

Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee

A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee

Minutes of meeting held on 6 October 2022

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Vanessa	Allis	VA	Welsh Government
Sedeek	Ameer	SA	Welsh Government
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Fiona	Clay-Poole	FCP	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Delyth	Davies	DD	Translator
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Denbighshire County Council
Matt J	Evans	ME	Welsh Government
James	Falkner	JF	Welsh Government (Minute taker)
Lloyd	Fisher	LF	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Faye	Gracey	FG	Welsh Government
Steph	Harries	SH	Welsh Government
Eleri	James	EJ	Welsh Language Commissioner
Leanne	John	LJ	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
Morgan	Lowden	ML	Anglesey County Council
Florence	Milne	FM	Welsh Government (Minute taker)
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Adele	Nethercott	AN	Office for National Statistics
Larissa	Nixon	LN	Welsh Government
Llio	Owen	LO	Welsh Government
Sam	Perry	SP	Flintshire County Council
Rhys	Powell	RP	NHS Wales
Jonathan	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Hayley	Randall	HR	Data Cymru
Lesley	Rees	LR	Carmarthenshire County Council
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Jacob	Squires	JS	Welsh Government
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Eve	Watkinson	EW	Office for National Statistics
Alwyn	Williams	AW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Megan	Williams	MW	Welsh Government
Andy	Wilson	AW	Torfaen County Borough Council

Lowri	Wyn Morton	LWM	Gwynedd Council
Nia	Wyn Vaughan	NWV	Gwynedd Council

Speakers

Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government (Chair)
Katy	Addison	FG	Welsh Government
Nia	Jones	NJ	Welsh Government
Martin	Parry	MP	Welsh Government
Hannah	Thomas	HT	Office for National Statistics
Henry	Beevor	HB	Office for National Statistics
Tess	Carter	TC	Office for National Statistics
Gerald	Williams	GW	Office for National Statistics

Apologies

Gwyneth	Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Sioned	Cardew-Richardson	Estyn
Chris	Clarke	Torfaen County Borough Council
Jo	Davies	Public Health Wales
Shaun	Davies	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Karen	Hawkes	Denbighshire County Council
Steph	Howarth	Welsh Government
Bea	Jeffries	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Martin	Jennings	Assembly Commission
Steven	Marshall	Welsh Government
Neil	Townsend	Office for National Statistics

1.	Welcome, Introduction and Apologies – Sue Leake, Welsh Government	Actions
	<p>SL welcomed everyone. See apologies above.</p> <p>Simultaneous translation is available via phone number sent with meeting invitation and in chat.</p> <p>All presentations will be circulated after the meeting.</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: No issues from last meetings minutes.</p> <p>Actions update: Majority of actions from the previous meeting have been completed.</p> <p>Information has been sent out regarding ward boundaries.</p>	

<p>In reference to the ONS discussion about census data – a special meeting was organised and took place on 21 July.</p> <p>Stats Wales user research - SL thanks those who volunteered to help with research. JE volunteered and SL will pass detail to Stats Wales.</p> <p>Statistics Wales quarterly update: Covid dashboard is no longer continuing – August was the last month updated.</p> <p>Steph Howarth wanted to mention a new stats user group for economics statistics. Steve King to be LA rep. You can express interest by emailing SK (steve.king@swansea.gov.uk) if you would like to see papers. The first meeting of the group will be held 11 October.</p> <p>SL highlighted publication of the Wellbeing of Wales report (29 Sept) and the Children and Young People's Wellbeing report. Wellbeing report included new national indicators for the first time e.g. on housing affordability and fair work. SL welcomes any feedback on the reports.</p> <p>Have included a reference in the quarterly update on the things we have been doing on Ukrainian statistics as well as the cost of living.</p> <p>JR noted that the School sport survey 2022 results will be published at 9:30 on 11 October.</p> <p>SL and team are working on more detailed fuel poverty stats which aim to be out early November.</p> <p>Population and Demography update:</p> <p>The population and demography update was noted. Following questions about population estimates MP indicated that 2021 data should be out in December. Rebased estimates will come out start of next year at a national level to be followed by local authority level in the spring.</p> <p>LWM asked if GP data would be available at a post code level. SS to report back.</p> <p>Data Cymru update:</p> <p>SS highlighted a series of dashboards that are in production and a few already released (wellbeing, A view of poverty). A dashboard of local area profiles is likely to be published soon.</p> <p>Report has been done recently on social media which has gone live today. A few webinars coming up: Understanding Performance Data on 20 Oct and Ordinance survey giving a talk on different geographic products on 3 Nov.</p>	<p>SL to pass on JE details regarding volunteering for the Stats Wales research.</p> <p>Anyone interested in the Economic Stats User Group please email SK.</p> <p>SK to add JE, LWM and NWV to list of people interested in the Economic Statistics User Group as well as any others who email.</p> <p>SS to get back to LWM if GP data is available at a postcode level.</p>
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	<p>Recently set up communities of practice in Power BI and improving access to data. It is an online hub where people can ask questions and discuss the topics. There is a link in the paper, and it is also accessible via Data Cymru website.</p> <p>VD asked SS if ward profiles will be based on new wards SS replied that they were based on the new ward boundaries. Initial data will be based on that previously released.</p> <p>SL raised the issue discussed previously about names in census geographies. This work will be progressed into the new year as WG KAS are working with local authorities.</p> <p>VD asked if anyone had been able to download ward data from ONS geography portal as it had been too big to download – PJ managed and will see if can help and get back to VD. GW will also ask for guidance from Andy Bates.</p>	<p>PJ to get back to VD with possible solution for downloading ward data for geographies. GW will also ask for guidance.</p>
3.	Census update – Gerald Williams, Office for National Statistics	
	<p>GW delivered a presentation on the census update.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ONS has faced some challenges and has changed the order of topics – starting with demography. - EILR has been split so that the Welsh language will be treated as a separate topic. - Topic summaries will be available via ONS website. Users will be able to view pre-defined queries (e.g. change age ranges) - Working to get some slides and demos together to show people how to find exactly what data they are looking for. - Translation approach:. ONS will host a PDF version of all stats bulletins in Welsh and WG will publish summary of stats bulletins for Wales in HTML. Welsh Language bulletin will be available fully in Welsh and English on the ONS website. - You can register for email updates on GovDelivery. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>VD asked since many users in this group are experts how do they get the base information. GW said all datasets will be available to download allowing you to download the raw data. Instead of SASPAC, Cantabular will take the raw data. Nomis will still be available from the first release.</p> <p>JE asked about whether spreadsheets of data are being translated.</p>	

	<p>GW said ONS is unable to translate any datasets and GW will feedback how ONS can produce more datasets in Welsh.</p> <p>NWV asked whether the 2011 Census data will be republished to be based on the new ward boundaries.</p> <p>GW responded that he would take that offline and get back with advice on that question.</p> <p>LR mentioned concern over release dates being later than last time. ONS has updated the release calendar and has narrowed to a two month window – all the topic summaries will be published over the next three months.</p>	<p>GW to report back regarding whether 2011 Census data will be reproduced for new 2022 ward boundaries.</p>
4.	Census data in SAIL – Katy Addison, Welsh Government	
	<p>KA delivered a presentation on Census Data in SAIL.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research programs are based around thematic areas laid out by WG e.g. climate change etc. - SAIL data is organised at level of individuals, households, workplaces. - Access databases within SAIL that are already anonymised and then can be used to produce research to inform policy making. - Example: ADARC program that can link datasets within SAIL at all three levels. - Discussion around when Census releases from ONS will be available – Welsh dataset planned to be brought into SAIL in late 2022. <p>If you have thoughts about how linked data could be used in your areas, please contact via general enquires email or KA or FG email.</p>	
5.	Release of Census 2021 data and planned future releases from ONS and WG – Martin Parry, Welsh Government	
	<p>Martin delivered presentation.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Discussed topic summaries – Welsh language will be published separately to Ethnic group, National Identity, Language and Religion (EILR). - For each topic, at least one bulletin will be published by the ONS and then the WG will publish one bulletin for each topic area focussing on the data for Wales, which will be in English and Welsh. - Everyone given notice of date of publication around three or four weeks before release. 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Intention to start first multivariate analysis of census data at the beginning of next year. <p>Feedback encouraged of what topics people would like prioritised and if StatsWales should be used.</p> <p>Discussion: LR asked when Welsh language data will be released. MP said it is expected Dec 22 – Jan 23.</p> <p>LR mentioned it would be handy to have the stats on a Welsh level but also on a county level.</p> <p>JE asked how to explain differences in population data from 2011 to 2021 and the affect this may have on characteristics. JE also mentioned it would also be useful to marry things up with things needing to be published in wellbeing assessments.</p> <p>MP happy to make sure that the data they publish is able to support the wellbeing assessments. Still working on difference in population figures and trying to understand how to present these and the impact they will have on characteristics.</p> <p>GW – mentions the QA process before the first results and that they have engaged with several local authorities across Wales. ONS understands the affect this had on a number of LAs so they would prefer it is managed on a case-by-case basis as all LAs are different. Members are asked to provide their contact details if they would like ONS to engage with them on this.</p> <p>JE mentioned how everyone needs to be kept aware of what is happening with different LAs as often a bigger perspective is needed.</p> <p>There was a suggestion to pick an LA with particular concerns and get in touch with the ONS and then we can all feedback what has been done in the next WSLC.</p> <p>LWM asked if any previews would be allowed for the low-level data that is being released. She also mentioned that there are some concerns on how some data has been categorised so would like a preview to check the data before it is public. GW says they cannot release any census data early apart from through the QAing process. If there are continuing concerns over this, members could get in touch with the OSR.</p> <p>VD mentioned concern over how, due to the pandemic and since there was a higher response rate, it may be hard to explain the large differences between the 2021 and 2011 Census. She asked how WG statisticians could help this situation – suggesting that MP (or someone from his team) be present in individual meetings LAs have with ONS so someone has an overview of what is happening in each LA.</p>	<p>SL suggested conversation outside of the meeting about what JE needs in wellbeing assessments and what we should therefore make available.</p>
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	<p>Overall, there was concern that if the figures are difficult to explain it may damage the reputation of the census. LWM, VD and JE happy to discuss this. PJ also indicated Blaenau Gwent may want to be involved.</p> <p>LWM to let MP know when meetings between Gwynedd and ONS are taking place and if someone can come along to the meetings they will. MP will consider what they can do as an overview with all LAs.</p>	<p>SL to facilitate ONS discussions with relevant LAs about census data.</p> <p>LWM to inform MP when meetings between Cyngor Gwynedd and the ONS are taking place re Census data.</p>
6.	Accessibility of Stats Outputs - Hannah Thomas, Office for National Statistics	
	<p>HT delivered presentation on accessibility of stats outputs.</p> <p>Key Points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Similar session delivered last week and can be viewed by following the links on their website. - Title of charts to be in the body of the text not in the image. - Alt text to be in the body of the text. - Labelled lines preferred over a legend. <p>Discussion:</p> <p>JE – asked for HT to come back and talk about accessibility of tables. HT pointed towards tables guidance within the website. There is a demo for spreadsheets on the website. https://analysisfunction.civilservice.gov.uk/support/</p>	
7.	Statistical insights on Cost of living and deprivation: update – Tess Carter, Office for National Statistics / Henry Beevor, Office for National Statistics, Nia Jones, Welsh Government	
	<p>HB presented an update on where we are since the last presentation in June.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Highest recorded inflation since Dec 1990. - Drop in price of petrol of 14p between July and August 22. - BoE raised interest rates – highest since financial crisis of 2008. - Adults taking action to reduce expenditure. - Business insights and impacts of the economy report – released today. <p>Upcoming cost of living event 25 October 9:30 – 3:00 pm. Can attend in person or virtually.</p> <p>Discussion:</p>	

	<p>Important to get feedback in terms of insights. ONS are doing more and more with OPN Survey data to provide more relevant analysis of the data. They would welcome steers on what users would like ONS to do or think are important.</p> <p>JE is interested to see the difference in people living in rural and urban areas. HB said that it is difficult to pinpoint impact in rural areas having not much data on it yet - will look into taking this forward.</p> <p>LR mentioned how it would also be useful to have the data at a Wales level as well as at a UK level.</p> <p>SL mentioned fuel poverty – fuel poverty information was published in April relating to Oct 21. Currently working on producing more information on that recognising those that were impacted in 2021 are also the most impacted now. That should be out early November. Also, a fuel poverty dashboard is being worked on - possible release end of the year or early next year.</p> <p>Can contact the team at coordination@ons.gov.uk</p> <p>NJ presented on analysis that has been worked on about deep-rooted deprivation.</p> <p>Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deep-rooted deprivation linked to cost of living as those in the most deprived areas are likely to be hit hardest. - Analysis has been produced for indicators according to categories of deep-rooted deprivation. - To note recent WIMD outputs released include article on GP and primary care clusters, deprivation relating to children and a guide to analysing indicator data. - If interested in what other outputs have been released there are links in the slides. - Next Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) possibly in 2024 or 2025. 	
8.	AOB	
	<p>SL thanked all presenters.</p> <p>Discussion around format of the next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited interest for hybrid meeting - online meeting is preferred. <p>JE suggested the option of one meeting a year that could be hybrid but unlikely to offer hybrid for every meeting.</p> <p>If going down the hybrid route ensuring one location in south Wales and one in the north Wales.</p> <p>Topics for next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - NWV suggested an item about where ONS are with producing household income data 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GM would like a discussion on localising cost of living data - JE suggested someone from the census to attend each meeting - JE also suggested someone comes to talk about how they are dealing about MYEs - GM would like more focused local data for cost of living. How to get local data from pre-existing data sources Please share if anyone has made progress with this. - Share what people are working on. <p>The next meeting is on Thursday 2 February 2023.</p>	
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	Actions	
1	SL to pass on JE details regarding volunteering for the Stats Wales research.	SL
2	Anyone interested in the Economic Stats User Group please email SK.	All members
3	SK to add JE, LWM and NWV to list of people interested in the Economic Statistics User Group as well as any others who email.	SK
4	SS to get back to LWM on if GP data is available at a postcode level.	SS
5	PJ to get back to VD with possible solution for downloading ward data for geographies. GW will also ask for guidance.	PJ / GW
6	GW to report back regarding whether 2011 Census data will be reproduced for new 2022 ward boundaries	GW
7	SL suggested conversation outside of the meeting about what JE needs in wellbeing assessments and what we should therefore make available.	SL / JE / MP
8	SL to facilitate ONS discussions with relevant LAs about census data.	SL
9	LWM to inform MP when meetings between Gwynedd CC and ONS are taking place re Census data	LWM