council tax data on chargeable second homes update by MSOA - Lots of outputs on health and social services - Analysis comparing ambulance response times across the UK, in terms of how the data is handled - National Survey for Wales newly published data on loneliness and volunteering - Poverty data will be due out in the coming months - A new quarterly summary on the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) data - New census analysis of population characteristics of those most likely to live in WIMD deprived areas - Health, housing and economic data relating to the Census - Welsh language statistics from APS and Census data - Climate change and agriculture stats regarding fly tipping - ADR conference was held in November. <p>SL noted the current financial constraints at WG which may lead to changes in what we are able to prioritise. We will continue to engage with colleagues during this process as we carefully consider user needs.</p> <p>JE raised an issue about social care data and suggested a future agenda item on this topic could be useful, to include Social Care Wales.</p> <p>Statistics Wales demography update: Mid-year estimates for 2022 were delayed by ONS until late November, which was highlighted in the document.</p> <p>This update led to some interesting discussion points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ONS's update on what they propose for population and migration statistics in future and WG's consultation response towards this. ONS have received around 700 responses to the consultation. - Highlighting the need for small area data for Wales. - The interim national population projections were delayed - The POPGROUP modelling resource is likely to be retired - ONS will be doing a consultation on subnational household outcomes, where a workshop will be held. 	<p>Members to contact Janine Edwards if interested in discussing demography data further</p>
3	Update on LSOA naming – Stefanie Taylor and John Morris, Welsh Government	
	<p>ST gave a reminder of the issues about naming LSOAs that were discussed at the last meeting and thanked those who responded</p>	<p>JM to consider the best way to contact the</p>

	<p>to the proposed methodology. SL mentioned that the WG has published a new set of LSOA names based on local community names and welcomed feedback.</p> <p>There was a confusion in the responses of the lack of numbering used for the proposed LSOA names.</p> <p>DataMapWales has the census boundaries but does not have the proposed names which have yet to be decided and published.</p> <p>Gave an update on the next steps and are still open to suggestions – JM will work on the settlement sections and then investigate an efficient way of contacting local authorities.</p> <p>Hoping to upload a piece on the chief statistician blog page in the upcoming weeks to give a further update and inform stakeholders about the work. A link will be circulated when available.</p> <p>Various members fed back views from their areas and JM recommended having separate conversations with those interested to get the best overview possible to help with the methodology and reflection process.</p> <p>Trying to have a consensus on the naming process and keeping the names consistent would be the best-case scenario.</p>	<p>necessary local authorities to build a consensus on the LSOA naming process</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Data Cymru update - Sam Sullivan and Ana Harries, Data Cymru</p>	
	<p>SS gave an overview of Data Cymru and what they do.</p> <p>SS gave an update on the National Resident Survey by looking at the needs, the visions, the aims, work to date and the next steps (see Slides) He responded to questions about accessibility, language and which LAs are involved in the working group. LR shared her experience of undertaking a residents' survey in Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>AH gave an update on the Self-Assessment Performance Dataset (SAPD) - which is a resource for local authorities to understand their performance against the performance requirements of the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act. They looked at how it's been developed as a resource for LAs to support with self-assessments. The tool is refreshed weekly and is available here. The Corporate Performance Data Network (CPDn) and the next steps of SAPD were also covered.</p> <p>The slides covering these topics are available.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Collection of Equalities data for Public Sector Bodies: findings from phase 1 and next step– Scott Clifford and Samantha Collins, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>SC began by reviewing the topic, background information, and general ideas regarding data collection.</p>	

	<p>SC discussed the two surveys in 2023 as part of their pilot data collection to look at the diversity of public sector bodies. The first survey was at a public body level and asked about how diversity information on board members and the wider workforce was collected. The second survey was sent to board members via the designated representative and asked the board members about their personal equality characteristics, to which their answers remained anonymous.</p> <p>Then ScC discussed next steps, which include publishing findings from phase one, further discussions with stakeholders to further develop understanding of the data landscape, explore alternative options for data collection, and communicate plans for phase two.</p> <p>Discussion JE asked about what information was collected on socio-economic status and suggested it would be useful to work together to agree what is appropriate to collect on this. The GSS harmonised question on socio-economic background was shared in the chat.</p> <p>NWV asked about the availability of protected characteristics of elected officials. SS mentioned some sources of information on the candidate and councillor surveys and the workforce collection.</p>	
6	<p>New analysis from the 2021 Census – Scott Clifford, John Poole and Andy O’Rourke, Welsh Government</p>	
	<p>ScC started presenting by talking about census data and its role in understanding inequality. He discussed population breakdowns by protected characteristics using the Census 2021 outputs. ScC highlighted the differences in qualifications, economic status, health, and unpaid care among various groups. He also mentioned some future work on sexual orientation and gender identity, intersectional analysis, and data linking.</p> <p>AO presented some findings from a piece of analysis on the characteristics of people living in the most deprived areas of Wales, based on the 2021 census data and the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD). AO showed the differences in age, sex, disability, ethnic group, health, marital status, religion, and unpaid care among people in different levels of deprivation. He also noted some caveats and limitations of the analysis. Link to the analysis is here.</p> <p>Discussion NWV asked when WIMD would be updated, to which SL responded that it would be sometime in late 2025. BJ asked if there is any correlation between North and South or rural and urban splits in terms of lines of deprivation. AO responded that it is not something they have analysed yet but will look at if there is user need for it.</p>	
7	<p>Exploring what equalities data users want from StatsWales, and an introduction to the one-stop shop for equalities data -</p>	

	Andy O'Rourke, Nathan Hughes and Luke Raymond, Welsh Government	
	<p>NH presented the new layout and structure of the equality section on StatsWales, which focuses on the sources and characteristics of the data. NH also discussed the outcomes of an audit of the use made of the equality section of StatsWales from November 2023.</p> <p>AO explained the options and challenges for publishing Census 2021 data on Stats Wales, and the decision to use ODS spreadsheets as an interim solution. He also listed the characteristics that would be prioritised for the data and the timeline for the release.</p> <p>LR described the project of creating a centralised web page for all equalities evidence for Wales, which would include quantitative and qualitative data on people with protected characteristics. He outlined the aims, the user research, and the next steps for the project.</p> <p>Discussion Due to time constraints, SL asked members to contact the presenters should they wish to seek further clarification or had anything to contribute to their efforts.</p>	
8	AOB	
	<p>The next meeting will be held on Thursday 6 June 2024. SL invited interested members of the Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee to join a stakeholder group for the StatsWales redevelopment project.</p> <p>SEW shared the new web pages and blog for ONS Local and information on some upcoming webinars and invited members to provide feedback on ONS local sked for feedback through a questionnaire.</p> <p>CT asked if there was to be training on R for local authorities.</p> <p>SL invited members to get in touch regarding topics for future meetings.</p>	Members interested in being involved in the stakeholder group for StatsWales redevelopment to submit their interest.

	Actions	Member(s)
1	Secretariat to consider sending meeting papers together in Zip file	Secretariat
2	SL to consider inviting a representative from Social Care Wales to take part in these meetings and consider a future agenda item on social care data	Sue Leake
3	SL to check situation in relation to POPGROUP with Martin Parry and let members know	Sue Leake

4	Contact Janine Edwards if interested in discussing demography information further	All
5	JM to consider the best way to contact the necessary local authorities to build a consensus on the LSOA naming process	John Morris
6	Members interested in being involved in the stakeholder group for Stats Wales redevelopment to submit their interest.	All