

Welsh Government

Consultation Document

Proposals concerning the publication of Sustainable Development Indicators statistical outputs

Date of issue: 14 April 2014

Action required: Responses by 4 July 2014

Overview

The purpose of this review is to seek the views of users on:

- Including within the existing Sustainable Development Indicators Statistical First Release, analyses of the five headline indicators, accompanied by up-to-date Statswales tables.
- Ceasing the publication of the Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales 'In Your Pocket' booklet.

How to respond

You can respond to the consultation by using the separate response form (in Word format). This can be emailed to stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk or posted to

Lucy Taylor
Social Justice Statistics
Knowledge and Analytical Services
Welsh Government
Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NQ

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternative language versions of this document are available on request.

Information on the Sustainable Development Indicators in Wales can be accessed at: <http://wales.gov.uk/statistics-and-research/sustianable-development-indicators/?lang=en>
and
<https://statswales.wales.gov.uk/Catalogue/Sustainable-Development/Sustainable-Development-Indicators>

Contact Details

For further information please contact Kim Swain, or Lucy Taylor

Email: stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Telephone: Kim Swain on 02920 82 3234
or Lucy Taylor on 02920 82 6023

Data Protection

How the views and information you give us will be used.

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

1. Introduction

Sustainable Development in Wales – Existing Outputs

Sustainable development means enhancing the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of people and communities, achieving a better quality of life for our own and future generations. The Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales are used to measure progress made on key issues and priority areas outlined in the Welsh Government's statutory Sustainable Development Scheme '[One Wales: One Planet](#)' (2009).

Compendia publications are time consuming to produce and in the age of the internet and open data they often contain data that are out of date before or soon after publication. As a result, we are proposing that until agreements on future monitoring following on from the Future Generations Bill, to move our Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales compendium publication from hard copy/pdf to Statswales. We will include analysis of the five headline indicators within our existing annual Statistical Release. The five headline indicators cover economic progress, social progress, environmental progress, progress in reducing our use of resources, and the wellbeing of Wales.

Our statistics are produced in accordance with the Code of Practice for Official Statistics. This Code requires us to engage with users inside and outside of government and to consult with all users about changes to official statistics.

The consultation is open to all individuals and organisations.

A summary of responses received to the consultation will be published in late summer 2014.

The consultation exercise starts **14th April 2014** and ends **4th July 2014**.

2. Our improvement programme

A consultation, [Proposals concerning the publication of official statistics](#) was recently undertaken.

The proposals include:

- To build on our collaborative community with partner organisations and remove duplication in the publication of official statistics;
- To allow more time for value added interpretation and analysis, where appropriate we will publish datasets through StatsWales, whilst reducing the number of routine monthly and quarterly statistical outputs. We will seek to publish the datasets in a more timely fashion and with appropriate user support;
- To move the data from many of our compendia publications from hard copy/pdf to StatsWales, ensuring that the data is available to users in a manner that is open source and downloadable.
- For those few outputs that add less value, or have little use outside a very specialist or internal audience, we will reduce the frequency or cease either the data collections/publications.
- To publish ad-hoc requests for statistical information, whilst aligning our standards of service with our Freedom of Information commitments.

This consultation is in line with the third of those proposals.

3. Our proposals

We currently report on 44 indicators measuring 29 different issues (see [Annex 1](#)). The indicators are, first and foremost, intended to communicate and highlight progress in key issues and priority areas for sustainable development and along with other evidence help to identify where action is required.

The current outputs are:

- Sustainable Development Indicators [Statistical First Release](#)
- Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales “In Your Pocket” [booklet](#)
- Detailed data on the interactive [Statswales](#) website.

We propose:

1. To include within the existing Sustainable Development Indicators in Wales Statistical First Release, analyses for the five headline indicators and continue publishing all indicator data on Statswales.
2. To cease the publication of the Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales ‘In Your Pocket’ booklet.

4. Feedback and next steps

Following the outcome of this consultation we will publish a response. This may include some of the comments received – excluding those where the respondent has asked to remain anonymous.

Your contributions will help us to understand the impact these changes could have on the individuals and organisations that use these statistics. If proposals are agreed we will implement changes for the release of outputs during 2014. We will work with policy teams to ensure that they still have access to the information they require to meet the management needs of the Welsh Government and consider the impact of the Future Generations Bill on reporting requirements.

Further information on the Future Generations Bill can be found at:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/sustainabledevelopment/future-generations-bill/?lang=en>

Please feedback to Social Justice Statistics at stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk using the subject title “RESPONSE TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OUTPUT CONSULTATION”

Your feedback is important to us. Thank you in advance for your input.

Annex 1

The 44 indicators measuring the 29 different issues are as follow:

Headline Indicators

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Economic output | GVA
GVA per head |
| 2. Social justice | |
| 3. Biodiversity conservation | Priority species status
Priority habitat status |
| 4. Ecological footprint | |
| 5. Wellbeing | |

Sustainable Resource Use

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 6. Greenhouse gas emissions | |
| 7. Waste | Waste arisings by sector
Waste arisings by disposal |
| 8. Household waste | Waste arisings
Recycled or composted |
| 9. Mobility | Walking and Cycling
Public transport use
Travel to work |

Sustaining the Environment

- | | |
|--|---|
| 10. Bird populations | Short term changes
Long term changes |
| 11. Ecological impacts of air pollution | Acidity
Nutrient nitrogen |
| 12. Air quality | Urban
Rural |
| 13. River quality | Biological
Chemical |
| 14. Soil quality | |
| 15. Sustainable water resources management | |

A Sustainable Economy

- 16. Employment
- 17. Resource efficiency
- 18. Electricity from renewable sources

A Sustainable Society

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 19. Health inequality | Infant mortality
Life expectancy |
| 20. Benefit dependency | |
| 21. Housing | |
| 22. Accessibility | GP surgery, shopping centre & grocer
Hospital |

23. Crime

Police recorded crime
British Crime Survey

The Wellbeing of Wales

24. Education

Core subject indicator
Level 2
Level 4

25. Child poverty

26. Pensioner poverty

27. Workless households

28. Active community participation

29. Welsh language