

CONSULTATION ON THE DESIGN OF THE SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (SHS) FOR 2017 AND BEYOND



Design of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) for 2017 and beyond – Consultation

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Introduction

As part of Scotland's Spending Plans and Budget for 2016/17, the Scottish Government requires to make savings on the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2017. Savings of the level sought cannot be achieved without significant changes to the design of the SHS.

The Scottish Government is seeking users and stakeholders' views on two alternative options:

- Option A Biennial topics, i.e. halving the number of topics covered by the survey every year and collecting data on each topic every second year, with a small reduction in sample size (from 10,700 to 10,100).

- Option B Reduction of the overall survey sample size by around a third, from 10,700 to 7,450, with a small reduction in topics covered by the survey.

Both options realise the same level of cost savings. Further background on the SHS, the main impacts of the options, and alternative options considered are given below.

Background and value of the SHS

Every National Government needs unbiased and reliable information about how their country is performing across a range of areas. The annual [Scottish Household Survey \(SHS\)](#) provides not only detailed national level data on people in Scotland, but also local authority level data too.

The survey has run since 1999 and provides a unique source of essential trend data and evidence for a wide range of policy areas. These include housing, transport, local government services, health and physical activity, neighbourhoods and communities, the local environment and sport and culture.

The SHS directly measures almost one fifth of the National Indicators in [Scotland Performs](#) (10 out of 55 National Indicators) and contributes significantly to a number of other published national and local outcome indicator frameworks which are important for tracking performance. This includes half of the [Housing & Regeneration Outcome Indicators](#), over a quarter of the 37 indicators that monitor the [Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland](#), and 8 indicators in the [Improvement Service's Local Government Benchmarking Framework](#).

Alongside the other (then) three major Scottish Government population surveys, the SHS went through a major strategic review in 2010 as part of the Scottish Government's Long Term Survey Strategy. This review resulted in the Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS) becoming part of the SHS, and the creation of the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ). The SSCQ maximises data utilisation across the main population surveys through the use of common core questions which enables more detailed equalities breakdowns at national and local authority level.

As well as providing a substantial contribution towards the SSCQ, the SHS produces 6 major and unique statistical outputs on an annual basis, all of which are used to inform and monitor policies and programmes at a local and national level. These publications are:

- [SHS Annual Report](#)
- [SHS Local Authority Tables](#)
- [Transport and Travel in Scotland, plus separate Local Authority tables](#)
- [SHCS Annual Report](#)
- [SHCS Local Authority Tables](#)

SHS data is also regularly used in a range of Scottish Government published research reports.

The current SHS consists of a one hour 'social survey' interview, with an overall target sample size of around 10,700 households, and a one hour 'physical survey', i.e. surveyor led inspection of dwellings, with approximately one third of the sample (3,000) which forms the SHCS. The social survey is split into an interview with the householder (highest income householder or partner) and an interview with a 'random adult' who lives in the household. The random adult sample size is around 90% of the household sample size.

The Travel Diary component of the SHS, asked in the random adult section, is a unique data source on personal travel patterns within Scotland and underpins analysis of future transport needs and business cases for national and local transport infrastructure. The physical survey, alongside the social survey questions, provides the only source of data on fuel poverty in Scotland via the SHCS.

Most of the topics in the SHS are asked on an annual basis of the full sample. However, there are a number of topics where the questions are asked on either a biennial basis and/or of a one third sample (see Annex A for an overview of topics, sample sizes and frequency).

The SHS is used by a variety of other public bodies and stakeholders, including the third sector and academics, for a range of uses. The Scottish Government wishes to gather all users' views on the options under consideration for SHS 2017. These views will also inform thinking on the design for SHS 2018 - 2021 (future procurement subject to agreement by Ministers).

Options for consultation

There are two options which the Scottish Government would like stakeholders' views on, namely:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| Option A | Biennial topics, i.e. halving the number of topics covered by the survey every year and collecting data on each topic every second year, with a small reduction in sample size (from 10,700 to 10,100). |
| Option B | Reduction of the overall survey sample size by around a third, from 10,700 to 7,450, with a small reduction in topics covered by the survey. |

Both options retain an annual Scottish Household Survey (SHS) social survey and an annual physical survey, and both options would realise a similar level of cost savings.

A description of each option is provided below, including Table 1 which provides an overview of the key characteristics of each option.

Option A maintains a sample size of over 10,000 and the same level of topic coverage, albeit on a biennial basis for most social survey topics. In other words, one half of topics would be covered in an odd year, and the second half of topics in an even year. In line with the small reduction in sample size at national level (from 10,700 to 10,100 or 4%), one third sample topics would have a small reduction in sample size from 3,550 to 3,350. Savings are achieved by reducing the SHS interview time from 1 hour to 40 minutes.

Whilst this option sacrifices the frequency of data collection it retains the full ability to drill down and undertake sub-group analysis in any given year. It should be noted that a small number of key household and key random adult questions are 'protected' under option A, i.e. they would run on an annual basis in order to retain the ability to analyse across household and adult respondent characteristics in both odd and even years. Annex A shows which sections of questions are protected.¹ This includes all SSCQ questions.

Local Authority level data would continue to be published every year to a similar level of precision, but every second year for most social survey topics (i.e. non-protected questions).

Option B maintains annual data collection for all questions, but reduces the overall sample size by 30%. The majority of topics are also retained in the survey. Under option B savings are achieved by cutting the sample size.

To maintain 'one third sample' questions at a similar sample size in SHS 2017 around 4 minutes of topics/questions (around 7% of questions) would have to be cut in order to maintain the interview at 1 hour in length.² Alternatives to the 4 minute reduction in topics/questions could be making around 9 minutes worth of full sample topics biennial or changing a similar amount of topics to 'one third sample' questions. The consultation questionnaire asks for people's views on options for achieving a 4 minute reduction in interview time.

In essence, option B prioritises annual data collection, but with a reduced sample size for full sample questions, and does so whilst maintaining the majority of topic and question coverage. Sub-group analysis would still be possible for many variables, but to a lower level of precision than currently available under an overall

¹ Annex A and the [2015 SHS questionnaire](#) can be used to look at exactly what questions are protected under each of the sections. Instructions on how to do this are included in Annex A.

² Under option B, current one third sample questions become half of the new sample size, rather than one third, and therefore would need to feature in 6 streams of the survey rather than 4 streams. Due to the use of streaming of questions, this also means the sample size needs to increase slightly from 3550 (one third of 10700) to 3750 (one half of 7500).

survey sample size of 10,700. Two years or more of data would need to be combined for detailed subgroup analysis.

In line with the national sample size reduction under option B, all local authorities would receive a reduction in their sample size. This means annual local authority results would no longer be available under Option B. Instead the Scottish Government proposes to publish local authority results on a *two year rolling average basis* each year, i.e. two years' worth of data would be combined on a rolling basis to produce average figures each year.³

The two year rolling average estimate, based on a combined sample size of 15,000, would have higher precision, i.e. smaller confidence intervals, than the current annual estimates based on a sample size of 10,700. This would make it easier to detect 'real' differences between estimates for different local authorities than current annual estimates (due to the increased sample size from creating two year rolling averages), but more difficult to identify change over time in the short term within a local authority.⁴ This is due to rolling averages producing 'smoothing' of estimates, although they do still identify trends that emerge over time.

The SHCS currently publishes its local authority level estimates on a 3-year rolling average basis. Nevertheless rolling average estimates make it more difficult to detect change over time when there are small changes in estimates.

An alternative is to produce and publish data *every two years on a two year basis* for local authorities, i.e. under option B 2016 and 2017 data would be combined to produce estimates published in summer 2018, followed by 2018 and 2019 data which would be combined and published in summer 2020. Presenting and publishing data this way makes it easier to detect change over time when there are small changes in estimates. The consultation questions in Annex B asks for people's preferred option for the publication of local authority results. However, it should be noted that data every two years on a two year basis, i.e. 2016 and 2017 data combined, and then 2018 and 2019 data combined, would be available for making clearer comparisons over time under the two year rolling average publication option.

For comparison, the main features of options A and B are shown in Table 1 over the page.

³ When 2017 data becomes available, it would be combined with 2016 data to produce two year rolling average estimates, which would be published in summer 2018. Assuming this option is continued for SHS 2018, when 2018 data became available it would be combined with 2017 data to produce the next two year rolling average estimates which would be published in summer 2019.

⁴ The smallest local authorities currently have a target annual sample size of 250. Under option B, assuming a proportionate around 30% drop across all local authorities, this would decrease to 175 on an annual basis, giving a combined sample size of 350 over two years. The confidence interval for a sample size of 250 on point estimates of 70% and 30% (yes/no question) is +/- 6.5% compared to +/- 5.5% for a sample size of 350. The Scottish Government will review options for the optimal allocation of the overall sample across local authorities whilst still maintaining a representative national sample.

Table 1 Options A and B overview

Options	Principles	National sample size and frequency	Local sample size and frequency
<p>Option A Biennial Topics</p> <p>Collect half of the topics in odd year (2017), half of the topics in even year</p> <p>Key household and random adult 'protected' questions (including SSCQ) unchanged on an annual basis</p>	<p>Maintain sample size at over 10,000 households for full sample topics.</p> <p>'One third sample topics' maintain one third of full sample size (i.e. 3,350)</p> <p>Reduce frequency of data collection for most topics</p> <p>Retain all topic coverage, albeit every two years for most topics</p>	<p>Largely unchanged sample size and precision <u>albeit every other year for most topics</u></p> <p>Difficulties in combining two years' worth of data for detailed sub-group analysis due to combining non-consecutive years (a particular issue for 'one third sample' topics')</p>	<p>LA data published annually albeit <u>every other year for most topics</u></p> <p>Key household and random adult data published annually</p> <p>Largely unchanged sample size for LAs</p> <p>Same issue of combining non-consecutive years for some sub-group analysis</p>
<p>Option B Reduce sample size by around one third (to 7,450)</p> <p>All topics have 7,450 sample size except current 'one third sample' questions which slightly increase their sample size to 3,700 (from current 3,550)</p>	<p>Reduce sample size for full sample topics</p> <p>'One third sample topics' maintain similar sample size (i.e. 3,700)</p> <p>Maintain frequency of data collection</p> <p>Small reduction in topic coverage - around 4 minutes - or equivalent reduction in frequency or sample size to achieve the same time-savings</p>	<p>Reduced <u>annual</u> sample size and precision of results</p> <p>If necessary combine data from <u>2 years</u> to have sufficient sample sizes for detailed sub-group analysis</p>	<p>Reduced sample size for LAs means publication of annual data no longer possible.</p> <p>LA data published annually but on <u>two year rolling average basis</u></p> <p>Two year rolling averages at improved precision than current annual estimates</p>

The main implications of option A are that:

- National and local authority data would be published annually, but only every other year for most topics. Key household and random adult questions would be published annually as they retain an annual sample size of over 10,000.
- The Travel Diary would only be asked every second year.
- SHCS *social survey questions* would only be asked every second year. However, there would be no impact on fuel poverty estimates which are based on the *physical survey* (which retains its current 3,000 target sample size) and

protected questions in the SHS social survey, nor on energy efficiency SAP ratings which are based on the physical survey.

- SHS based National Performance Framework (NPF) Indicators would only be updated and reported every other year.
- Risk of losing ability to cross tabulate variables if split across a different year of the survey.
- Rarely occurring characteristics and/or sub-group breakdowns – either at national or local level – that already require a combination of two years' worth of data to achieve a sufficient sample size would need to combine non-consecutive years of data (e.g. 2017 and 2019 if this design continues for SHS 2018-2021). This would be the case for some national level breakdowns of one third sample questions which currently require the merging of two years' worth of data.
- Precision of equalities breakdowns protected at current levels, but impact of biennial equalities monitoring for most topics.

The main implications of option B are that:

- Annual local authority results would no longer be available. Local authority data would be published every year, but on a two year rolling average basis and at an improved level of precision. This makes it easier to identify 'real' differences between local authorities than current annual estimates (due to the increased sample size from creating two year rolling averages), but more difficult to identify change over time in the short term within a local authority area.
- The Travel Diary would be asked every year but at a reduced sample size and level of precision.
- SHCS *social survey questions* would be asked every year at around the same sample size as currently (SHCS questions are 'one third sample' questions). There would be no impact on fuel poverty estimates nor energy efficiency SAP ratings which are based on the *physical survey* which retains its current 3,000 target sample size.
- SHS based National Performance Framework (NPF) Indicators are reported annually but at a reduced level of precision making it more difficult to detect 'real' change on an annual basis.
- Rarely occurring characteristics and/or sub-group breakdowns – either at national or local level – that require a combination of two years' worth of data to achieve a sufficient sample size would have a higher combined sample size than under option A. (15,000 every two years under option B compared to 10,700 every two years under option A.) This particularly benefits one third sample questions that currently require two years' worth of data to produce sub-group breakdowns as it avoids combining two non-consecutive years' of data.
- Retain many national annual equalities breakdowns but at a lower precision than currently. May need to combine two years of data for breakdowns by some rarer equalities characteristics.

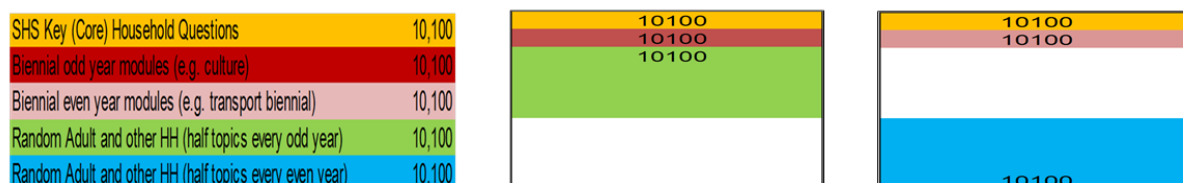
Consultation responses will be used to inform the design of the survey for both SHS 2017 and SHS 2018 - 2021 (subject to sign off of procurement by Scottish Ministers).

Issues around continuity of the survey will be considered as far as possible when making decisions on 2018 - 2021.

Differential impacts

Options A and B would have different impacts depending on the specific topics and questions. The graphics below show how different sections of questions are treated under each of the options, whilst Annex A provides information on what topics fall under each heading in the graphic.

Option A Biennial Topics



Option B Reduce sample size



It should be noted that current one third sample topics are not illustrated in the graphics as they maintain a sample size of around 3,550 under both options (option A 3,350 and option B 3,700). In option A one third topics are only available every other year, the same as most social survey topics.

A few examples may help illustrate the different impacts.

SHS Key Household and Key Random Adult Questions (e.g. household income estimates)

Under option A, a small number of key household and random adult questions are 'protected' and asked on an annual basis. Therefore annual household income would be published every year at a national level and local authority level. However, under option B, whilst household income estimates would be available on an annual basis nationally every year, albeit at a lower precision than currently, at local authority level there would be no annual results. Instead, they would be published every year but on a two year rolling average basis.

Most social survey topics – random adult topics and other household section topics

For all social survey topics that currently appear in the non-protected random adult and other household sections on an annual basis, option A would mean that data is only available every other year at national and LA level for both full and one third sample topics, whereas for topics that are currently run on a biennial basis (e.g. culture and transport) there would be no change to frequency.

Under option B, annual data would be available nationally for those social survey topics currently run on an annual basis, albeit at a reduced sample size and precision level for full sample topics (current 'one third sample topics' maintain a similar sample size, 3,700, under option B). At local authority level there would be no annual results but data would be published every year on a two year rolling average basis for full sample topics. There would be no change in frequency for current biennial topics.

Alternative options considered

It should be noted that the Scottish Government considered a number of alternative options for achieving savings in 2017, and these were put to the SHS Steering Group for consideration⁵. These included reducing topic coverage by over 40% in order to achieve around a twenty minute reduction in interview time. However, this would lead to a significant reduction in data and evidence needs for informing, monitoring and evaluating policy decisions. This option was therefore rejected.

The Scottish Government also considered changes to the mode of data collection for the 2017 survey. However, each alternative such as full or partial telephone or online completion has its own set of drawbacks, as well as the introduction of possible mode effects into SHS data, which could impact on the quality of the survey. Furthermore, the sample for the SSCQ is based on the Scottish Government's three large scale random probability population surveys, all of which are carried out on a face-to-face basis.

Altering the survey so that the whole survey runs on a biennial basis was also rejected. This is because experience with the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey showed that such a model was not sustainable from a fieldwork perspective in terms of having to 'ramp up' and then 'ramp down' the field-force of interviewers from one year to the next.

Your consultation responses and decision making on future SHS surveys

The consultation questions are included in Annex B. Instructions on how to respond to the consultation, including the deadline of **Tuesday 19th April**, are included in Annex C. Please remember to return your Respondent Information Form in Annex D with your response.

All responses will be analysed by the SHS team and will be considered by the Scottish Government and the SHS Steering Group in order to inform decisions taken on SHS 2017 and future SHS surveys. For SHS 2018 - 2021, issues around continuity of the survey will be considered as far as possible when making decisions on its design and the specification for SHS 2018-2021 procurement (subject to sign off by Scottish Ministers).

⁵ The SHS Steering Group consists of internal (Scottish Government) and external members including local authority and Improvement Service representation.

Annex A SHS SOCIAL INTERVIEW TOPIC COVERAGE

This Annex provides an overview of the different topics within the SHS questionnaire, and the frequency of data collection and sample sizes under options A and B, compared to the current SHS.

Table 1 below shows which topics are protected at full sample – these are mostly key household and key random adult topics and questions needed for analysis and can be found under ‘Key household topics – full sample protected’ and ‘Random adult topics - full sample protected’. It also shows which SSCQ questions are protected with a full annual sample even though they may fall within a non-protected section of the questionnaire. For example, accommodation is not a protected topic as it falls under other household topics, but the tenure question is.

If you want to look in more detail at exactly what questions are asked under each topic, you can use the [2015 SHS questionnaire](#) (or the [SHS 2016 questionnaire](#)). You can use the headings at the start of the questionnaire or use a keyword search if the headings don’t match those in table 1 below (some topics have been split in a different way from the questionnaire headings in order to show differing sample sizes and frequency levels).

For ease of reference, Table 2 shows which SSCQ questions fall under which section of the SHS questionnaire.

Table 1 SHS Topics – Samples and frequencies

<u>HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE</u>	<u>SSCQ?</u>			
Key Household Topics - full sample protected		Current	Option A	Option B
Household composition & characteristics of all occupants	Yes	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual
Employment status of the highest income householder	Yes	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual
Household income from employment and other sources	Yes	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual
Health /disability	No	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual
Driving and Transport – Cars	Yes	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual
Driving and Transport – Fuel spend, and bicycles	No	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual
Other Household (Other HH) Topics				
<u>Full sample</u>		Current	Option A	Option B
Accommodation - Tenure*	Yes	10,700 annual	10,100 annual	7,450 annual

Accommodation - Type of property, length of tenure	No	10,700 annual	10,100 biennial	7,450 annual
<u>One-third sample</u>		Current	Option A	Option B
SHCS - Household heating patterns, experience and cost of repairs in the past year, adaptations which are present in the home or required to enable independent living[1], and right to buy owners	No	3,550 annual	3,350 biennial	3,700 annual
Accommodation - Including housing aspirations	No	3,550 annual	3,350 biennial	3,700 annual
Internet access	No	3,550 annual	3,350 biennial	3,700 annual
Recycling	No	3,550 annual	3,350 biennial	3,700 annual
Savings & Finances - Including mortgage and rent [2]	No	3,550 annual	3,350 biennial	3,700 annual
<u>Mix of annual full and one third sample questions, and biennial questions</u>		Current	Option A	Option B
Accommodation - Landlord services (Biennial questions – 2016 – even year)	No	Biennial	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size
Children in the household - Childcare, schools, and travel (Biennial questions – 2016 – even year)	No	Mixed frequency and sample size	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size
SHCS – Energy efficiency [3], renewables	No	Mixed frequency and sample size	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size
<u>RANDOM ADULT QUESTIONNAIRE</u>				
Key Random Adult Topics - full sample protected		Current	Option A	Option B
Key adult characteristics (for example, age, gender, ethnicity)	Yes	9,800 annual	9,300 annual	6,850 annual
Key adult characteristics (date when moved to Scotland if not born here)	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
Health/disability and caring responsibilities - (e.g. self-assessed health, disability, caring, and smoking,)	Yes	9,800 annual	9,300 annual	6,850 annual
Health/disability and caring responsibilities - Concessionary travel	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual

Random Adult Topics				
Full sample				
		Current	Option A	Option B
Accommodation/housing experiences	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
Neighbourhoods and community safety - Perception of local crime rate & police performance*	Yes	9,800 annual	9,300 annual	6,850 annual
Neighbourhoods and community safety – Including access to green space, harassment & discrimination	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
Education – Qualifications*	Yes	9,800 annual	9,300 annual	6,850 annual
Employment/economic activity*	Yes	9,800 annual	9,300 annual	6,850 annual
Transport - Travel Diary	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
Perceptions of local government and services	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
Participation in sports activities	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
Environment – Access to the outdoors, green space	No	9,800 annual	9,300 biennial	6,850 annual
One-third sample				
		Current	Option A	Option B
Internet access and use	No	3,250 annual	3,100 biennial	3,400 annual
Environment – Climate change	No	3,250 annual	3,100 biennial	3,400 annual
Mix of annual full sample and one third sample questions, and biennial questions				
		Current	Option A	Option B
Transport – use of private and public transport, congestion (Biennial questions - 2016 – even year)	No	Mixed frequency and sample size	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size
Volunteering (Biennial questions - 2016 – even year)	No	Mixed frequency and sample size	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size
Participation in cultural activities (Biennial questions - 2015 – odd year)	No	Mixed frequency and sample size	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size
Environment – Land use (Biennial question -2015 - odd year)	No	Mixed frequency and sample size	All biennial - sample size varies	Mixed frequency and sample size

Notes:

Table 1 is based on 2015 and 2016 questionnaires combined in order to represent biennial modules.

The sample sizes are rounded to nearest 50 for presentational purposes.

[1] Use of heating and repairs are also covered in the physical survey/inspection of dwellings. The information on householders views and experiences is collected through the social survey, while the information on repairs to the dwelling considered necessary in the assessment of professional surveyors is

collected through the physical dwelling survey.

[2] Within the household costs and mortgage and rent section, three questions would be protected under Option A Biennial in order to provide an annual fuel poverty estimate. This includes RH4 -Overall, how many people are contributing to the rent figure you just gave me?, CTAX1 How much does your household pay for council tax?, CTAX2 How long does this payment cover?

[3] Certain aspects of energy efficiency measures, including people’s awareness and uptake of household energy efficiency measures are covered in the social survey. Annual energy efficiency estimates in the SHCS report (based on SAP ratings) come from the physical survey/inspection of dwellings.

Table 2 Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) in the SHS

Questionnaire	Question	Section of SHS Questionnaire
Household	Age / Date of birth Car ownership or access Economic activity Gender Household income Tenure	Household Characteristics Driving and Transport Employment of Highest Income Householder Household Characteristics Household Income Tenure
Random Adult	Caring Country of birth Disability Educational attainment Ethnicity Legal marital or civil partnership status Perception of local crime rate Perception of local police performance Religion / Belief Self-assessed health Sexual orientation Smoking Mental wellbeing	Health and Disability Characteristics Health and Disability Education and Training Characteristics Characteristics Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Neighbourhoods and Community Safety Characteristics Health and Disability Characteristics Health and Disability Health and Disability

Annex B CONSULTATION QUESTIONS

Section A Use of SHS

1. What are the main social survey topics you use in the SHS? Please tick all that apply. Please distinguish between the topics in your following answers.

HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW

- Household composition & characteristics of all occupants
- Employment status of the highest income householder
- Household income from employment and other sources
- Health/disability
- Driving Transport – Cars, fuel spend, and bicycles
- Accommodation - Type of property, tenure, housing aspirations
- SHCS social survey – Heating patterns, repairs, adaptations
- SHCS social survey – Household energy efficiency measures and renewables
- Internet access
- Recycling
- Savings and household finances, including housing costs (mortgage and rent)
- Children in the household (childcare, schools, and travel to school)

RANDOM ADULT INTERVIEW

- Key adult characteristics
- Health/disability and caring responsibilities
- Accommodation/housing experiences
- Neighbourhoods and community safety (including perception of local crime rate and local police performance, harassment and discrimination)
- Education - Qualifications
- Employment/economic activity
- Transport – Travel Diary
- Transport – Use of private/public transport, congestion
- Perceptions of local government and services
- Participation in sports activities
- Participation in cultural activities
- Environment – Access to the outdoors, green space, land use
- Environment – Climate change
- Internet access and use
- Volunteering

- Other – please specify

2. What do you use the SHS for?

We are particularly interested in how analysis of SHS data is used for informing, monitoring and evaluating policy and practice decisions, including examples of where analysis has influenced decision making.

Please be as specific as possible in your answers.

3. Are there any alternative sources of evidence available for the topics and/or questions you use in the SHS?

i. Please tick

Yes

No

ii. Please list alternative sources of evidence for each topic

Section B Views on options for 2017

4. What would be the impact of SHS option A for your organisation's use of the SHS? Please distinguish between the different topics you use when answering.

5. What would be the impact of SHS option B for your organisation's use of the SHS? Please distinguish between the different topics you use when answering.

6. Do you prefer option A or option B?

i. Please tick

Option A

Option B

ii. What is the reason for your option preference?

7. Under option A (biennial) half of the topics would be asked in 2017 (odd year) and half in 2018 (even year) (assuming this is the model adopted for 2018 - 2021). Do you have any views on what topics should be asked in 2017 and 2018?

8. Under option B (reduction in sample size), a small reduction in full sample topic coverage of around 4 minutes (around 7% of questions) is necessary to maintain current 'one third sample questions' at around their present sample size.

How should this be achieved?

i. By cutting topics completely

ii. By reducing breadth of larger topics

iii. By introducing more biennial topics and questions

iv. By introducing more one third sample questions

9. In order to contribute to the 4 minute reduction, which of the topics which you use do you think could be:

- i. Cut completely and/or reduced in breadth
- ii. Go biennial
- iii. Move from full to one third sample

Please be as specific as possible in your answers.

10. Under option B (cut in sample size), would you prefer local authority data to be published on a:

- i. Please tick.
 - Two year rolling average basis every year
 - Two year basis every two years
 - (i.e. 2017 and 2018 data would be published in 2019, 2019 and 2020 data would be published in 2021)
- ii. What is the reason for your preference?

Section C Looking Ahead

11. Looking ahead to 2018 - 2021 , the Scottish Government may need to make further reductions to the SHS.

a. If this is necessary, would you prefer any further changes to the SHS to be based on:

- i. A reduction in the overall SHS sample size
- ii. A reduction in the frequency of SHS data collection
- iii. A reduction in SHS topic coverage
- iv. Other – please state

b. Please explain why.

12. What would be the impact on the work of your organisation if there were to be a further:

- i. Reduction in the overall SHS sample size
- ii. Reduction in the frequency of SHS data collection
- iii. Reduction in SHS topic coverage

Section D Any other comments and information about your organisation

13. Do you have any other comments about the SHS or this consultation?

14. What sector do you work in?

- Central government
- Local government
- Parliament
- NHS

- Other public sector (e.g. NDPB)
- Higher/further education (excluding students)
- Third sector (Voluntary and charity)
- Private sector
- Student
- Journalists / media
- Other (please specify)

15. What is the main topic area(s) that your organisation as a whole focuses on?

- Health
- Housing
- Environment
- Transport
- Income and wealth
- Communities
- Sport
- Culture
- Young People
- Equalities
- Other – please state

Please also make sure that you complete the separate Respondent Information Form in Annex D.

Annex C RESPONDING TO THIS CONSULTATION

We are inviting responses to this consultation by **Tuesday 19th April 2016**.

Please respond to this consultation online at:

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/scottish-household-survey/consultation-on-2017-survey>

You can save and return to your responses while the consultation is still open. Please ensure that consultation responses are submitted before the closing date.

If you are unable to respond online, please complete the Respondent Information Form (see “Handling your Response” below) and send to:

Pat Cairns
Communities Analysis
1F North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ

Or alternatively email:

shs@scot.gov.uk

If you have any queries, again please contact Jackie Horne or Pat Cairns.

This consultation, and all other Scottish Government consultation exercises, can be viewed online on the consultation web pages of the Scottish Government website at <https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/>.

The Scottish Government now has an email update system for consultations at <http://register.scotland.gov.uk/Subscribe/Step1>. This system allows stakeholder individuals and organisations to register and receive emails containing details of all new consultations (including web links). This is designed to allow stakeholders to keep up to date with all SG consultation activity, and, therefore, be alerted at the earliest opportunity to those of most interest. We would encourage you to register.

Handling your response

If you respond using Citizen Space, you will be automatically directed to the Respondent Information Form at the start of the questionnaire. This will let us know how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be made public.

If you are unable to respond via Citizen Space, please complete and return the **Respondent Information Form** attached to the end of this document (Annex D) as this will ensure that we treat your response appropriately. If you ask for your response not to be published, we will regard it as confidential, and we will treat it accordingly.

All respondents should be aware that the Scottish Government is subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and would therefore

have to consider any request made to it under the Act for information relating to responses made to this consultation exercise.

Next steps in the process

Where respondents have given permission for their response to be made public, and after we have checked that they contain no potentially defamatory material, responses will be made available to the public at <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. If you use Citizen Space to respond, you will receive a copy of your response via email.

Following the closing date, all responses will be analysed and considered along with any other available evidence to help us finalise the chosen option.

Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to:

Pat Cairns
Communities Analysis
1F North
Victoria Quay
Edinburgh
EH6 6QQ
shs@scot.gov.uk

Annex D RESPONDENT INFORMATION FORM



Consultation on the Design of the SHS

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organization?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name

Department & Division

Phone number

Address

Postcode

Email

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response. Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (anonymous)
 Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No

Annex E THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION PROCESS

Consultation is an essential part the policy making process. It gives us the opportunity to get your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work.

You can find all our consultations online: <http://consult.scotland.gov.uk>. Each consultation details the issues under consideration, as well as a way for you to give us your views, either online, by email or by post.

Consultations may involve seeking views in a number of different ways, such as public meetings, focus groups, or other online methods such as Dialogue (<http://ideas.scotland.gov.uk>)

After a consultation is closed we publish all responses where we have been given permission to do so.

Responses will be analysed and used as part of the decision making process, along with a range of other available information and evidence. We will publish a report of this analysis for every consultation. Depending on the nature of the

- consultation exercise the responses received may:
- indicate the need for policy development or review
- inform the development of a particular policy
- help decisions to be made between alternative policy proposals
- be used to finalise legislation before it is implemented

While details of particular circumstances described in a response to a consultation exercise may usefully inform the policy process, consultation exercises cannot address individual concerns and comments, which should be directed to the relevant public body.



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