

# **National Outcomes review 2023**

## **Consultation information pack**

**March 2023**

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## Consultation information pack



National  
Performance  
Framework



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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## Ministerial foreword



The National Outcomes set out the kind of Scotland we all want to see. It is therefore vital that we hear from communities in Scotland about what matters most to them, so that we can ensure the National Outcomes reflect our shared priorities. Our collective wellbeing is a matter for all of us – government, charities, communities, businesses and people – working together to make these National Outcomes a reality.

As part of our [National Performance Framework](#), the National Outcomes describe what ‘living well together’ means for us, from protecting our environment, to being healthy and active; with communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe, to tackling poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally.

The National Performance Framework also helps us to measure what matters. Our National Indicators track progress on the National Outcomes, allowing us celebrate success and to invest in areas where we need to unlock greater momentum.

The current set of National Outcomes were published in 2018, and much has happened since then. Scotland has been taken out of the European Union; the climate crisis has worsened; we have faced the challenge of a global health pandemic, which aggravated existing inequality and brought to light ways in which people across Scotland experience different outcomes; and now we face a cost of living crisis which is impacting us all.

And so, the Scottish Government wants to hear from people and communities across Scotland about whether our National Outcomes continue to reflect the kind of Scotland we want to see. We are asking in this consultation and call for evidence for you to give us your views on the existing National Outcomes, and whether there are additional National Outcomes that we should consider. We would also like to hear about how the National Performance Framework could have a bigger impact.

We welcome your views, and I invite you to add your voice by 5 June 2023.

**John Swinney MSP**  
**Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery**

## Introduction

The Scottish Government are undertaking a review of the National Outcomes. This is a requirement within every five years, under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.

The National Outcomes are laid out in the National Performance Framework (NPF). The NPF is Scotland's wellbeing framework and sets out the kind of Scotland we want to see. It also measures Scotland's progress towards the National Outcomes.

## National Performance Framework

The National Performance Framework sets out a vision for national wellbeing in Scotland – it is Scotland's wellbeing framework. It sets an overall purpose and vision for Scotland. It highlights the broad National Outcomes that support the purpose and measures how well Scotland is progressing towards those outcomes. The current set of National Outcomes were decided in consultation with communities in Scotland during the last review in 2018.

The National Indicators incorporate different types of data – from social attitudes and perceptions to economic and environmental statistics – to paint a broad picture of how Scotland is doing.

The NPF values describe a society characterised by openness and transparency, in which people and organisations treat each other with kindness, dignity, compassion and respect the rule of law. The values inform the behaviours people in Scotland should see in everyday life. They also inform decisions about what is prioritised to make progress on the National Outcomes. And how we will behave to get there. This includes taking action based on understanding peoples' real life experiences, as well as statistical data.

The NPF is also the way Scotland has localised the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Everyone, including public, private and third sector organisations, can contribute towards the National Outcomes through their work.

**Our Purpose** sets out the direction and ambition for Scotland.

**Our Values** describe the underpinning principles we share as a nation.

**11 National Outcomes** describe what we want to achieve and the kind of Scotland we want to see.

**UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** align our global responsibilities alongside the National Outcomes and our National Indicators.

**81 National Indicators** help us track our progress.

## National Outcomes

The last review of the National Outcomes was completed in 2018, and there are currently 11 Outcomes. These are that we:

- Grow up loved, safe and respected so that we realise our full potential (**Children**);
- Live in communities that are inclusive, empowered, resilient and safe (**Communities**);
- Are creative and our vibrant and diverse cultures are expressed and enjoyed widely (**Culture**);
- Have a globally competitive, entrepreneurial, inclusive and sustainable economy (**Economy**);
- Are well educated, skilled and able to contribute to society (**Education**);
- Value, enjoy, protect and enhance our environment (**Environment**);
- Have thriving and innovative businesses, with quality jobs and fair work for everyone (**Fair Work & Business**);
- Are healthy and active (**Health**);
- Respect, protect and fulfil human rights and live free from discrimination (**Human Rights**);
- Are open, connected and make a positive contribution internationally (**International**);
- Tackle poverty by sharing opportunities, wealth and power more equally (**Poverty**).

### Children



In our children we see the best and worst of ourselves now and in the future. They are the measure of our worth as a nation. In this outcome we are dedicated to providing the essential conditions of love, respect and understanding through which our children can become the happy, fulfilled and successful adults they all have a right to be.

<p><b>Communities</b></p> 	<p>Our communities are shaped by the quality and character of the places we live in and the people we live among. In this outcome we recognise that to be healthy and happy as a nation we must nurture and protect our local resources, environments and all who live in them.</p>
<p><b>Culture</b></p> 	<p>Scotland is a vibrant, modern country with a strong tradition of investment in the arts and creativity. We have world renowned festivals, music and film industries and a rich seam of storytelling and visual art which stretches back hundreds of years. In this outcome we honour, celebrate and support our creative talent in all its wonderful diversity.</p>
<p><b>Economy</b></p> 	<p>We recognise that a strong, competitive economy is essential to supporting jobs, incomes and our quality of life. We also know that our economy must be environmentally sustainable, inclusive and benefit all our people and communities. Through this outcome we will create the conditions through which to achieve these commitments alongside economic growth.</p>
<p><b>Education</b></p> 	<p>We learn throughout our lives and find knowledge in varied and sometimes surprising places. Through learning we grow as individuals and as a nation, and as such, we must recognise and support excellence in teaching, research and innovation for all learners in all educational contexts.</p>
<p><b>Environment</b></p> 	<p>Scotland is a beautiful country and we are blessed with abundant natural resources and architecture to rival the best in the world. Through this outcome we recognise that it is our duty to protect and enhance these assets as essential to our economy, culture, way of life and the wellbeing of future generations.</p>
<p><b>Fair Work and Business</b></p> 	<p>Investing in the skills and creativity of our workforce, protecting workers rights and providing decent working conditions is the right thing to do. It also makes our economy more stable, productive and efficient. In this outcome we will provide the necessary legislative and operational structures to achieve this.</p>
<p><b>Health</b></p> 	<p>Our NHS is pivotal to our health and happiness as a nation and we are dedicated to supporting and equipping it to face the challenges it has now and in future. We also understand that our health is dependent on a wide variety of factors and actors and we therefore need to take a whole system approach to promoting good health and activity.</p>

<p><b>Human Rights</b></p> 	<p>We recognise and protect the intrinsic value of all people and are a society founded on fairness, dignity, equality and respect. We demonstrate our commitment to these principles through the way we behave with and treat each other, in the rights, freedoms and protections we provide, and in the democratic, institutional and legal frameworks through which we exercise power.</p>
<p><b>International</b></p> 	<p>Scotland has a long and proud history of intellectual, cultural and economic exchange. As we have carried our stories, talents and creations abroad so too we have welcomed and benefited from those of others. In this outcome we commit to fulfilling our obligations internationally, promoting our place in the world and deepening our relationships with others.</p>
<p><b>Poverty</b></p> 	<p>Scotland is a wealthy country and we have the resources, ability and commitment to provide a decent life for all our people. Through this outcome we will work together across political parties and sectors to identify and address the root causes of disadvantage and set in place the actions to eradicate poverty for good.</p>

# What does the National Performance Framework do?

The NPF has four main roles:

## Scotland's wellbeing framework

The National Outcomes set out the kind of Scotland we all want to see. The NPF brings together our aspirations for the social, cultural, environmental, economic and physical health of Scotland. It supports policy making that considers all of these aspects of wellbeing, collectively.

## Collaboration and participation catalyst

The NPF aims to get everyone in Scotland working together towards shared outcomes. This includes national and local government, businesses, voluntary organisations, and communities. It provides a common purpose and shared vision for the whole public sector.

## Provides our values

The values of kindness, treating everyone with dignity and compassion, respect for the rule of law and acting in an open and transparent way, will shape how we design policies, deliver services, and engage with people.

## Measures success

The 81 National Indicators track Scotland's progress in meeting its National Outcomes. The indicators use data to understand how well Scotland is doing and help focus policies and resources to meet challenges. The NPF combines measurement of how well Scotland is doing in economic terms with a broader range of wellbeing measures, moving us beyond a focus on economic growth.

## Find out more about the NPF and the National Outcomes

The [NPF website](#) has information on the National Outcomes and Indicators, performance data, and examples of how the NPF is used by organisations and government in Scotland.

## What do we want to know?

The Scottish Government must consult with communities as part of this review, to ensure the National Outcomes reflect what matters most to communities in Scotland. We are seeking views on whether the existing National Outcomes are the right ones, and what changes we should consider making.

Do the National Outcomes fully describe the kind of Scotland you want to live in?

## How to complete this consultation

We are inviting responses to this consultation by 5 June 2023.

Please respond to this consultation using the Scottish Government's consultation hub, Citizen Space (<http://consult.gov.scot>). 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 of 5 June 2023.

If you are unable to respond using our consultation hub, please send a completed Respondent Information Form, included in this document, to:

National Performance Framework Unit  
Scottish Government  
2W  
St Andrews House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

We also welcome written submissions to [nationalperformance@gov.scot](mailto:nationalperformance@gov.scot).

## Handling your response

If you respond using the consultation hub, you will be directed to the About You page before submitting your response. Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are content for your response to be published. 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.

To find out how we handle your personal data, please see our privacy policy: <https://www.gov.scot/privacy/>

## 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 on the [Scottish Government's consultation site](#). If you use the consultation hub 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. Responses will be published where we have been given permission to do so. An analysis report will also be made available. We will bring together evidence from this consultation, the call for evidence, desk based research and stakeholder meetings, before reporting to parliament on any proposed changes to the National Outcomes.

## Comments and complaints

If you have any comments about how this consultation exercise has been conducted, please send them to the contact address above or to [nationalperformance@gov.scot](mailto:nationalperformance@gov.scot).

## Scottish Government consultation process

Consultation is an essential part of the policymaking process. It gives us the opportunity to consider your opinion and expertise on a proposed area of work. You can find all our consultations online on the [Scottish Government's consultation site](#). 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.

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 finalize 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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Any enquiries regarding this publication should be sent to us at

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh  
EH1 3DG

ISBN: 978-1-80525-612-0 (web only)

Published by The Scottish Government, March 2023

Produced for The Scottish Government by APS Group Scotland, 21 Tennant Street, Edinburgh EH6 5NA  
PPDAS1245662 (03/23)

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