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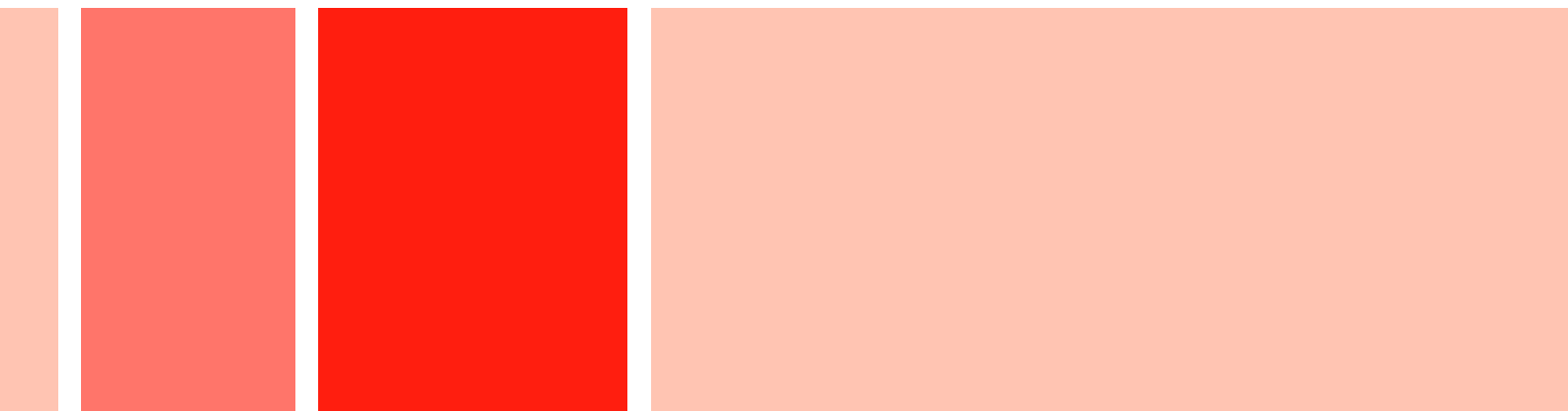


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# Welsh Language Use Survey 2014-15 Technical Report

November 2015



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Views expressed in this report are those of the researcher and not necessarily the views of the Welsh Government nor the Welsh Language Commissioner.

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# 1 Background and objectives

## Survey history

- 1.1 The 2014-15 Welsh Language Use Survey (WLUS) is a continuation of research undertaken on behalf of the Welsh Language Board (WLB) between 2004 and 2006. Over a series of three surveys, WLB sought to obtain information on who uses Welsh and with whom, when, and how much they use it. These surveys were organised to supplement the *Living in Wales* survey (LIW), conducted between 2004 and 2006 by the Local Government Data Unit ~ Wales on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government.
- 1.2 For the 2004-2006 surveys, the LIW survey provided the sample frame (i.e. those identified during the LIW interview as able to speak Welsh).
- 1.3 Further details on the 2004-06 survey can be found at the UK data archive.<sup>1</sup>

## Background to the 2014-15 survey

- 1.4 The WLUS was re-commissioned in 2013, on behalf of the Welsh Government and the Welsh Language Commissioner (WLC). The new wave of the survey ran across two years, from 2013 to 2015. This report provides details of the 2014-15 survey.
- 1.5 The key aim of the WLUS is to obtain information on who uses Welsh, and how, when and how much they use it.
- 1.6 It was decided that rather than run the WLUS as a separate survey, it would be more efficient to set it up as an add-on element to the National Survey for Wales.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://doc.ukdataservice.ac.uk/doc/7477/mrdoc/pdf/7477\\_methodology\\_in\\_english.pdf](http://doc.ukdataservice.ac.uk/doc/7477/mrdoc/pdf/7477_methodology_in_english.pdf)

- 1.7 The National Survey for Wales is a large scale face-to-face random probability survey being conducted by TNS BMRB and Beaufort Research on behalf of the Welsh Government. Fieldwork began in January 2012 and ran continuously until March 2015, with a new batch of assignments issued each month.
- 1.8 The National Survey for Wales was used to provide a sample for the WLUS. The process by which WLUS respondents are recruited is explained in more detail in Chapter 4.

**National Survey for Wales Technical Report - relevant sections**

- 1.9 Due to the way in which the survey has been administered, many of the details relating to the 2014-15 WLUS are covered by the Technical Report that was produced for the 2014-15 National Survey for Wales. Individual references are included in the following chapters.

## 2 Sample design

### Overview of National Survey for Wales sampling approach

- 2.1 A full explanation of the sampling approach carried out on the National Survey for Wales can be found in the 2014-15 Technical Report.<sup>2</sup> What follows is a summary of that approach.
- 2.2 The specification for the National Survey for Wales stated that the survey should be representative of all adults aged 16 or over living in private households. The annual sample requirement was for a stratified, single-stage random selection of addresses across Wales drawn from the small user Postcode Address File (PAF), belonging to Royal Mail. Within each sampled household, an individual interview was conducted with one adult aged 16 or over. Where a household contained more than one adult, a single adult was randomly selected to participate from all household members aged 16 or over.
- 2.3 In order to meet the sample requirements it was agreed that a wholly unclustered sample of addresses would be drawn. The full sample for each reporting year was drawn in one stage and allocated to each quarter first, and then each month within each quarter.
- 2.4 While the original aim at the beginning of the survey cycle was to achieve equal samples of 600 effective interviews in each local authority per annum, information obtained through the first two years of the survey (e.g. LA level design effects) led to an adjustment of this target. Ultimately, for the 2014-15 survey individual interview targets were set for each LA, with the aim of achieving effective sample sizes of 450 in each LA.
- 2.5 Within each local authority, the sample was selected systematically with a fixed interval. Apart from local authority there was no further explicit

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<sup>2</sup> <http://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2015/151005-national-survey-2014-15-technical-report-en.pdf>

sample stratification. Because addresses are ordered by postcode within local authority, a systematic sample with a small sampling interval will be (implicitly) stratified by neighbourhood and always geographically representative. The practical consequence is that the sampling error is reduced (in comparison with a less controlled sample) for any measures that vary significantly between neighbourhoods.

- 2.6 The sample was drawn from the PAF by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) based on a specification agreed between TNS BMRB and the Welsh Government.<sup>3</sup>
- 2.7 The target response rate for the 2014-15 reporting year was 70%. When calculating the number of addresses for ONS to draw in each LA, consideration was given to the individual interview target within each LA. For each LA, design effects from 2012-13, as well as response rates and deadwood rates from all complete quarters of the survey to date were used to calculate the number of interviews required to achieve an effective sample of 450 in that LA. The number of addresses to select in the LA was determined accordingly.
- 2.8 Once the addresses were drawn, ONS passed the full sample file to TNS BMRB via secure file transfer. TNS BMRB was then responsible for batching and allocating the sample in preparation for fieldwork.
- 2.9 Once the full sample file was received by TNS BMRB, a smaller sample file was drawn containing addresses to issue throughout the survey year. Numbers were selected to achieve an effective sample of 450 interviews per local authority. Response rate assumptions were based on responses rates achieved in each local authority across Q1-Q4 on the 2012-13 survey and Q1-Q2 on the 2013-14 survey. One of 3

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<sup>3</sup> The sample was drawn by ONS using PAF and their Common User Address File, which ensured that no household would be selected for the National Survey for Wales that had previously been selected for any of a range of other large-scale ONS surveys within the last three years. This also ensured that the sampled addresses would not be selected for other major ONS surveys or waves of the National Survey for Wales for the next three years.

assumed responses rates was applied: 73% for LAs with an average rate of 73% or more; 70% for LAs with an average rate of between 68% and 72%; and 67% for LAs with an average rate of 67% or less. The assumed deadwood rate was the average within each LA across Q0-Q3.

2.10 TNS BMRB developed a bespoke area geography in Wales in which each area unit a) covers sufficient sampled addresses to (approximately) equal one fieldwork assignment, and b) is 'geographically sensible' as an assignment.<sup>4</sup> Area units were constructed using Output Areas (OAs). Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) were originally to be used but this would have resulted in too much variation in the number of addresses per assignment, especially in the smaller LAs.

2.11 Once the units had been created, they were sorted by area unit aggregate values.<sup>5</sup> Once stratified, they were systematically allocated to the four survey quarters of the 2014-15 reporting year (Quarters 1-4).<sup>6</sup> Any area units that had been allocated to Quarter 1 in the 2013-14 survey were allocated to Quarter 1 in the 2014-15 reporting year, with the same pattern repeated for Quarters 2-4. This approach ensures that any consecutive four quarters of data will be formally unclustered.

2.12 Once assignments were allocated to quarters they were then randomly allocated to a month within the quarter. This was done while ensuring that each LA had a roughly equal number of points in each month and that each month had approximately the same number of sample points.

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<sup>4</sup> This meant that as far as possible addresses in each assignment were clustered in a way that reduced the distance interviewers were required to travel between them, while also ensuring that the number of addresses did not vary substantially between assignments.

<sup>5</sup> The area unit values used were Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation (WIMD) scores and Urbanisation.

<sup>6</sup> This involved taking all of the assignments within each LA, sorting by the average area unit aggregated values for each assignment and allocating to quarters.



2.13 As noted above, assignment sizes varied based on the bespoke sample geography developed by TNS BMRB. In 2014-15 all assignments had between 17 and 34 addresses, with the mean assignment size being 24 addresses. Nine in ten assignments (90%) included between 20 and 28 addresses. A total of 994 assignments were issued in 2014-15.

### **Sample adjustments**

2.14 The issued sample numbers were adjusted at several points during the survey year.

2.15 Midway through Quarter 2 fieldwork, a review was undertaken of progress to date at a local authority level. This review found that in eight LAs the response rate was lower than anticipated, making a shortfall against the annual targets likely.

2.16 As a result, it was decided to adjust the number of issued addresses within the eight underperforming LAs for Q3, with the aim of boosting the number of interviews achieved. Conversely, the projected annual interview total in the Isle of Anglesey was higher than anticipated. As such, a small number of addresses were removed from the Q3 sample for this LA.

**Table 2.1 – Adjustments made to issued addresses (September 2014)**

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Sample adjustment</b>	<b>Total addresses issued (Q3 sample)</b>
Blaenau Gwent	0	1,074
Bridgend	+60	1,096
Caerphilly	0	1,027
Cardiff	0	1,155
Carmarthenshire	+62	1,121
Ceredigion	0	1,145
Conwy	+54	1,086
Denbighshire	0	1,021
Flintshire	0	1,027
Gwynedd	0	1,201
Isle of Anglesey	-48	1,151
Merthyr Tydfil	+63	1,235
Monmouthshire	0	1,112
Neath Port Talbot	+53	1,028
Newport	+47	1,132
Pembrokeshire	0	1,187
Powys	0	1,108
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	1,177
Swansea	0	1,104
The Vale of Glamorgan	0	1,003
Torfaen	+43	1,046
Wrexham	0	1,045
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>+334</b>	<b>24,281</b>

2.17 A further adjustment was made prior to the start of Q4 fieldwork. In mid-December it became apparent that, due to a shortfall in interview numbers over the first three quarters of the 2014-15 survey, the overall annual interview target was unlikely to be met. As such, the decision was made to issue all available reserve sample for Quarter 4 fieldwork.

2.18 A number of factors were considered in making the decision to issue reserve sample. The addition of these extra addresses was likely to have a negative impact on response rates and, since addresses were issued across all local authorities, would sustain the uneven coverage across Wales. However, on balance priority was placed on achieving the overall interview total.

2.19 As a result of all sample adjustments across the survey year, the final sample issued in each quarter was as follows:

**Table 2.2 – Final issued sample per quarter**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>Addresses issued</b>	<b>% of issued addresses</b>
1	6,065	23.8
2	5,984	23.5
3	6,350	24.9
4	7,039	27.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,438</b>	<b>100</b>

2.20 Table 2.3 shows the final number of addresses within each LA across the 2014-15 survey year.

**Table 2.3 – Final issued sample for National Survey for Wales 2014-15**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Addresses issued</b>
Blaenau Gwent	1,123
Bridgend	1,158
Caerphilly	1,062
Cardiff	1,217
Carmarthenshire	1,192
Ceredigion	1,181
Conwy	1,142
Denbighshire	1,070
Flintshire	1,082
Gwynedd	1,253
Isle of Anglesey	1,199
Merthyr Tydfil	1,295
Monmouthshire	1,174
Neath Port Talbot	1,075
Newport	1,180
Pembrokeshire	1,242
Powys	1,148
Rhondda Cynon Taf	1,239
Swansea	1,160
The Vale of Glamorgan	1,067
Torfaen	1,088
Wrexham	1,091
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>25,438</b>

2.21 At each issued address, interviewers were required to carry out three stages of selection in order to identify the correct person for interview:

- Dwelling unit selection (in addresses containing more than one dwelling unit)
- Household selection (in dwelling units containing more than one household)

- Person selection (in households containing more than one adult aged 16 or over)

2.22 Full details of how these selections were carried out can be found in the National Survey for Wales 2014-15 Technical Report.

### **Original assumptions around Welsh-speaking population**

2.23 In order to gauge the likely numbers that were achievable on the survey, estimates were made on the likely proportion of Welsh speakers who would be identified through the National Survey for Wales.

2.24 Table 2.4 below shows the original projections that were made regarding the likely population of Welsh speakers, and the actual number achieved.

**Table 2.4 – Projections for Welsh-speaking population, and corresponding achieved numbers**

	<b>Original Projection</b>	<b>Achieved</b>
<b>Households interviewed on National Survey for Wales</b>	14,500	14,285
<b>Adults identified</b>	27,405	26,497
<b>Average number of adults per household</b>	1.89	1.85
<b>Welsh-speaking adults identified</b>	7,125	5,959
<b>% of adults identified who speak Welsh</b>	26%	22%
<b>3-15 year olds identified</b>	5,945	6,272
<b>Average number of 3-15 year olds per household</b>	0.41	0.44
<b>Welsh-speaking 3-15 year olds identified</b>	2,675	2,287
<b>% of 3-15 year olds identified who speak Welsh</b>	45%	36%

2.25 The process for identifying Welsh speakers is explained in more detail in Chapter 4.

### **3 Questionnaire content and development**

#### **Overview**

- 3.1 The WLUS comprised two separate questionnaires – an adult questionnaire (for respondents aged 16+) and a children and young person’s questionnaire (for respondents aged 3-15). Both cover Welsh language use in various situations. Copies of both questionnaires can be found at <http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/Welsh-language-use-survey/?lang=en>.
- 3.2 Both questionnaires were dual-language, giving respondents the option to complete the questionnaire in either Welsh or English. A single booklet was produced including the Welsh and English versions of the questions, with the questions ‘flipped’ so that each begins on a front cover and meet on the central page. The adult questionnaire comprised 12 sides (including instructions and both languages) and the children’s questionnaire 8 sides.

#### **Questionnaire content**

- 3.3 The questionnaire content was developed jointly by the Welsh Language Commissioner and the Welsh Government. The majority of the questions included were unchanged from the 2004-06 survey. These questions can be found in chapters 20 and 21 of the [report](#) published on the 2004-06 survey findings.
- 3.4 As noted above, the questionnaires were produced in both Welsh and English.

#### **Format and appearance**

- 3.5 The questionnaires were printed on different colour paper – orange for the adult questionnaire and blue for the children’s questionnaire. The intention was to make it easier for interviewers to distinguish between the different versions when handing out the questionnaires, and thus reduce the risk of a respondent being issued with the wrong version.

3.6 The design team at TNS BMRB developed the layout and style of the questionnaires in an effort to make them clearer and more engaging.

The key considerations were to:

- ensure that the layout was not too cluttered, whilst making most efficient use of the available space;
- to develop a colour scheme which would help respondents to distinguish between individual questions and complete the questionnaire in full; and
- to ensure a consistent format throughout to aid completion of the questionnaire.

3.7 The final questionnaires were agreed between the Welsh Government, the Welsh Language Commissioner and TNS BMRB.

## 4 Data collection

### Selection process

- 4.1 In order to be eligible for the Welsh Language Use Survey, respondents must be aged 3 or over and be able to speak Welsh. The questionnaire completed depended on the age of the individual, with 3 to 15 year olds completing the child questionnaire and respondents aged 16 or over completing the adult questionnaire.
- 4.2 Respondents to the survey were recruited through the National Survey for Wales. The National Survey for Wales collected information about all individuals living with the respondent as part of the same household.
- 4.3 In the National Survey for Wales interview, the respondent is asked whether they can speak Welsh. Interviewers are able to code to one of three possible responses:
  1. Yes
  2. No
  3. (SPONTANEOUS ONLY) No, but have some Welsh-speaking ability
- 4.4 For the purposes of the Welsh Language Use Survey, any respondent selecting either Code 1 or Code 3 were regarded as Welsh speakers and therefore eligible to receive a questionnaire.
- 4.5 In households containing more than one person aged 3 or over, a similar question was asked to establish which other household members are able to speak Welsh:

*I now want to ask you whether other members of your household can speak Welsh*



*Can [name] speak Welsh?*

1. *Yes*
2. *No*
3. *Don't know*

4.6 All household members coded as 'Yes' were regarded as Welsh speakers and therefore eligible to receive a questionnaire.

### **Issuing questionnaires**

4.7 Face-to-face interviewers were responsible for handing out questionnaires to all eligible individuals at the end of the National Survey for Wales interview. A full explanation of the WLUS and the interviewer requirements were covered in the main National Survey for Wales briefing attended by all interviewers. Details of the briefing content are described in the National Survey for Wales Technical Report.

4.8 All interviewers working on the National Survey for Wales were provided with a number of WLUS questionnaires and freepost envelopes. The number provided to each interviewer was determined by the expected penetration of Welsh speakers in their area.

4.9 Interviewers were instructed not to refer to the WLUS until all sections of the National Survey for Wales interview had been completed. In deciding on this approach there were two key considerations.

4.10 Firstly, there was a need to ensure that the administration of the survey did not impact on respondents' inclination to take part in a main National Survey for Wales interview. It was felt that any introduction of the WLUS prior to the main National Survey for Wales interview could create the impression of increased respondent burden and discourage people from taking part. It could also have a detrimental impact within non-Welsh-speaking households by making the National Survey for Wales seem less relevant to them.

4.11 Secondly, it was felt that by the end of the National Survey for Wales interview the interviewers will have had the opportunity to build rapport with the respondent, increasing the likelihood of them accepting the WLUS questionnaire to complete.

4.12 Immediately after the final question in the National Survey for Wales interview, interviewers were instructed to read out an introduction to the WLUS that appeared on screen:

*The Welsh Language Commissioner and the Welsh Government are conducting a survey of Welsh language use. They are asking Welsh speakers in households that have participated in the National Survey for Wales to complete a short paper questionnaire. The questionnaire is only 6 pages for adults and 4 pages for children (aged 3 or over) and just needs to be completed and returned to TNS BMRB in a freepost envelope in the next two weeks.*

4.13 On the screen, interviewers were presented with a list of all individuals within the household who were eligible to receive a WLUS questionnaire. Alongside the name of each individual, the following information was shown:

- Household serial number
- Person Number
- Which questionnaire they should receive (adult or child)

4.14 For each individual, the interviewer was asked to record whether or not a questionnaire had been accepted.

4.15 Interviewers were then required to write the individual's name, household serial number, and person number on both covers (English and Welsh) of the relevant questionnaire, before handing to the respondent. Respondents were provided with a freepost return envelope for each questionnaire issued.

4.16 A slightly different approach was taken for the first month of the survey, whereby the National Survey for Wales script included a question asking whether the respondent was willing to accept the questionnaires. In order to maximise acceptance rates, a change in approach was implemented. The question was removed and interviewers were instructed to leave questionnaires for all eligible individuals unless they were explicitly declined by the respondent.

### **Postal reminders**

4.17 As noted above, WLUS respondents are asked to complete and return their questionnaire within two weeks of receiving it. Respondents who had not returned a completed questionnaire within this period were sent a reminder pack through the post, containing a replacement questionnaire and a cover letter explaining about the survey and inviting them again to take part.

4.18 Postal reminders were sent out on a weekly basis throughout fieldwork.

### **Telephone reminders**

4.19 Respondents who did not return a questionnaire after being sent a postal reminder received an additional reminder, conducted by telephone. Naturally this relied on the National Survey for Wales respondent having provided a valid telephone number, meaning that some WLUS non-respondents did not receive a telephone reminder.

4.20 Telephone reminders were carried out by a member of TNS BMRB's telephone interviewer panel on a monthly basis. As a result, the interval between receiving the initial questionnaire and receiving a telephone reminder varied for each respondent depending on the date of the original National Survey for Wales interview. All telephone reminder calls took place at least two weeks after the respondent had received their postal reminder pack (i.e. four weeks after receiving the initial questionnaire). The maximum interval between receiving an initial questionnaire and receiving a telephone reminder was eight weeks.

4.21 Households containing more than one outstanding questionnaire only received one telephone reminder call. In all cases, the interviewer calling asked to speak to the respondent who took part in the National Survey for Wales interview, regardless of whether or not they are a Welsh speaker. The interviewer then read from a short script providing the names of all household members who had not yet returned a questionnaire.

4.22 There were no questions for the respondents to answer – the call simply served as a reminder about the WLUS and requested that all named respondents return their completed questionnaires as soon as possible.

## 5 Fieldwork figures and response rates

- 5.1 The figures below cover the 2014-15 Welsh Language Use Survey, which comprises all respondents recruited through National Survey for Wales interviews that took place within the survey year for 2014-15 (April 1<sup>st</sup> 2014 – April 12<sup>th</sup> 2015). In order to be included, respondents needed to return their completed questionnaire by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2015.
- 5.2 In total, 14,285 interviews were carried out on the National Survey for Wales 2014-15, in which 32,769 individual household members were recorded. Based on response to the relevant questions (see chapter 4) 8,463 Welsh speakers were identified.
- 5.3 Table 5.1 shows the acceptance, return and response rates for the adults and children WLUS questionnaires. These figures are calculated as follows:
- Acceptance rate: The proportion of eligible individuals who accepted a questionnaire;
  - Return rate: The proportion of accepted questionnaires that were completed and returned; and
  - Response rate: The proportion of eligible individuals who returned and completed a questionnaire. This is equal to the acceptance rate multiplied by the return rate.

**Table 5.1 – Overall 2014-15 acceptance, return and response rates (excluding ineligible respondents)**

	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Acceptance rate</b>	<b>Return rate</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
<b>Adults</b>	5,959	5,031	2,659	84%	53%	45%
<b>Children</b>	2,287	1,834	668	80%	36%	29%
<b>TOTAL</b>	8,246	6,865	3,327	83%	48%	40%

- 5.4 Of the 3,327 respondents, 947 (28%) completed their questionnaire in Welsh, while the remaining 2,380 (72%) completed their questionnaire in English.
- 5.5 Due to the nature of the recruitment process, information on Welsh speakers within the household is provided by the respondent on behalf of other household members. As a result, it is possible for questionnaires to be issued to individuals who do not consider themselves to be Welsh speakers. In order to account for this potential discrepancy, a question was included at the beginning of the questionnaire asking each WLUS respondent whether they can speak Welsh. Anyone indicating that they do not speak Welsh was instructed to return the questionnaire without answering any further questions, to indicate that they are actually ineligible for the WLUS.<sup>7</sup>
- 5.6 Another implication of the recruitment process is that the distribution of returned questionnaires over the course of the year will naturally match the distribution of interviews achieved on the National Survey for Wales. As explained in Chapter 2, a number of reserve addresses were issued during Q4, which resulted in a higher number of interviews being achieved towards the end of the survey year. As shown in Table 5.2, this resulted in a corresponding increase in the number of questionnaires returned towards the end of the WLUS reporting year.

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<sup>7</sup> Ultimately 269 respondents indicated that they were not Welsh speakers and were therefore ineligible for the survey.

**Table 5.2 – Final returned questionnaires per National Survey for Wales quarter**

<b>Quarter</b>	<b>NSW interviews</b>	<b>WLUS questionnaires<sup>8</sup></b>	<b>% of questionnaires</b>
1	3,016	638	19.2
2	3,490	931	28.0
3	3,158	700	21.0
4	4,621	1,058	31.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,285</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>100.0</b>

5.7 Table 5.3 shows demographic profiles for eligible individuals, comparing those who responded against those who did not respond.

**Table 5.3 – Profile of WLUS respondents/non-respondents**

	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Non-respondents</b>
<b>Men</b>	42.9%	46.7%
<b>Women</b>	57.1%	53.3%
<b>0-15</b>	12.4%	19.9%
<b>16-24</b>	36.3%	46.9%
<b>25-44</b>	25.7%	19.4%
<b>45-64</b>	13.3%	8.0%
<b>65-74</b>	7.0%	2.9%
<b>75+</b>	5.1%	2.7%
<b>Live in urban area<sup>9</sup></b>	43.0%	53.9%
<b>Live in rural area</b>	57.0%	46.1%
<b>1 person household</b>	15.5%	8.9%
<b>2 person household</b>	32.7%	22.7%
<b>3-4 person household</b>	41.6%	49.1%
<b>5-6 person household</b>	9.2%	17.7%
<b>7+ person household</b>	1.0%	1.6%

<sup>8</sup> These figures refer to the number of WLUS questionnaires returned from households taking part in a National Survey for Wales interview during each quarter. Each figure includes some questionnaires that were returned after the corresponding quarter's fieldwork had been closed.

<sup>9</sup> Based on the derived variable DvUrbRur from the National Survey for Wales dataset.

5.8 Overall fieldwork figures for the last two years of the WLUS are shown in Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4 – Comparative fieldwork figures: WLUS 2013-14 and 2014-15**

	<b>Eligible</b>	<b>Accepted</b>	<b>Received</b>	<b>Acceptance rate</b>	<b>Return rate</b>	<b>Response rate</b>
<b>2013-14</b>	8,190	6,610	3,848	81%	58%	47%
<b>2014-15</b>	8,246	6,865	3,327	83%	48%	40%

5.9 While acceptance rates are broadly similar, 2014-15 saw a fall in the return and response rates. This may be partly explained by the uneven annual distribution of National Survey for Wales interviews described above.

5.10 The closing date for returning completed questionnaires (31 May) applied to all questionnaires issued within 2014-15. As such, anyone issued with a questionnaire early in the year was given a longer period of time in which to respond, compared with those issued towards the end of the year. Given that, compared with 2013-14, a higher proportion of all National Survey for Wales interviews were conducted during Q4, a higher than expected proportion of WLUS questionnaires were also issued during later in fieldwork, in which the responding period was slightly curtailed.

5.11 As can be expected, there was some variation in eligibility rates across all 22 local authorities covered by the survey. Table 5.5 shows eligibility, acceptance, return and response rates for all local authorities.



**Table 5.5 – Local authority acceptance, return and response rates (excluding ineligible respondents)**

LA	Interviews	Total household members	Eligible	Accepted	Returned	Eligibility rate	Acceptance rate	Return rate	Response rate
Blaenau Gwent	656	1,472	137	127	32	9%	93%	25%	23%
Bridgend	700	1,652	230	196	98	14%	85%	50%	43%
Caerphilly	636	1,438	168	146	66	12%	87%	45%	39%
Cardiff	674	1,639	308	267	103	19%	87%	39%	33%
Carmarthenshire	569	1,286	621	466	239	48%	75%	51%	38%
Ceredigion	680	1,601	846	674	383	53%	80%	57%	45%
Conwy	583	1,309	471	415	201	36%	88%	48%	43%
Denbighshire	643	1,425	477	428	215	33%	90%	50%	45%
Flintshire	661	1,522	305	261	100	20%	86%	38%	33%
Gwynedd	666	1,522	1,122	938	580	74%	84%	62%	52%
Isle of Anglesey	707	1,610	967	755	422	60%	78%	56%	44%
Merthyr Tydfil	725	1,704	225	205	52	13%	91%	25%	23%
Monmouthshire	645	1,489	216	189	83	15%	88%	44%	38%
Neath Port Talbot	615	1,408	235	199	101	17%	85%	51%	43%
Newport	648	1,488	141	116	35	9%	82%	30%	25%
Pembrokeshire	663	1,484	248	217	109	17%	88%	50%	44%
Powys	592	1,261	299	247	118	24%	83%	48%	39%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	662	1,534	264	243	94	17%	92%	39%	36%
Swansea	628	1,434	221	150	68	15%	68%	45%	31%
Torfaen	637	1,463	211	171	55	14%	81%	32%	26%
Vale of Glamorgan	633	1,458	220	183	56	15%	83%	31%	25%
Wrexham	662	1,570	314	272	117	20%	87%	43%	37%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14,285</b>	<b>32,769</b>	<b>8,246</b>	<b>6,865</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>40%</b>

## **6 Data preparation**

### **Coding**

- 6.1 The WLUS contained no fully open-ended questions, but the questionnaire did include two questions with 'Other' options, in which respondents could write in their response rather than selecting one of the pre-written responses. Both questions appeared on the adult questionnaire, and one appeared on the children's questionnaire.
- 6.2 Verbatim responses entered at these questions were coded by a member of TNS BMRB's coding team. They reviewed each response and, if appropriate, allocated the response to one of the pre-existing responses codes. Any response that could not be allocated to a pre-existing response was left in 'Other'.

### **Scanning**

- 6.3 Completed questionnaires were returned to TNS BMRB's operations centre in Warwick. Each returned questionnaire was received by the booking-in team, who recorded the serial number and person number before sending the questionnaire to be scanned.
- 6.4 The questionnaires were passed through a scanner to convert each page into a digital image file. Each image is stored on a computer drive and assigned a unique image reference that can be linked to the respondent's serial number. During scanning, all responses given in the questionnaire are recorded and converted into a separate data file.

### **Data editing**

- 6.5 Due to the unmonitored nature of self-completion questionnaires, it was necessary to subject all returned questionnaires to a data editing process to ensure that the information recorded is consistent and accurate.

- 6.6 Editing was carried out to address instances in which the questionnaire appeared to have been filled in incorrectly; for example where more than one response was recorded at a single-coded question. There are two main reasons why this may happen. The most common explanation is that a respondent has actually selected more than one response. However, in some instances the scanner may pick up a small mark in one of the responses boxes (for example, if a cross marked in one box spills over into the neighbouring box) and mistakenly record this as a response.
- 6.7 Where there are a large number of erroneous multi-coded responses (known as 'dirty' responses), it is standard practice to establish a set of editing rules that are subsequently applied to all 'dirty' data. The Welsh Language Commissioner produced an edit specification, outlining how these kinds of responses should be edited, which was applied to the final data by the research team at TNS BMRB.
- 6.8 An additional stage of editing was applied to account for instances in which a respondent had provided inconsistent or contradictory responses. For example, a respondent may indicate in one question that they don't speak any Welsh, but indicated in another question that they speak Welsh on a daily basis. The rules that were applied to these responses are outlined in the edit specification.

### **Data outputs**

- 6.9 The Welsh Language Commissioner provided TNS BMRB with a data specification document to determine the format and labelling to be applied to the data delivered.
- 6.10 Interim data was produced midway through the data collection period in the form of two SPSS datasets: one containing data from the adult questionnaire and another containing data from the children's questionnaire. This allowed TNS BMRB to test output production prior to final data being produced.

6.11 At the end of the survey year, two final datasets were produced (adult and children). Each dataset contained weighting variables, which are explained in more detail in Chapter 7.

## 7 Weighting

- 7.1 The weighting strategy for the WLUS data incorporates weights produced for the 2013-14 National Survey for Wales data. Full details for how these weights were produced can be found in the National Survey for Wales 2013-14 Technical Report.
- 7.2 The weight given to each individual in National Survey for Wales sampled households (WalesPopWeight) served as a base-weight ( $W_{\text{base1}}$ ) for the WLUS.<sup>10</sup>
- 7.3 The base-weight ( $W_{\text{base1}}$ ) was then combined with an individual level response propensity weight ( $W_{\text{P (response)}}$ ) to create the WLUS weight ( $W_{\text{WLUS}}$ ). The individual level response propensity weight ( $W_{\text{P (response)}}$ ) equalled one divided by the predicted probability of response to the WLUS. Probabilities of responses were estimated by means of a logistic regression model with a set of known individual and household characteristics acting as predictor variables.
- 7.4 The definition of 'response' included both (i) completed questionnaires from eligible respondents and (ii) incomplete questionnaires returned by respondents declaring themselves to be non-eligible. Since eligibility status was unknown for non-respondents, it was necessary to combine the eligible and non-eligible respondents – so far as this model is concerned – to maintain symmetry between the responding and non-responding samples. In analysis, non-eligible respondents are, of course, excluded.

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<sup>10</sup> The base-weight  $W_{\text{base1}}$  was the product of three component weights: (a) a design weight that compensates for unequal household selection probabilities in the National Survey for Wales issued sample; (b) a response propensity weight that gives larger than average weights to areas with lower than average National Survey for Wales response rates; and (c) a calibration weight that aligns the profile of responding National Survey for Wales households to a set of relevant population data (specifically the ONS 2011 census-based population projections for 2013).

7.5 To decide which predictor variables to include in our model of response propensity, we tested multiple combinations of candidate variables aiming to achieve a good fit to our survey data without an excessive number of predictor variables. This approach should yield a more robust model than one based on maximum fit to this particular sample.

7.6 The candidate variables were:

- a) National Survey for Wales weight SamplePopWeight, used to make the sample of households reflect all-Wales characteristics
- b) Whether an individual was a respondent to the National Survey for Wales (as opposed to another household member)
- c) Number of people in the household
- d) Respondent's age
- e) Respondent's gender
- f) Respondent's tenure status
- g) Whether the household included individuals aged under 5
- h) Whether the household included individuals aged under 16
- i) Whether the household included individuals aged under 19
- j) Whether the household included individuals aged over 60
- k) Unitary authority where the household is located
- l) Urbanisation level of the area where the household is located
- m) Acorn classification of the area where the household is located
- n) Overall multiple deprivation classification of the area where the household is located
- o) Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she understands spoken Welsh
- p) Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she can read Welsh
- q) Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she can write Welsh
- r) Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she is fluent in Welsh vs. they can speak

a fair amount of Welsh vs. can only speak a little Welsh vs. can say just a few words in Welsh or cannot speak Welsh at all

- s) Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she speaks Welsh daily vs. weekly vs. less often than weekly vs. never
- t) Interaction terms between whether an individual was a respondent to the National Survey for Wales and variables o, p, q, r, and s
- u) Whether all people in a household speak Welsh as opposed to a fraction of people

7.7 Ultimately, the following variables were excluded from the final model:

- Whether the household included individuals aged under 5
- Whether the household included individuals aged under 16
- Whether the household included individuals aged over 60
- Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she can read Welsh
- Whether a household includes a National Survey for Wales respondent who stated he/she is fluent in Welsh or they can speak a fair amount of Welsh or can only speak a little Welsh or can say just a few words in Welsh or cannot speak Welsh at all

7.8 Once the WLUS weight ( $W_{WLUS}$ ) was constructed, cases that declared their ineligibility were removed from the dataset and the Welsh speaking population distribution was estimated.

7.9 The design effect<sup>11</sup> for the WLUS sample was estimated at 1.84.<sup>12</sup>

7.10 Tables present the distribution of Welsh speakers for the over 16-year olds and the under 16-year olds in the weighted WLUS sample.

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<sup>11</sup> The design effect cited here is an “unconditional” design effect, if “conditions” are perceived as specific question level correlations with the weights.

<sup>12</sup> The median design effect was estimated as:  $1 + (\text{Standard deviation of } W_{WLUS} / \text{mean of } W_{WLUS})^2$ .

**Table 7.1 – WLUS weighted population distribution of Welsh speaking individuals aged 16+**

<b>Gender</b>	<b>Population count</b>
Female	222,339
Male	283,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>506,249</b>

<b>Age</b>	<b>Population count</b>
16 to 18 years old	39,471
19 to 24 years old	56,195
25 to 30 years old	47,749
31 to 35 years old	39,688
36 to 40 years old	36,863
41 to 45 years old	39,761
46 to 50 years old	37,378
51 to 55 years old	35,595
56 to 60 years old	37,475
61 to 65 years old	33,991
66 to 70 years old	31,186
71 to 75 years old	22,042
76 to 80 years old	17,857
81 to 97 years old	26,657
Refused	4,342
<b>Total</b>	<b>506,249</b>



**Table 7.1 – WLUS weighted population distribution of Welsh speaking individuals aged 16+ (continued)**

<b>Region</b>	<b>Population count</b>
Isle of Anglesey	31,447
Gwynedd	77,680
Conwy	29,208
Denbighshire	23,940
Flintshire	17,655
Wrexham	19,388
Powys	24,214
Ceredigion	31,610
Pembrokeshire	16,692
Carmarthenshire	64,884
Swansea	23,483
Neath Port Talbot	16,895
Bridgend	14,501
Vale of Glamorgan	8,184
Cardiff	44,461
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	24,970
Merthyr Tydfil	3,584
Caerphilly	13,918
Blaenau Gwent	2,773
Torfaen	5,411
Monmouthshire	6,226
Newport	5,126
<b>Total</b>	<b>506,249</b>

**Table 7.2 – WLUS weighted population distribution of Welsh speaking individuals aged 3-15 year olds**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Population count</b>
Female	84,987
Male	90,663
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,650</b>

<b>Group</b>	<b>Population count</b>
3 to 6 years old	47,838
7 to 10 years old	53,266
11 to 15 years old	74,546
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,650</b>

<b>Region</b>	<b>Population count</b>
Isle of Anglesey	5,767
Gwynedd	15,682
Conwy	6,284
Denbighshire	5,440
Flintshire	8,555
Wrexham	7,656
Powys	5,494
Ceredigion	7,952
Pembrokeshire	5,224
Carmarthenshire	14,936
Swansea	7,482
Neath Port Talbot	6,174
Bridgend	6,757
Vale of Glamorgan	3,755
Cardiff	16,303
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	17,480
Merthyr Tydfil	2,060
Caerphilly	10,275
Blaenau Gwent	2,634
Torfaen	5,100
Monmouthshire	7,278
Newport	7,361
<b>Total</b>	<b>175,650</b>