

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 14 February 2017 14:12  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** SSCQ review

[redacted]

As discussed, I've completed the Scottish Surveys Core Questions template, to propose a change to the existing gender question. Grateful if you could look over this and let me know if you think it's good to share with external stakeholders and invite their comments.

[redacted] – it would also be good to get your views before this goes out. The new proposed question is based on that recommended by our stakeholders so I'm confident that this will be warmly received.

Please give me a ring if you would like to discuss

Thanks

[redacted]

<< File: SSCQ review - proforma.docx >>

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 14 February 2017 14:41  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SSCQ review

Hi [redacted],

I feel this would be a very sensible addition to our surveys, dragging us well and truly into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I have raised the non-binary issue previously at the Health Survey project board and was advised that there was no policy requirement to do so – I am glad this seems to have changed.

I'm copying [redacted] and [redacted] who manage the Health and the Crime and Justice Survey – changing this question will have implications for their survey scripting and their analysis scripts. [redacted], [redacted] – what are your thoughts as to whether this change in question would be possible to implement in your survey from 2018 onwards?

Best wishes,

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 14 February 2017 16:43  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SSCQ review

Hi [redacted]

We could implement the suggested question for the 2018 survey onwards. In terms of health outcomes, a biological definition of gender is probably more useful than gender identity but I appreciate the importance of allowing respondents to identify in the way they wish to and I don't think his change would impact our results to any degree.

Happy to discuss

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 14 February 2017 16:57  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SSCQ review

Hi [redacted],

That is excellent news. I was concerned about the health outcomes analysis in particular.

Many thanks.

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 15 February 2017 08:53  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SSCQ review

[redacted]

Do you think we should also try to get a question added on transgender i.e. this one

### Q3. Have you ever identified as a transgender person?

Equality Organisations in Scotland use the term "transgender" as an inclusive umbrella term for a diverse range of people who find their gender identity or gender expression differs in some way from the gender they were originally assigned at birth.

- Yes \*
- No



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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 22 February 2017 14:11

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: SSCQ review

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this. Yes, I'm fully in agreement of offering a third response category under the gender question and I also agree with your recommendation to use "In another way" as opposed to "Prefer not to say". I also note that you have used the terms "man" and "woman" in place of "male" and "female", thank you.

Do you want to add to the reasons for amending this question that we are reviewing and reforming gender recognition legislation; one aspect of which is to introduce legal recognition for non-binary people, therefore this question has to be able to capture all options?

You also asked if a question should be included to capture the survey respondents who identify as trans. I would be inclined to say no at this point in time for a number of reasons:

1. Some trans people may be insulted at being asked this outright. They have no legal obligation to reveal their trans history and may feel they are being outed in being asked to answer this question.
2. These surveys are not diversity monitoring forms, and so asking a question such as "Have you ever identified as a transgender person?" without the appropriate context would be unlikely to lead to true disclosures that accurately reflect the trans population. One way, however, in which you could demonstrate that the surveys recognise and are inclusive of trans people would be to amend the gender question so that the options are:
  - a. Man (including trans man)
  - b. Woman (including trans woman)
  - c. In another way [or alternatively "other gender identity"]
3. There would likely be a great deal of mistrust in the trans community as to why this question is being asked and the way in which this information would be used for any other reason than simply ticking a diversity/equality box. We need to increase people's understanding as to why disclosing this information is important

and gain their trust and confidence before introducing questions such as this, as well as having a better understanding as to the reasons for asking this question in a specific survey. For example, do you want to know of anyone who has any sort of trans identity (including those considering undergoing gender reassignment), or only those who are currently in the process of transitioning because this will inform data about the services they require? It's also worth bearing in mind that some trans people, once they have completed their transition, may disengage with their trans past and not answer a question affirming this identity, and so this would not necessarily provide reliable data.

4. The way trans has been defined in the suggested question ("gender identity or gender expression differs in some way from the gender they were labelled at birth") may also lead to disclosures from people with intersex variation which we are not trying to capture with this question.

I hope this is helpful. Happy to discuss further.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 23 February 2017 14:19  
**To:** [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@lgbthealth.org.uk; [redacted]@lgbtyouth.org.uk; [redacted]@stonewallscotland.org.uk; [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@equality-network.org  
**Cc:** [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@finance-ni.gov.uk; [redacted]@finance-ni.gov.uk; [redacted]@ons.gov.uk  
**Subject:** Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

Dear Colleague

As you may be aware there are 20 core questions included in every Scottish Government Social Survey, known as the Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ). These questions are currently being reviewed and the resultant new questionnaire will be used from 2018.

As the lead analyst for the equality questions, I propose that the existing binary question on gender be amended to include a response option for non-binary respondents. I have entered a draft proposal into the attached word template and the Scottish Government's LGBTI policy lead, [redacted], has fed into this.

The Scottish Government survey managers would prefer a single proposal on each question where a change is suggested, therefore I would like to share this draft proposal on the gender question with you and invite your comment and input.



A response by **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** would be very much appreciated, and please feel free to comment by email or phone me.

More information on the review can be found here <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/News/Questionnairereview>

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] – Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

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**From:** [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 28 February 2017 14:02  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

[redacted],

As you are aware we have not yet set the Census question on gender identity. The question testing has just closed, so will be a little while before we see the evaluation report.

However, there are a couple of key points that feed in here:

1. Ideally the Census question will be identical to the core questions. NRS has harmonisation across the UK as a commitment, so while SG prefer the wording you have proposed, it is not yet clear that this will be the census question. Feedback suggested stakeholders on the whole were content with male/female rather than man/women.
2. The gender identity question does not cover transgender people. Ideally there will be a further question (yes/no response) on whether the respondent has ever been transgender.

Point 2 below is being discussed for inclusion in the census – ideally it would be included in the core questions for completeness.

Happy to discuss,

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 28 February 2017 15:07  
**To:** [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

[redacted]

Thanks for your response on our proposal.

1. the 2011 Census asked about 'sex' and 'male/female' is the more appropriate response here. However the core questions currently ask about 'gender' and our stakeholders have so far advised that 'man /woman' is the more appropriate terminology. We've proposed the term 'gender identity' to further differentiate the social from the biological. Another difference between the Core and Census is that the Core questions are only asked of people aged 16+ and interviewer led, rather than collected through self-completion.

In terms of timing it would of course be better for us if the new Census question was known now, and for the Core match this would obviously have its benefits. However, as it is, the Core question review is underway and the Survey teams need to know next week what should go into the new questionnaire from early 2018 - it would be unacceptable to continue forward with a binary question. Please note there are smaller annual reviews of the Core which would provide opportunities to tweak the question when the Census question is finalised.

In terms of UK harmonisation, this is the ideal but as we know it's not always possible. In some cases strong stakeholder opinion within countries can carry more weight than UK harmonisation, as we've seen with the ethnicity and religion questions, which diverge.

2. We've considered this and we don't think this should go in at present – see the attached email from [redacted] for the reasons. It would be possible to revisit this again in further reviews.



RE: SSCQ [view](#)

Thanks again for your input to this, and happy to discuss further

[redacted]

[redacted] – Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

**From:** [redacted]@equality-network.org  
**Sent:** 03 March 2017 15:28  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@equality-network.org  
**Subject:** RE: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

Hi [redacted],

Thanks very much for sending this on to us, it's great to see that the gender question will be updated to be inclusive of non-binary people. I've attached feedback to the form you sent round last week – I've spoken to all of the other LGBT organisations you copied into your original email and LGBT Youth Scotland and Stonewall Scotland are both fully supportive of our position, but unfortunately I wasn't able to reach anyone at LGBT Health.

Feel free to give me a ring this afternoon if you have any questions about the comments.

Best Wishes,

[redacted]  
Policy Officer



**Scottish Trans**  
30 Bernard Street  
Edinburgh  
EH6 6PR  
[www.scottishtrans.org](http://www.scottishtrans.org)



Scottish Trans project is part of the Equality Network  
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Registered Scottish Charity: SC037852.  
Company limited by guarantee: SC220213.

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 06 March 2017 14:06  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** FW: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

Survey managers,

Our stakeholders have responded positively to our proposal on the change to the core gender question (response attached).

Their main additional suggestion is that extra information be collected only from those non-binary respondents who volunteered the information.

'Would it be possible to record additional information/descriptions given in response to this question, but for it not to be prompted? So each individual would not be asked to give further information, but if they did this would be recorded. While we support the current proposed wording for its inclusivity, it doesn't allow a non-binary person to accurately describe themselves, whereas this opportunity is available for men and women. We would expect the majority of non-binary people who selected this answer to proactively volunteer additional information and descriptions of their gender identity, so this would be useful to record. We would definitely support an open text box for self-completion written questionnaires, where there were fewer practical barriers to implementation.'

It would be good to know your thoughts on this, and if it's possible in a practical sense, before I get back to them.

Thanks and happy to discuss,

[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 06 March 2017 16:52  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

Hi [redacted] – a little non-standard but maybe ok if interviewers are all given same instructions across all the surveys.

In general, doing this might well be the right thing to do, but I'm a little unsure of the analytical value of the non-binary gender data, even within the SSCQ. Maybe you have a sense for the sort of response we might expect, which could help contextualise this decision?

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 07 March 2017 14:09  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews - Gender

Thanks [redacted], we don't have an Official Figure but it could be upward of 0.4 per cent according to some estimates e.g.

Based on the Equality and Human Rights Commission's large scale survey, **0.4% of the UK population feel strongly enough about not being female or male to describe their gender in another way**, that's about 1 in every 250 people. The gender self-descriptions that these people wrote in indicate that they mostly hold specific nonbinary identities such as genderqueer, genderless, gender-fluid etc. **0.4% is likely the most conservative estimate for the number of nonbinary people in the UK, but may reflect the numbers who would pursue some form of nonbinary legal status.** This figure is consistent with the number of people who skipped, multi-ticked or spoiled the 'sex' question in the last 2 UK Censuses, although the census data should be considered highly unreliable for determining gender identity. When combined with the overlapping EHRC figure of 1% of the population qualifying for 'gender reassignment' protection, **at least 1.3% of the UK population is in some way transgender or gender variant, of which 30.2% are nonbinary.** <https://practicalandrogyny.com/2014/12/16/how-many-people-in-the-uk-are-nonbinary/>

This could amount to around 50 people in the core sample - it would be really useful to get an official figure.

In addition to the analytical value, in the current questionnaire these respondents have nowhere to accurately identify their gender so would either have to lie, or take offence and boycott the question or the whole survey. We think that the provision of only binary gender response options is no longer acceptable. NRS Census 2021 team is also investigating gender identity after a positive response to their topic consultation.

I hope this is useful and happy to discuss

[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 22 March 2017 14:13  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Core Questions - Gender Identity

Hi [redacted]

[redacted] the SHS manager has pointed out that some basic information is collected on children in the surveys. So we could tweak the proposed question to say man (boy) woman (girl). However she also asked me whether or not the non-binary option should be made available for children. The child wouldn't be getting asked the question directly – the parent will be responding to the interviewer on their behalf. So do you think the non-binary option should be made available for the parent, and if so should this be available for all children or there be an age threshold for the child?

So, presumably if the parent gives a non-binary answer for the child they're likely to be supportive of the child's gender identity. If they don't approve they might just say 'boy' or 'girl', which would give us an undercount which I don't think we could do anything about. And I don't think there'd be many scenarios where the parent would give a non-binary response where the child thought of themselves as a boy or a girl.

Grateful for your views, including legal considerations and political sensitivities.

Happy to discuss,  
[redacted]

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[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 29 June 2017 13:23  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Gender Identity in the SSCQ

Hi [redacted]

Following the review of the SSCQ and our consultation with stakeholders we propose that the following question be asked, replacing the existing binary question on gender.

How would you describe the gender identity of [name]?  
Man / boy (1)  
Woman /girl (2)  
In another way (3)

This question would be asked by an interviewer of the Highest Income Householder (HIH) and a Random Adult. Initially the HIH gives a response on behalf of everyone in the household, including children (the Random Adult has a chance to amend their own answer).

We're looking for your views on whether the above question would be okay to ask the HIH to respond to on behalf of children in the household. I guess we're looking for advice around the legality and ethics of it, and whether you foresee it being

controversial. And would you recommend the age threshold for the interviewer to read out 'boy/girl' instead of 'man/woman' be 16?

[redacted] – if we include this question in the testing process this should pick up on whether some respondents are confused or have issues.

Thanks and happy to discuss

[redacted]

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Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 29 June 2017 13:33  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Gender Identity in the SSCQ

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this. To respond to your questions, it would be helpful to have more context around this particular question. For example, is a definition of gender identity provided if required, and if so, what does this say? Are there similar questions asked about race, religion, disability, and sexual orientation? Is a response to this question mandatory or do the respondents have a "prefer not to say" option?

As has been stated in the discussions we have been having around the Census, this will be controversial for some people, but we are moving forward with a consultation on legislation in this area so it's something that is coming in the short to medium term anyway.

[redacted] is the current expert on legal ages, but I would say that 16 sounds fine to me.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 29 June 2017 14:03  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Gender Identity in the SSCQ

Thanks [redacted]

We've based our proposed question on the STA's preferred question - this is their definition:

**Gender identity**

Refers to how we see ourselves in regards to being a man or a woman or somewhere in between/beyond.

We'd expect household interviewers to be able to answer queries – they'll be provided with briefing and training, and question testing should raise any common issues or questions from respondents.

The surveys do ask about the other protected characteristics, including sexual orientation. These don't have 'prefer not to say' options and we don't intend to include one for this either – the respondent can provide a spontaneous don't know or refusal. An explicit 'Prefer not to say' can encourage non-response and affect disclosure rates.

I hope this provides further context and happy to discuss,

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 29 June 2017 14:55  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Gender Identity in the SSCQ

[redacted]  
[redacted]

Thanks. I think the age of 16 sounds fine for the split between boy/girl and man/woman. That's consistent with the Age of Legal Capacity (Scotland) Act 1991.

On the legality and ethics, I'd be curious to know if in past instances of the survey we asked adults to answer the gender question on behalf of children in the household. If we did, are there different legal and ethical considerations now? If there are, what are the different considerations?

When we met the STA fairly recently they were clear that they'd prefer "gender identity" (because it's clearly inclusive) but could live with "gender" because it's better than "sex".

Re: controversy, are you asking about the proposed changes to the question, or the proposal to allow an adult to answer a question on a child's behalf?

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 30 June 2017 10:05

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Gender Identity in the SSCQ

Thanks [redacted], the old binary question asked adults to provide information on the gender of children in the household. So with the new question, we're trying to anticipate any issues around offering adults an 'in another way' option for the under 16s in the household.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@ons.gov.uk

**Sent:** 22 August 2017 17:14

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** Sexual Orientation and Gender

Hi [redacted],

Following on from the Sexual Identity and Gender Identity working group a week or so ago, I thought I would catch up with you to see if you have any more information.

Some of the conversation surrounded Scotland using Sexual Orientation (even though they use the Sexual Identity question) on some of their household surveys. Could you give me an idea of which surveys this data is collected on? Would you have any contacts that I could discuss this with? We just want to get to the bottom of the requirements and the user need.

I also vaguely recall Scotland using Gender rather than Sex. Is this the case too?

Thank you for your help with this,

[redacted]

Demographic Analysis Unit | Population Statistics Division | Office for National Statistics

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 30 August 2017 15:42

**To:** [redacted]@ons.gov.uk

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk; [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: Sexual Orientation and Gender

Thanks for your email [redacted],

The Scottish Government uses the harmonised question in our three major household surveys in Scotland. The surveys are:

- Scottish Household Survey (SHS),
- Scottish Health Survey (SHeS),

- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS).

We pool the question from these three surveys into a core, and results from the increased sample gets reported through the Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ). <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys/SSCQ>

Scottish Government also recommend that other organisations in Scotland (e.g. public authorities) use the same question and report on it on the same way.

Scottish Government use the harmonised question to provide results on self-identified sexual orientation and we report 'sexual orientation'.

The main reasons we favour sexual orientation rather than sexual identity are:

- Sexual Orientation is the term in the Equality Act 2010 which seeks to protect people across all three dimensions (attraction, behaviour and identity);
- LGBT stakeholders in Scotland support the use of the term Sexual Orientation ahead of Sexual Identity;
- The term sexual identity is likely to be confused with gender identity;
- Sexual Orientation is the more widely understood term, both in the UK and internationally: sexual identity is not in wide use;
- Sexual Orientation is currently widely used in surveys, employers' equality monitoring forms etc.

We have more detailed guidance

here: <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Equality/Equalities/EqualFramework/GatherEvidence/CollectEqualInfo>

We currently have no intention of changing this approach.

On gender identity, Scottish Government currently use a binary gender question in these surveys. The question itself currently does not specify whether it is sex or gender identity being asked as these population surveys are interviewer led, but simply asks:

**For each member of the household**

IS {NAME} MALE OR FEMALE?

Male [1]

Female [2]

The SG population surveys report results disaggregated by 'male' and 'female'.

After a recent review which included a positive response to our proposal from stakeholders, we now intend to test a non-binary gender identity question for use in these surveys from 2018.

**How would you describe your gender identity?**

Man  Woman  In another way

This above question will be asked by an interviewer. Note we don't at this stage plan to include a 'prefer not to say' which could encourage non-response, instead

allowing a spontaneous don't know or refusal. An outputs plan for the new non-binary question will be developed with the Scottish Government survey managers.

Scottish Government would also like a non-binary question on gender to be considered for the 2021 census. We would be satisfied if this was a non-binary 'what is your gender' question to replace the binary 'what is your sex' question which was asked in 2011. For the majority of the population, the terms 'sex' and 'gender' are used interchangeably and so a change in the wording of the questions is not thought likely to affect response rates, however, that is not true for trans and non-binary people. We understand that trans respondents were issued guidance in 2011 advising the sex question should be answered in terms of the way in which they self-identified, irrespective of what was on their birth certificate, so we think the 2011 sex question was more likely to have produced results for gender anyway.

The intention of revising 'sex' to 'gender' and adding a third response option is in order to recognise non-binary people. Being non-binary means that a person identifies as having a gender in between or beyond 'man' and 'woman', or which fluctuates between 'man' and 'woman', or people who have no gender all or some of the time. It does not refer to a person's biological sex. A third option on a sex question should therefore not be used to measure non-binary gender identity, which is the concept the SG would like to see measured in the census. Scottish Government don't think there should be both sex and gender identity questions in 2021. We support the testing of a question asking if the respondents had ever identified as trans in order to collect data on the trans population. Scottish Government would like the 2021 Scottish Census to be in line with the new Gender Recognition Act reform which is anticipated will be introduced in Scotland the year prior to the Census.

We keep NRS abreast of our work on the surveys and we are engaged with them on the Census. [redacted] leads on Scottish Government LGBT policy and is in regular contact with LGBT stakeholders in Scotland. I have copied both the NRS and [redacted] in to this response.

I hope this is useful and happy to discuss,

[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 02 October 2017 14:23  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** SHS cog testing

Hi [redacted],

[redacted] is keen to hear about the cognitive testing plan for the gender identity plan. Please can you contact him with the details?

Also – we would appreciate your thoughts on the proposed Discrimination and Harassment questions? [redacted] will send it through to you.

[redacted]

Scottish Household Survey Project Manager | Communities Analysis | The Scottish Government

**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Sent:** 02 October 2017 14:40  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

Hi [redacted],

I've attached our comments on the gender identity questions. As I'm now officially off, [redacted] will pick this up when he's back tomorrow – and the other questions you'd like us to look at should go to him as well.

Best wishes  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 10:08  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

Hi [redacted]

This is what Ipsos MORI plan to test and they have a few queries - my draft response is in green. Grateful for your thoughts, and is there anyone else we should run this past?

[redacted]

**GENDER**

*Original SG question*

How would you describe the gender identity of [name]?

Man / boy (1)

Woman /girl (2)

In another way (3)

NB Boy/girl if the person that's being asked about is a child (i.e. under 16)

***Suggested Ipsos MORI question***

How would you describe the gender identity of [name]?

Male (1)

Female (2)

In another way (3)

***Ipsos MORI comments***

By changing the terms to male and female it will mean that there is no need for subbing boy/girl for a child.

The correct terminology for 'gender identity' is man/woman. It's important that we make the distinction between gender identity and sex – male/female would be the response options for 'sex', which we're not asking about in the survey. If respondents query the term 'gender identity' then the interviewer can simplify to 'gender' i.e. 'how would you describe the gender of....'

Can we just check are we only testing the question that asks about other's gender identity and not the question about their own gender identity?

At the moment the question asks how the householder would describe another person's gender and not how the other person would describe their own identity. You may want to consider an alternative wording to account for this 'How would [name] describe their gender identity?' but happy to discuss.

It would be good to test both, and the suggested wording here looks okay.

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 13:17  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this. I completely agree with your comments in green, however, I do understand concerns that it does appear 'clunky'. As you know from exchanges with the STA, they think of a person's sex as including both a person's physical body and their gender identity, and so they probably wouldn't be too hung up on the response options if we had to go ahead with the Ipsos MORI ones.

However, I disagree to some degree with the assertion [redacted] made in their email previously that using sex and gender interchangeably would help reduce confusion between non-binary people and intersex people. [redacted] asserted that

people think that a gender identity that isn't male or female must mean a physical body that isn't male or female because a person's gender identity is expected to match their physical body. I do agree to some extent that there could be a tendency for this to happen, but perhaps if there was a better education of what was meant by sex and gender (i.e. sex = physical, and gender = social) this would aid understanding whereas a blurring of lines does not. Therefore, I support what you say below.

I don't think it would be helpful to involve anyone else at this point. [redacted]'s team is leading on the reform of gender recognition legislation and they have been involved in the discussions with the STA on this to date, so this has relevance to them, but I am part of the team and can keep them in the loop of what developments are made in relation to this question.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 13:41  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

Thanks [redacted]

I'd be inclined to go with male/female/in another way for two reasons:

1. It's less clunky and can cover all ages;
2. It would be simpler on a self-completion form and potentially make it easier for the Census and other self-completion surveys to harmonise with the household surveys.

So if this is okay with you and stakeholders then I'll recommend male/female.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 13:44  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

In terms of harmonisation, that makes sense, but doesn't your recommendation to use male/female contradict your comments in green?

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 14:05  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

Now that you and stakeholders are more relaxed about the terminology I'd go for male/female for the reasons below - I can alter the green comments and feed these back to ipsos.

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 14:14  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

I'd say stakeholders are more relaxed, but I am still of the opinion that blurring the distinction will not necessarily help with the general public's understanding, and may increase backlash to any gender recognition proposals as we are likely to face accusations of "the Scottish Government is eroding the difference between sex and gender".

I do think people have different concepts of what is meant by each, and we have a responsibility to acknowledge this and get it right from the outset for consistency going forward. However, policy making is informed by statistical data, so if harmonising this makes this easier for statisticians, then I'd support this terminology in that respect.

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 14:35  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

[redacted], we spoke and agreed that we'd prefer to test:

How would you describe the gender identity of [name]?

Man / boy (1)

Woman /girl (2)

In another way (3)

as this is the correct gender identity terminology distinguishing from sex, the preference of our stakeholders and the SG Equality Unit.

If however ipsos report back after testing that this doesn't work well we can look to change to male/female/in another way.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 03 October 2017 14:35  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing

Great, thanks [redacted].

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 10 October 2017 15:24  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Household Relationship Matrix

Dear [redacted]

As you may be aware SG are planning to change the question on gender in the Scottish Government household surveys to include a non-binary response option. This could impact the Household Relationship Matrix question (p3 here and below- <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/SurveyHarm/corealldownload>)?

Question:	Could you tell me how {person1} is related to {person2}?
Answer	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Husband or wife</li><li>2. Cohabiting partner</li><li>3. Legally recognised civil partner</li><li>4. Son or daughter (including adopted)</li><li>5. Step son or step daughter</li><li>6. Foster child</li><li>7. Son-in-law or daughter-in-law</li><li>8. Parent (including adopted)</li><li>9. Step parent</li><li>10. Foster parent</li><li>11. Parent-in-law</li><li>12. Brother or sister (including adopted)</li><li>13. Half brother or sister</li><li>14. Foster brother or sister</li><li>15. Step brother or sister</li><li>16. Brother-in-law or sister-in-law</li><li>17. Grand parent</li><li>18. Grand child</li><li>19. Other relative</li><li>20. Unrelated</li></ol>

We'd like to take this opportunity to amend the list to make it work for a non-binary respondent.

So the questions I have are:

1. Would this be possible?
2. Can we test an amended list?
3. When would we have to provide you with this new list to test?

Grateful for your advice and happy to discuss,  
[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

Visit the Scottish Government's Equality Evidence Website  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Sent:** 10 October 2017 16:08  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Subject:** RE: Household Relationship Matrix

Hi [redacted],

We're currently finalising the materials for Wave 1 of the testing that is going to start next week. So I think that we would have to hold off testing any changes to the household relationship questions until Wave 2. What changes did you have in mind and would you be able to get us suggested wording amendment by the end of next week?

Note that this question does not use a showcard.

In terms of the gender identity question, it is asked of all people in the household, including the respondent. So for person 1 (the respondent) the wording would be along the lines of "How would you describe your gender identity?". Also note that this question has never had a showcard before. I'm not sure if you thought that this question should have a showcard or not?

[redacted], a number of other questions/derived variables have used the sex variable – for example, whether of state pension age. We'll have to discuss the implications of using "gender identity" in these calculations once sex is dropped).

Do give me a buzz if easiest to chat through. Cheers,  
[redacted]

Research Director  
Ipsos MORI Scotland  
4 Wemyss Place, Edinburgh, EH3 6DH  
[www.ipsos-mori.com/offices/scotland](http://www.ipsos-mori.com/offices/scotland)

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 10 October 2017 16:23  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Subject:** RE: Household Relationship Matrix

Thanks [redacted]

We'll try and get an amended list to you by the end of next week, and I'll also let you know whether or not the new gender identity question should have a showcard.

We see the current survey question as a gender question, and it gets reported on as such in the SHS reports.

Our guidance note is here: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0039/00393543.pdf>.

So we don't think there is currently a 'sex' question to drop.

Thanks for your help, and I'll be in touch again soon  
[redacted]

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Scottish Government

Visit the Scottish Government's Equality Evidence Website  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 10 October 2017 10:31  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
[redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Gender in the Household Surveys

Hi [redacted]

You might have seen the articles in the papers over the past couple of days on the census and the suggestion that the sex question be changed to measure gender (or be made voluntary).

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/census-gender-transgender-non-binary-concerns-women-written-out-of-existence-germaine-greer-a7988991.html>

You may also be aware of our plans to add a third option to the gender question in the household surveys.

We've been coming at this from an LGBT angle because the main purpose of this work on the surveys is to add a third option to a question on gender and measure those with non-binary gender identity.

The response in the above articles from some prominent feminists has made me consider whether we should update and seek comments at this stage from women's equality organisations such as Engender.

Note the issue with the surveys is slightly different to the census –

- The census is considering changing the concept measured i.e. from sex to gender
- Whereas the surveys asked about gender previously – the plan is to make this clearer and add in a new non-binary response option.

I'd be grateful for your advice on this and happy to discuss further,

[redacted]

Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

Visit the Scottish Government's Equality Evidence Website  
[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 October 2017 12:12  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Continuity of survey weights: RE: Gender in the Household Surveys

Hello all,

I really welcome these developments!

One word of technical caution: our surveys are weighted by male and female population share by local authority in Scotland (plus age bands), based on the NRS mid-year population estimates (which are in turn based on census outputs) and population projections. The sex/gender question changes may impact on the continuity of a variety of survey estimates for this reason.

Firstly, census changing from sex to gender may lead to different population estimates due to a different methodology; secondly, respondents in our non-binary gender will still have to be weighted according to the available population projections, so would have to be assigned by some statistical method to a gendered population group for methodology reasons. Even if NRS were to publish non-binary population estimates, these would unlikely be robust enough group sizes to facilitate the calibrations required for weighting.

Either way, this simple addition will require methodological development at OCS that will likely have a small impact on the continuity of survey estimates due to the weighting process - if indeed the third gender option is selected by respondents.

I hope this is caution is clear - any questions, let me know.

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 17 October 2017 16:52

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Continuity of survey weights: RE: Gender in the Household Surveys

Thanks for the useful note [redacted]

The census changes, if they were to happen, might not be too disruptive as we understand that trans respondents were issued guidance in 2011 advising the sex question should be answered in terms of the way in which they self-identified, irrespective of what was on their birth certificate, so we suspect the 2011 'sex question' may well have produced results for gender anyway. Some estimates have shown that around 0.4 per cent of the population could identify as non-binary gender identity – this is based on some research and work by the EHRC:

<https://practicalandrogyny.com/2014/12/16/how-many-people-in-the-uk-are-nonbinary/> - there may not be too large an effect on traditional binary ratios.

I've attached an email for info, which shows our recent response to ONS who asked us for our position on the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity reporting and questions.

I hope this is useful

[redacted]



Sexual Orientation  
and Gender

**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Sent:** 25 October 2017 10:13  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Subject:** SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted],

We completed Wave 1 of the SHS Cognitive testing last week. It went well and, as you know, Wave 2 is next week (w/c 30 October). I just wanted to give you a heads up that we will be sending through our report on the gender identity questions later this evening (it will be after 5pm).

We are working to extremely tight timescales in order to avoid any delays to the start of the 2018 fieldwork. So, many apologies for the short turnaround but we will need you to get back to us **by 10am on Friday (27<sup>th</sup>)** with confirmation that you are happy with our proposed amends for Wave 2, or with feedback/comments if there are suggestions that you are not happy with or want to discuss.

Many thanks and apologies again for the tight timescales.

Best wishes  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 25 October 2017 10:24  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Thanks for the update [redacted], and glad to hear it went well.

Do you want us to send you the new proposal on the household relationship matrix this week, for inclusion in wave 2?

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Sent:** 25 October 2017 20:41  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

I've attached the report on the cognitive testing of the gender identity question. In short, it worked well and there were few issues – although there was a concern among transgender respondents about the acceptability of people being asked about the gender identity of other household members.

For the second wave, we recommend testing a version of the question which allows those answering 'in another way' to specify but only if they want to. Something along the following lines (but other suggestions would be welcome):

- A Man/Boy
- B Woman/Girl
- C In another way (if you would like, please say in what way)

I'm afraid we are working to really tight timescales, so as [redacted] forewarned, I would be really grateful if you could get back to me by **10am on Friday (27<sup>th</sup>)** to confirm that you are happy with this revision or to suggest an alternative.

Many thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 26 October 2017 09:11  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Hi all

I'd welcome your thoughts on the report before I get back to [redacted] tomorrow first thing. Specifically -

Survey managers – would there be scope for interviewers to have a 'write in' for those who identify 'in another way' and how much would this impact on the cost and length of the interview? (we expect <1 per cent of respondents to answer in this way).

**Presume yes, but would impact on cost/length just a little, contractors should maybe be asked. More difficulty with downstream coding and then analysis for a group this size.**

[redacted] – what are your views on allowing non-binary respondents to expand on their answer, and if you welcome the idea, how would you word it?

Survey managers – I assume there's not an alternative to asking those adults included in the survey the gender identity of other members of the household?

**Not sure what he means, we're only going to interview one person, so only alternative would be not ask the gender identity question.**

I'd be very grateful if you could consider and get back to me today.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 26 October 2017 09:23

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** FW: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

And this from [redacted].

My thoughts in red. What do you think?

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 26 October 2017 11:35

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for sending over this info. We've had a look at the cog testing feedback and thought about this from an SCJS perspective. In response to your specific questions:

- **Yes** - we could add a 'please specify' box and it would impact on interview time a little as well as coding downstream. So there would be a little impact and we could maybe ask our contractors what this might be.
  - However, you mentioned you anticipate less than 1% would answer 'in another way' so even across the 3 surveys that would be 200 people each year maximum. So breaking that down further by having additional (free text and coded) answer categories will further reduce the utility of the data (so worth maybe thinking about what codes we would expect to come up with, and sticking to a relatively small number if we go with this approach).
  - E.g. In the SCJS, we don't report data for groups of less than 50 people. We would probably be struggling (based on the 1% estimate) to get enough folk even at an overall level who have said 'in another way' to publish results for this group. Appreciate that through the core questions we'd have a bigger group, but worth thinking about whether that additional administration required (to ask to specify then code later) would result in useable data for sub-groups.
- The household matrix one is tricky. We only survey one adult so that is the only way to collect that data. However, the potential issue of people mis-representing other household members exists even with a binary question (or might even be greater given there are only binary choices), so I suggest that we maybe just note this as a limitation and assume that in most instances the data we get will be accurate.

More generally, whilst we are supportive of the intention behind developing this question, I did note there was a range of different comments/perspectives from respondents on the specific wording, and that was from speaking to a small number of people. We also noted the likely (albeit minor) impact on interview length, interviewer administration (needing showcards and explanation of why asking this despite the male/female answers being fine for most etc) and also our long-term and established gender breakdowns. We would therefore be cautious about changing the approach in our 3 population surveys without clear consensus about the best way forward or at least indication that the approach is one which seems to meet the needs for lots of people (if not everyone) and produces helpful data based on (more) extensive testing (e.g. is including the specify box helpful?).

As such it seems like something which could maybe be thoroughly tested in one survey (SHS?) say for a year in the first instance before being reviewed and then added to the others if it appears to be working? We could also then test the 'please specify' and downstream coding process with a large sample to assess whether that is a helpful approach, before adding to all surveys.

As noted, we're keen to support this work through the SCJS, but just want to make sure we have the best chance of getting it right and producing useable and helpful results when we do add it to the survey. Of course happy to discuss that, take others' views and go with the consensus in the end.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 26 October 2017 14:33  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Thanks for this helpful input [redacted]

The question we've tested is the preferred question of our LGBT stakeholders - it might not be every individual trans respondent's ideal wording, but we'd be confident it would be welcomed by most. It was good to hear it tested well and had no impact on the rest of the survey.

I would prefer it to go in to three surveys from 2018 if possible – Sarah do you have a view on this? – we could discuss this further after the testing.

I'd be content not having a 'please specify', at least in the first year. [redacted] do you have a view on this? (I tried to call you) Again, we don't need to decide this now, so we could test the 'please specify' in phase 2 and see what feedback we get.

And I'll confirm to Ipsos that gender identity should be asked of everyone in the household.

Thanks and happy to discuss

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 26 October 2017 14:53  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted],

I absolutely agree with [redacted] that it would be sensible to trial any major change (that does not impact the weighting process) in one survey before rolling out to all three.

However in this case, from a purely technical point of view, trialling in one survey before rolling out to all three would be difficult based on the joint weighting and pooling methodology that use gender as one of the demographic calibration variables. This, together with [redacted] estimate of the small expected change in response lead me to recommend adopting the agreed change by consensus of all three survey managers in all three surveys from 2018 / 2018-19.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 26 October 2017 15:29

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Thanks for this advice [redacted]

On the open response, the preferred language of our LGBT stakeholders is:

**If you would like to, please tell us what other words  
you use to describe your gender identity:**

So I'll ask Ipsos to include this wording in the phase two testing.

I'll also confirm that we'd like the following revised household relationship matrix tested if possible:

**Ask HA3 for each member of household**

COULD YOU TELL ME HOW {SUB} IS RELATED TO {SUB2}?

Husband or wife **or spouse** [1]

Co-habiting partner [2]

Legally recognised civil partner [3]

Son or daughter or **child** (including adopted) [4]

Stepson or daughter or **child of my spouse or civil partner** [5]

Foster child [6]

Son-in-law or daughter-in-law **or my child's spouse or civil partner** [7]

Parent (including adopted) [8]

Stepparent [9]

Foster parent [10]  
Parent-in-law [11]  
Sibling or brother or sister (including adopted) [12]  
Half sibling or half brother or half sister [13]  
Foster sibling or foster brother or foster sister [14]  
Step sibling or step brother or step sister [15]  
Sibling through marriage or civil partnership or brother-in law or sister-in-law [16]  
Grandparent [17]  
Grandchild [18]  
Other relative [19]  
Other unrelated [20]

Please let me know by close today if you have any further comments on this.

Thanks again,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 26 October 2017 17:28  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Thanks for sharing this report [redacted]

We're glad to hear about the positive feedback on the question, and it's also good to hear it had no impact on the rest of the survey.

We'd be happy to have an open response tested in phase two and the preferred language of our LGBT stakeholders is:

**If you would like to, please tell us what other words you use to describe your gender identity:**

In addition, due to the new non-binary response option we'd like to suggest a revised household relationship matrix – please see below- and if possible at this stage we'd like this tested too.

**Ask HA3 for each member of household**

COULD YOU TELL ME HOW {SUB} IS RELATED TO {SUB2}?

- Husband or wife **or spouse** [1]
- Co-habiting partner [2]
- Legally recognised civil partner [3]
- Son or daughter or **child** (including adopted) [4]
- Stepson or daughter or **child of my spouse or civil partner** [5]
- Foster child [6]
- Son-in-law or daughter-in-law **or my child's spouse or civil partner** [7]
- Parent (including adopted) [8]
- Stepparent [9]
- Foster parent [10]
- Parent-in-law [11]
- Sibling or** brother or sister (including adopted) [12]
- Half **sibling or half** brother or **half** sister [13]
- Foster **sibling or foster** brother or **foster** sister [14]
- Step **sibling or step** brother or **step** sister [15]
- Sibling through marriage or civil partnership or** brother-in law or sister-in-law [16]
- Grandparent [17]
- Grandchild [18]
- Other relative [19]
- Other unrelated [20]

We'd like gender identity asked of everyone in the household so although we recognise it's not ideal that people are answering on others' behalf we don't see any alternative.

I can provide you with a note on the rationale for interviewers and I'd be happy to take part in interviewer briefings.

Thanks again, and please let me know if you require anything further at this stage.

[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Sent:** 26 October 2017 18:17  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for getting back to me on this.

In terms of the wording for the showcard, it looks like the preferred language from the LGBT stakeholders is designed for a self-completion questionnaire. In this case, the showcard has to work for both the respondent answering for themselves and for answering about another household member. So it would have to read 'if you would like to, please tell me what other words you use to describe your/their gender identity' or something similar – which is a little bit clunky. (I've also changed 'tell us' to 'tell me' since it's being administered face-to-face by a single interviewer). It's also a little long (see version 1 attached) which matters simply because almost EVERYONE will end up reading it, even if it doesn't apply. Could we shorten it slightly as shown in version 2 attached? This also has the advantage of avoiding the clunky 'your/their'. **I'd be really grateful if you could you get back to me by noon tomorrow (Friday) to confirm which version you would like to go with.**

Thanks also for sending the revised household matrix. This isn't shown to respondents, rather interviewers ask how A is related to B and then they code the response using the pre-coded list. So though we can use it when we're doing the testing, it's not something respondents will be aware of – so what matters is how easy the field interviewers will find it. I'll consult with colleagues and we'll get back to you on this.

And that's great that you can provide a rationale and take part in the briefings.

Best wishes,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 27 October 2017 09:33

**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 1 - gender identity questions

Thanks for this [redacted]

Content for you to use the simpler wording on version two.

[redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com

**Sent:** 15 November 2017 20:07

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;

[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com);

Scottish Household Survey

**Subject:** SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

I've attached the report on the Wave 2 testing of the gender identity question. I'm pleased to say the revised version worked well and we are recommending that we use that in the final questionnaire.

If you could just confirm that you are happy with that by Friday noon (if possible) that would be great.

We've also consulted with colleagues in Field about the revised household matrix. We'd like to use the version below – which is essentially the version you proposed in your email of 26 October below, but with codes 12 to 16 reordered slightly so that the new codes are tagged on to the end of the original codes. We think this will be easier for interviewers because they will be used to the old codes and the vast majority of respondents will use the 'usual' gender specific language like 'brother' and 'sister-in-law' etc. None of this is visible to respondents.

Husband or wife **or**

**spouse** [1]

Co-habiting partner [2]

Legally recognised civil partner [3]

Son or daughter or **child** (including adopted) [4]

Stepson or daughter or **child of spouse or civil partner** [5]

Foster child [6]  
Son-in-law or daughter-in-law or child's spouse or civil partner [7]  
Parent (including adopted) [8]  
Stepparent [9]  
Foster parent [10]  
Parent-in-law [11]  
Brother or sister or sibling (including adopted) [12]  
Half brother or half sister or half sibling [13]  
Foster brother or foster sister or foster sibling [14]  
Step brother or step sister or step sibling [15]  
Brother-in law or sister-in-law or sibling through marriage or civil partnership [16]  
Grandparent [17]  
Grandchild [18]  
Other relative [19]

When it comes to the [he/she] and [his/her] etc. text substitutions which we have at a number of other questions, which are based on responses at HA6, we propose A = he/his, B = she/her and C= they/their. We can't really think of another practical way of doing it but, again, could you just confirm you are happy with that?

Thanks very much,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 November 2017 11:29  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted], thanks for this and it all looks very positive. I would however like to make sure SG survey managers are fully on board with all of this and some haven't yet got back to me. - we've also yet to make a final decision on whether to have the open response option.

Would it be possible to get back to you with final confirmation on Monday?

Thanks



**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Sent:** 17 November 2017 11:32  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@ipsos.com ; [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

Yes, Monday is fine. Just to stress though, the view of the transgender respondents was very much in favour of an open response option (and it made no difference to anyone else) – so would definitely recommend including it.

Best wishes,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 16 November 2017 09:05  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Dear survey managers

Before I get back to [redacted] I'd be grateful if you could confirm that you're happy for Ipsos to go ahead and implement the below proposals (I'm content). In particular, that you're happy with the open field tested in wave 2 (which we expect will be used by less than 1 per cent of respondents).

[redacted] – are you content with the household matrix and suggested pronoun?

Thanks again and happy to discuss,

[redacted]

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[www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence](http://www.scotland.gov.uk/EqualityEvidence)

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 November 2017 10:39  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this, and apologies for not responding sooner.

I think the suggested pronouns below seem sensible, although some are quite long/convoluted, for example, sibling through marriage or civil partnership. It may not be immediately obvious as to who this refers to – is there potential for confusion for this to be understood as step brother/sister/sibling – and would time have to be taken to double check the correct relationship has been given if these responses? I think this could be done, though, and would just perhaps require some additional

guidance for interviewers around these options. I note the comments made about length of the interview but overall think this will have little impact.

Since 'sibling through marriage or civil partnership' falls in to the same response option as 'brother in law/ sister in law' interviewers should be able to make the distinction between that and 'step sibling' – and since 'step sibling' proceeds this one that should also help. However we'll seek to provide additional guidance.

I haven't heard back from the STA on their thoughts for revisions to the household matrix, and won't do so before today's deadline. I'm not sure if they would have suggested alternatives to what has been developed. If there were to be problems with any of the revised options, what opportunity would there be in the future to amend these?

I can find this out about future amendment policy from Ipsos

In terms of whether we need a 'please specify', I'm also content not to have this for the time being. There are a huge number of ways in which people can identify, and there might be very little commonality across them. I therefore don't know how useful it would be to have this information – it won't inform service provision, for example – particularly if the numbers are so small they are unidentifiable.

I think Ipsos have recommended the version with the open box as it allows people to express their gender identity in a way that they are happy with - we do not expect to be able to have sufficient data quality to report on the responses. I preferred this option due to its inclusivity. What do survey managers think?

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 17 November 2017 11:17

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks for this [redacted], I've added some comments in red.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 17 November 2017 11:26

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks [redacted]. In terms of your response to the third point, if an open text box is included, I have no concerns about this, however, I do wonder about the usefulness of any information we receive. What would be our response to any respondent who questioned why we are collecting that information? What would we say it is being used for?

Establishing any sort of baseline in this area would be advantageous, so I would support it from that perspective as well as the increased inclusivity, but I wouldn't want to raise expectations that something more would be done with this data – for example, legal recognition of a range of identities – when this is not the intention.

This doesn't mean I don't support the inclusion of an open text box, just more to be aware of the potential messaging of this.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 November 2017 11:40  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks again [redacted], I think we could perhaps say if questioned that in addition to it being more inclusive it's also exploratory and we're looking to see if there's common categories we could include in future surveys.

All – please see attached email from Ipsos – granting us an extension 'til Monday and once again recommending the open box.



**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 November 2017 12:53  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi, thanks, it is good to have that extension so we all get a chance to review this.

I've rather selfishly not considered this in much detail from SCJS perspective, mainly leaving it to others whose questionnaires need to be finalised before the SCJS. In summary, I'd be happy to implement this if required, and if it is shown not to add unnecessary additional length or complexity to the questionnaires, however I do wonder about the value of it and what will be possible analytically with the results.

**Cc** [redacted] **as** [redacted] **is now away on Maternity leave.**

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 November 2017 13:44  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks [redacted], I think the benefit of this is as [redacted] says, achieving a baseline measurement in 2018, probably using the Core data. This will be particularly important to inform Census '21 and their first collection of non-binary gender identity. We will be able to at least report on prevalence provided the numbers aren't so small as to be disclosive.

It looks like the write-in data will probably not be reportable, but I agree with [redacted] on its value. Used in this way, it will likely help the relationship between the interviewer and respondent.

Am I correct in thinking that the alternative his/her/their formulation will be controlled by CAPI and not be read out in that form? Similarly, that the long constructions in the relationship matrix categories will not be viewable by the respondent?

Provided [redacted] and [redacted] are happy with this, I'm content with these changes. It looks like it will be a very valuable addition to our data.

All the best,

[redacted]

-----  
**Strategic Analytical Policy**

 Office of the  
Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 11:06  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted], [redacted],

I have been discussing with ScotCen how we can implement these changes within SHeS. We currently ask the adult who completes the household questionnaire whether each member of the household is male or female so we are not asking each person about their own gender identity. This question is also used to route some further question such as those on pregnancy. One option would be to add the gender identity question to our self-completion questionnaires for each person interviewed and to keep the male/female question as it is within the household questionnaire. [redacted] would that meet the stakeholder needs? And [redacted], would that work in terms of collating the data for the core questions?

Thanks

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 11:57  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks for considering this [redacted],

This is a complex area – having two questions could be viewed as intrusive by the trans community, who could think that we're trying to identify people who have changed gender.

In terms of the ambiguous male/female question that's been asked in the past, it is very possible that trans people have (and will) answered this with their gender / gender identity rather than their biological / birth sex, especially if there was no strong guidance issued on what was being asked - we believe trans people were advised to answer the 'what is your sex' question in the last census with their gender.

So I'd prefer the one standard question, even if trans or non-binary respondents were routed to some questions that weren't applicable.

[redacted] – do you agree with this?

[redacted] what are your survey timescales – is this something we can discuss in more detail over the coming weeks?

In terms of me getting back to Ipsos today to give the go ahead to their current proposal – are you content for me to do so?

Thanks and happy to discuss

[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 12:10  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi,

Thanks for this. I think general movement in this area is towards the sex question (male/female) being replaced by a gender identity question which recognises non-binary people in addition to men and women. I agree with what [redacted] has said before. Cis-gender (non trans people) would likely have little difficulty in answering a sex question and then a different gender question, however, trans and non-binary people would have more issues with this. The reason for moving to a question on gender identity is to be more inclusive of these communities, and having two questions is in opposition to this.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 13:14  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted], [redacted],

Thanks, that's helpful. One concern I have is that we would be asking one person within the household about the gender identity of other people in the household, I imagine that is not ideal in terms of self-expression or the quality of the data collected but I would welcome your advice. [redacted], [redacted], do you ask the current gender question of each person directly?

I think ideally, going forward, we would ask each person interviewed about their own gender identity. The problem with that logistically is that the SHeS CAPI script is currently set to run off the routing from the household interview so the contractor

would need to change all the relevant routing. From discussing with ScotCen, there would be a fair bit of work involved in this and it would be risky at this stage in terms of making sure that everything is working properly to go into the field at the start of January. I am supposed to be signing off the final questionnaire tomorrow and we would not have time to test the re-routing.

I think this leaves us with two options for SHeS, either to continue with a questions on sex (rather than gender) that we ask the person answering the household questionnaire so that our current routing does not need to be changed and add the gender identity question to the self-completions asked of each person interviewed or to hold off making these changes until 2019 when we have time to move the question to the individual questionnaire and properly test the re-routing.

Apologies that I've not raised these issues earlier, it's been a busy period and I am only just getting time to get up to speed on the implications of this change within SHeS.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 13:17  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi,

Only one adult per household responds to the SCJS, so yep, we would be asking one person within the household about the gender identity of other people in the household.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 13:32  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks for this [redacted], I agree it would be better for respondents to self-identify. However the SHS is designed so that adults answer on behalf of other household members – this is how the proposed gender identity question is worded:

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY/HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENDER IDENTITY OF {NAME}?

Man/Boy [1]

Woman/Girl [2]  
In another way [3]

For the SHeS in 2018 could you continue to route off the household interview (using the new question above), with a view to developing the more complex routing from self-completion in the future?

And how sure are you that the ambiguous question currently used is picking up sex rather than gender? The SHS reports on results from this question as gender.

Thanks again and happy to discuss

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 14:19  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** FW: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

Could you please let me know you're happy for me to give Ipsos the go-ahead - they want a response today.

Thanks  
[redacted]  
Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 14:26  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hello,

I do have some reservations about how this will work in the field and how it may affect response rate. However, I completely agree with the principle of inclusiveness and feel it has to go in. I think it is important to fully brief the interviewers on why this change is taking place and how they can handle questions on this from the general public.

Give Ipsos Mori the go ahead and we'll watch carefully to see how it is received by the interviewers and the general public. We can assess the quarterly data.

[redacted]

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*The Scottish Household Survey (SHS) is a continuous survey of the households and people of Scotland providing a rich source of information covering communities, transport and local government. This website contains background, methods, publications as well as information for general public and data users.*

<http://www.gov.scot/shs>  
[#ScottishHouseholdSurvey](#)

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 14:29  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Possibly, I will need to discuss with ScotGen how the routing would work for those that choose 'In another way' for themselves or someone else in the household. We could possibly route to the questions asked of those identifying as woman/girl so that the additional pregnancy etc. questions are asked but that might not be appropriate depending on how they identify. Can you confirm what the final decision is on the write-in box.

We currently refer to differences by sex within the SHeS reporting (which makes sense in terms of biological health differences) but no I don't have a feel for whether some people answer the question in terms of gender identity. I do understand the need to allow people to express their identity in the way they wish to, I'm just trying to work out how best we can do this within SHeS without impacting on the data quality.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 14:43  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted], are you also happy that we go with the Ipsos recommendation that we include an open response option for those respondents that identify 'in another way'? We expect less than 1 per cent of respondents to identify in another way.

■

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 14:59  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks [redacted], we're going to go with the Ipsos recommendation following testing that we include an open response option for those respondents that identify 'in another way' if this is within bounds of the current contract and doesn't have too large an impact on interview length. [redacted] has agreed to this approach.

I'd be happy to work with you and ScotCen to aid the process of getting this into the SHeS.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 15:45  
**To:** [redacted]@ipsos.com  
**Cc:** [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for allowing us more time to consider, and I can confirm that we're happy to proceed with your proposals below:

- We would like to use the open response option which was tested (as long as it is within the bounds of the current contract and doesn't have too large an impact on interview time).
- We're content with the household matrix (though not all of our stakeholders responded)
- And we're content with the suggested pronoun.

And I'd be happy to provide the rationale behind the change of question to interviewers – I'm going to come to the briefing session on 6<sup>th</sup> December.

I hope this is useful and happy to discuss,

[redacted]

Equality Statistics

Scottish Government / t: [redacted]

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 15:50  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Thanks [redacted].

I will be discussing this with ScotCen again tomorrow. Would it be okay to share the Wave 2 cognitive testing report with ScotCen?

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 15:52  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted]; [redacted]@gov.scot  
[redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

No problem [redacted], it would be good to hear how that goes. [redacted]'s probably better placed to give the okay to sharing the testing report.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 15:52  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted],

Just so I'm clear, please could you confirm the wording of all amended or new questions so we can insert them into the SCJS in due course.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 20 November 2017 15:58  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted]; [redacted]@gov.scot  
[redacted]; [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

No problem [redacted]

This is the new question

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY/HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENDER IDENTITY OF {NAME}?

Showcard:

- A Man/Boy
- B Woman/Girl
- C In another way (if you would like to, please tell me what other words you use)

And this is the new matrix

Husband or wife or  
spouse [1]

Co-habiting partner [2]

Legally recognised civil partner [3]

Son or daughter or child (including adopted) [4]

Stepson or daughter or child of spouse or civil partner [5]

Foster child [6]

Son-in-law or daughter-in-law or child's spouse or civil partner [7]

Parent (including adopted) [8]

Stepparent [9]

Foster parent [10]

Parent-in-law [11]

Brother or sister or sibling (including adopted) [12]

Half brother or half sister or half sibling [13]

Foster brother or foster sister or foster sibling [14]

Step brother or step sister or step sibling [15]

Brother-in law or sister-in-law or sibling through marriage or civil partnership [16]

Grandparent [17]

Grandchild [18]

Other relative [19]

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@ipsos.com

**Sent:** 22 November 2017 17:09

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]@ipsos.com ; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot ; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot ; Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: SHS cog testing wave 2 - gender identity questions

Hi [redacted]

That's great. Thanks.

In terms of the impact on interview time, the addition of the open end will have little impact - it's asking the question at all (rather than it just being recorded) and the use of the showcard that will add the time. But I know you are aware of that.

If you want the responses backcoded, the extra data processing will be minimal. We can provide a list of verbatim responses (after any necessary anonymization) from Year 1 and you can suggest codes for backcoding.

And thanks again for agreeing to provide the rationale and come to the briefing.

Finally, Scottish Trans (who helped us with some of the recruitment) have asked what the final question is going to be. I don't know if they are one of the LGBT stakeholders that you were consulting with - were you planning to feedback to them about the final question?

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** Scottish Household Survey

**Sent:** 27 November 2017 12:18

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;  
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2018 specification

SHS Lead analysts, contributors and copyees,

Here's the final SHS 2018 questionnaire specification. I have attached the household and random adult script documentation, colour coded as per before. These are now with the Ipsos Mori scripters. If you could check your own questions – hopefully for a final time - that would be great. We need formal sign-off from each lead analyst that their set of questions is correct and will go live in this form in January 2018. The only one outstanding question to finalise is Educational Qualifications.

Please check your questions and get back to me by Friday 1st December.

[redacted – not in scope]

Thank you very much,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 29 November 2017 11:25

**To:** Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Scottish Household Survey (SHS) 2018 specification

Hi [redacted]

Household matrix, Gender identity, discrimination and harassment questions look okay.

There's a small typo in the household matrix – one of the siblings [16].

[redacted]

---

**From:** Scottish Household Survey  
**Sent:** 12 December 2017 13:45  
**To:** [redacted]; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Scottish Household Survey  
**Subject:** SHS 2018: gender identity question

Hi [redacted] and [redacted],

Thanks for coming to the interviewer briefings. The events have been widely commended and greatly appreciated by the interviewers.

Ipsos Mori advise that we will need to leave the gender identity question where it currently is.

Ipsos Mori need some final guidance around the new Gender identity question. Can we add a refused category to this question? If not, can you advise on what the interviewers should do.

If possible, please can you reply by return.

[redacted] will seek feedback from the interviewers to see how the question is working in the field. We'll compile this in due course and let you know how it is going.

Thanks,

[redacted]

Scottish Household Survey Project Manager | Communities Analysis | The Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 12 December 2017 14:20  
**To:** Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS 2018: gender identity question

Thanks [redacted]

Happy to accept Ipsos advice on positioning.

Can we leave 'refused' off the showcard (we don't want to encourage any non-response) but if someone doesn't want to answer the interviewers could record it as a spontaneous 'don't know / refusal' which is what we advise for the sexual orientation question.

[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 11 January 2018 16:02  
**To:** Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; MacDougall A (Audrey); [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Campbell J (Jeanette)  
**Subject:** Scottish Household Survey 2018 - gender identity

Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities

Copy to:  
[redacted] (Equality Unit)  
[redacted] (SHS Team)  
[redacted] (SHS Team)  
[redacted] (CAD)  
Audrey MacDougall (CAD)  
[redacted] (Communications)  
[redacted] (Communications)  
Jeanette Campbell (Special Adviser)

Further to correspondence from [redacted] on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2017 notifying you of the outcome of the 2017 Scottish Household Survey (SHS) Questionnaire Review, and following a successful question testing exercise, I now write to you to let you know that a new non-binary question on gender identity is now live in the field, as of 1 January 2018. This is the first time a non-binary question on this topic has been included in a major Scottish Government survey. The SHS will now be inclusive to those who don't self-identify as a man or a woman, and the first results from this question are expected to be published in September 2019.

I hope this is a helpful update

Regards

[redacted]

Equality Statistics  
Scottish Government

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**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot **On Behalf Of** Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities  
**Sent:** 15 January 2018 14:04  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot; Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; Audrey.MacDougall@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot  
Jeanette.Campbell@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Scottish Household Survey 2018 - gender identity

Hi [redacted],

Thank you very much for this! Cab Sec has noted.

[redacted]

Deputy Private Secretary to Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security & Equalities

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 29 January 2018 11:25  
**To:** [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@lgbthealth.org.uk; [redacted]@lgbtyouth.org.uk; [redacted]@stonewallscotland.org.uk; [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@equality-network.org  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [SHS@gov.scot](mailto:SHS@gov.scot); [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Update on the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) Review - gender identity

Dear all,

Thanks for your helpful input into our Scottish Household Survey (SHS) review last year. I now write to inform you that the binary question used in the survey up to the end of 2017 has been replaced by a non-binary question on gender identity for 2018 onwards.

IS {NAME} MALE OR FEMALE?  
Male [1]  
Female [2]

The question above has been replaced by the following:

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY/HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENDER IDENTITY OF {NAME}?

- A Man/Boy
- B Woman/Girl
- C In another way (if you would like, please say in what way).

The new question was successfully tested by Ipsos Mori and is now live in the field, as of 1 January 2018 – it is being asked by interviewers using a showcard. We hope this question proves to be inclusive to those who identify as neither a man nor a woman and provides valuable data on this population in Scotland. The first results from this question are expected to be published in September 2019.

Thanks again for your input and I hope this is a helpful update.

[redacted]  
[Equality Statistics](#)  
[Scottish Government](#)

**From:** [redacted]@equality-network.org  
**Sent:** 29 January 2018 12:08  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@equality-network.org  
**Subject:** RE: Update on the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) Review - gender identity

Hi [redacted],

That's great; thanks very much.

Is it possible to tell us any more about Ipsos Mori's testing and the results of it?

[redacted]

Director



**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 30 January 2018 10:42

**To:** [redacted]@equality-network.org

**Cc:** [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@equality-network.org; [redacted]@equality-network.org; Scottish Household Survey <SHS@gov.scot>

**Subject:** RE: Update on the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) Review - gender identity

Hi [redacted]

Ipsos Mori have okay'd the sharing of the testing report, so please find it attached.

[redacted]

## Extract from SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review Summary Paper for Scottish Household Survey Steering Group meeting June 2017

Topic	Nature of new questions bid for (including any significant amendments to existing questions)		Any question deletions and/or move from annual to biennial questions		Time tool estimate (net average times based on deducting any reductions to existing questions)		Recommendation to steering group and rationale
	Number of questions and variable names	Description of Question (s)	Number of questions and variable names	Description of Question(s)	SHS 2018 (& even years -2020, 2022)	SHS 2019 (& odd years - 2021, 2023)	
Household Composition and Characteristics	1 amend - GENDER (FS annual)	Add in a third option of "in another way"	No	No	Minimal	Minimal	Accept – capturing people's whose gender is 'non-binary' (i.e. not male or female) is strongly supported by external stakeholders and a similar change will be made in the Census to capture people who identify as non-binary.

## Extract from minutes of June 2017 Scottish Household Survey Steering Group meeting

Date: Monday 12 June 2017

Venue: Conference Room 1F 57 58 59, Victoria Quay

Attendees:

- Dave Signorini (Chair), Communities Analysis Division
- Roger Halliday, Chief Statistician, Office of the Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis (OCSSA)
- [Redacted], Communities Analysis Division
- [Redacted], Communities Analysis Division
- [Redacted], Communities Analysis Division
- [Redacted], Education Analytical Services
- [Redacted], Better Homes Division, Scottish Government
- [Redacted], Office of the Chief Statistician and Strategic Analysis (OCSSA)
- [Redacted], Transport Scotland, Analytical Services
- [Redacted], Improvement Service
- [Redacted], Scottish Borders Council/LARIA

[Redacted] provided an overview of the SHS questionnaire review process and noted that she was looking for the SHS steering group to approve the recommendations put forward in the steering group paper. She noted that extensive negotiation and agreement with lead analysts had gone into producing amended questionnaires for SHS 2018 and SHS 2019 that fitted within the available average 55 minute interview time.

The steering group approved all the recommendations in the SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review paper and noted the following comments or queries:

[Redacted – not in scope]

Roger also asked about the proposed change to the gender question which included a non-binary option. He suggested that the SG contact ONS to learn about their trial of this questions as part of the Census. [Redacted] noted that she would follow this up with [redacted] in the equalities analysis unit.

## SHS 2018 Cognitive Testing – Report on Wave 2

### Gender Identity Question

The new Gender Identity question was tested with all 15 respondents (including 5 transgender/non-binary respondents) in Wave 1 of the SHS cognitive testing exercise and with all 25 respondents (including a further 5 transgender/non-binary respondents) in Wave 2. Wave 1 fieldwork took place between 17 and 20 October 2017 and Wave 2 fieldwork took place between 31 October and 3 November 2017.

The findings and recommendation from Wave 1 are shown below, followed by the findings and recommendation from Wave 2.

### Wave 1

#### Question tested in Wave 1

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY/HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENDER IDENTITY OF {NAME}?**

**Showcard:**

- A      Man/Boy**
  
- B      Woman/Girl**
  
- C      In another way**

#### Comprehension

There were no problems at all with comprehension of the question or the different showcard responses. Having the showcard helped with comprehension of the question.

#### Acceptability of asking the respondents' gender identity

There were no significant problems with the acceptability of asking such a question. Respondents were not surprised it was asked and some 'expected' it to be asked nowadays. Many were aware of increased discussion around transgender issues in the news etc. and this probably fed into the lack of any surprise.

The transgender/non-binary respondents were very pleased that it was being asked.

It is worth noting that there were some spontaneous comments about the potential sensitivities around the ethnicity and religion questions – but none about the gender identity question.

There was no impact on perceptions of the rest of the survey or willingness to complete it.

#### Acceptability of asking the gender identity of others in the household

There was some concern among the transgender and non-binary respondents about people answering the question about other household members. They were not concerned in relation to their own households and were confident that other household members would answer in the same way they had (this included two who were living with their parents). However, they could envisage some situations – particularly where parents were answering about their transgender/non-binary offspring – where there might be some awkwardness/sensitivities and where the respondent might give a different answer to the person being asked about. Indeed, two of these respondents, who lived in same household, did give different answers about a third member of their household.

Among other respondents, there were no concerns about answering the question for other members of their household (including babies and young children).

Again, being asked about the gender identity of other members of the household had no impact on perceptions of the rest of the survey or willingness to complete it.

### **Precise format/wording**

The transgender and the non-binary respondents were happy with the wording of the question but had mixed views on the precise format and wording of the response options:

- One (who identified as a man) was generally happy with the wording and format. He suggested that the wording could be 'man (including transman)' but he also thought that might put some non-transgender people off.
- Two (who both identified as men), were happy that they could describe themselves as they wanted but suggested there should be a 'write in' box at 'in another way'. One specifically mentioned that he thought the use of 'man' and 'woman' was better than 'male' and 'female' because the former focused on gender rather than biological sex.
- One (who answered 'in another way') preferred 'other' to 'in another way' as they felt 'other' was more of an identity. They also suggested a 'write in' box at this response.
- One (who answered 'in another way') did not really like 'in another way' and felt it was synonymous with 'prefer not to say'. They thought there should be a scale along the lines of male – masc – non-binary – femme - female (plus an 'other specify' option).

The non-transgender respondents were happy with the wording of the questions and the response options.

### **Length**

It is worth bearing in mind that, in terms of the length of the whole survey, having this question and having the showcard will add a little to the length. In the past, there was no need to direct respondents to a showcard, and in most cases (we suspect) interviewers would simply have made assumptions and coded Male or Female without asking the question.

### **Rationale**

It would be useful if the Scottish Government could provide a brief rationale for asking this question which can be given to interviewers – so they can understand why it is important to ask the question and use the showcard (they may otherwise feel it is an unnecessary complication) and so they are confident that they can explain why it is being asked to any respondents who query it.

## Recommendation for the second wave of testing

We recommend testing a version of the question which allows those answering 'in another way' to specify but only if they want to. Something along the following lines (but other suggestions would be welcome):

- A Man/Boy
- B Woman/Girl
- C In another way (if you would like, please say in what way).

## Wave 2

### Question tested in Wave 2

It was agreed that a revised version of the question should be tested. This took account of the preferred language (for self-completion questionnaires) of the Scottish Government's LGBT stakeholders which was:

**If you would like to, please tell us what other words you use to describe your gender identity:**

The question tested in Wave 2 was:

**HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY/HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENDER IDENTITY OF {NAME}?**

**Showcard:**

- A Man/Boy**
- B Woman/Girl**
- C In another way (if you would like to, please tell me what other words you use)**

## Findings

The findings in relation to comprehension, acceptability of asking the respondent's gender identity, the acceptability of asking the gender identity of other household members, and the wording of the question were very much in line with Wave 1.

In discussion (rather than when they were answering the question) a few respondents in households without children said they were slightly puzzled by the showcard reading 'Man/Boy' and 'Woman/Girl' rather than just 'Man' or 'Woman'. But when it was explained that the showcard was

also used when asking about children, they understood. A couple of mothers living with grown-up children said 'boy' or 'girl' and then corrected themselves and said things like 'he'll always be my 'boy'!'

A couple of respondents were a *little* uncomfortable answering this question about flatmates that they did not know very well – but no more uncomfortable answering this than other questions on their flatmate's income, religion etc.

In relation to the response options, the addition of '(if you would like to, please tell me what other words you use)' to option C worked well. It had no impact on non-transgender respondents.

Among the transgender and non-binary respondents:

- One respondent answered 'A', and said 'I never know what to say to this question' and added 'trans male' to his answer 'in case it was helpful'. If there had been a 'trans male' option, that would make it easier for him in that he would be confident he was giving the most helpful answer. However, he felt that if the main purpose of the question was to allow people to express their identity in the way they wanted (rather than to collect accurate data on the numbers of transgender or non-binary people), then it was ok. He thought 'in another way' was slightly odd and suggested 'other'. He also thought there should be 'prefer not to say' option 'to keep everyone happy' – although he would not have used it himself.
- One respondent answered 'B' but felt that was not giving full story and it might be good to have a follow-up question so that someone who said 'man' or 'woman' could then explain that they were, for example, 'a woman with a trans past'. Her concern here was that the survey was not obtaining all the data that it could. But it did allow her to answer in a way she was happy with.
- A respondent who answered 'B' said she liked the fact that she could answer 'B' without there being 'transwoman in brackets'. She also liked the third option. She was happy to answer but thought, for others, that it should be clearer that the question could be skipped.
- Another respondent, who answered 'C' and said they would describe themselves as 'trans masculine', said they liked 'in another way' rather than 'other' and thought it was important to be able to specify.
- Another respondent, who answered 'C' and said they would describe themselves as 'non binary trans feminine', also thought it was important to be able to specify though their main concern was about the accuracy of the data rather than allowing people to express their identity in the way they want – 'otherwise it's all lumped together'.
- 

### **Recommendation for the final questionnaire**

We recommend that the version of the question used in Wave 2 is used in the final questionnaire. Although a couple of transgender respondents suggested that there should be an obvious 'Prefer not to say' option on the showcard, none of the transgender or non-binary respondents (in either wave) indicated that they themselves would have preferred not to say.

For the avoidance of any doubt, it may be worth clarifying with LBGT stakeholders that this version of the question is primarily designed to allow people to express their gender identity in a way that they are happy with. It will NOT provide accurate data on the prevalence of different identities or

trans status (some of the transgender and non-binary respondents assumed that it would and thought that would be very useful).

We would also point out that the comments made in relation to length and the provision of a brief rationale to give to interviewers (made at the Wave 1 findings above) still apply.

# Gender in the Household Surveys

**[redacted]**

**Communities Analysis**

**Scottish Government**

# The Current Question

- Is {name} male or female?

**Q1** Why do we want to change the existing question?

**A** It is no longer acceptable to the Scottish Government that people who do not identify as a man or a woman have nowhere to record this in its surveys

**Q2** What do we want to measure?

**A** Scottish Government policy primarily focuses on **gender** equality

**A** Scottish Government would like a count of people with non-binary **gender**

## Q3 What question do we ask?

A Stakeholders have developed a question inclusive to those with a non-binary gender identity

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE YOUR GENDER IDENTITY/HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE GENDER IDENTITY OF {NAME}?

(1) Man/Boy [1]

(2) Woman/Girl [2]

(3) In another way (if you would like to, please tell me what other words you use) [Other specify] [3]

# Summary

The three main reasons for the change are:

1. Inclusivity
2. A better defined concept
3. An official count of non-binary people in Scotland

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 17 March 2021 11:38  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** SHS

Hey [redacted],

I think Roger has told you we have had a query regarding SHS. I have a couple of follow up questions regarding the question on gender in SHS. I you free today or tomorrow it would be great to catch up.

Thanks  
[redacted]

Office for Statistics Regulation

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 March 2021 11:43  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hi [redacted]

Could you let me know what the questions are, please? I only took over this post in January so, depending on what you need to know, I might need to get in touch who were involved in the development of the gender identity question.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 17 March 2021 11:52  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hey [redacted],

Thanks for getting back so quickly. My two questions are below and focus more on user consultation and the methods document.

- What groups did you speak to regarding the change to gender identity question?
- In the methods document there are a few instances where it looks like gender and sex have been conflated, so it would be good to know a little more about that.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 17 March 2021 12:18  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

I'll check with colleagues and get back to you.

Could you clarify which methods document you're referring to, please?

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 17 March 2021 12:25  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Sorry about here is a link to the one I was reading <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-household-survey-2019-methodology-fieldwork-outcomes/pages/9/>

Thanks  
[redacted]  
**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 22 March 2021 11:56  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hey [redacted],

I hope had a good weekend. I was just wondering if you have an update on the below queries? I was also hoping you could point me in the direction or share the guidance the respondents to the survey get, in relation to filling the survey out.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk >  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 09:06  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot >  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hello [redacted],

Are you able to speak today or tomorrow about the below queries? I have been unable to find any guidance relating to how respondents should answer the questions, if they have children. I don't think it would be a long conversation as I just want to clear things up before responding to the querier.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 09:31  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hi [redacted]

I'm really sorry for the delayed reply. The 2021 survey is going into the field in April, and so this has been a very busy time. Thanks for your patience.

I'll come back to you today with responses to your questions.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 12:12  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

[redacted]

Apologies again for not getting back to you sooner.

- **What groups did you speak to regarding the change to gender identity question?**

See page 49 of [this document](#). In addition, an update was given to Women's Organisations at a gender analysis workshop in 2017, and comments were invited. No substantive comments were received. Another thing to note is that the previous question used was an ambiguous 'are you male or female', so there was never a 'sex' question as such.

- **In the methods document there are a few instances where it looks like gender and sex have been conflated, so it would be good to know a little more about that.**

You're right, there are some instances in the methodology document where sex should be replaced with gender. I'll make sure that's corrected for future methodology documents. Some of the references to sex are correct, though, as these relate to the NRS populations estimates that are used to weight the data.

- **I have been unable to find any guidance relating to how respondents should answer the questions, if they have children**

All questions are asked by interviewers – there are no self-completion questions. Ipsos MORI advise interviews to try not to explain questions/terminology (unless there is an obvious misunderstanding) or move away from the questionnaire wording. Interviewers advise respondents to answer as best they can. Where interviewers have to do this regularly give additional explanations for a question, it tends to indicate the question is poor. Ipsos MORI don't normally get feedback from interviewers on questions that are working well, only on poor ones. They've not heard anything back on the gender question from interviewers, so assume it's generally accepted. But they've agreed to ask their interviewers for specific feedback on this question.

The gender question was cognitively tested before it was added to the survey. The cognitive testing report includes the following:

"The new Gender Identity question was tested with all 15 respondents (including 5 transgender/non-binary respondents) in Wave 1 of the SHS cognitive testing exercise and with all 25 respondents (including a further 5 transgender/non-binary respondents) in Wave 2. Wave 1 fieldwork took place between 17 and 20 October 2017 and Wave 2 fieldwork took place between 31 October and 3 November 2017."

**“Acceptability of asking the gender identity of others in the household**

There was some concern among the transgender and non-binary respondents about people answering the question about other household members. They were not concerned in relation to their own households and were confident that other household members would answer in the same way they had (this included two who were living with their parents). However, they could envisage some situations – particularly where parents were answering about their transgender/non-binary offspring – where there might be some awkwardness/sensitivities and where the respondent might give a different answer to the person being asked about. Indeed, two of these respondents, who lived in same household, did give different answers about a third member of their household.

Among other respondents, there were no concerns about answering the question for other members of their household (including babies and young children) ... being asked about the gender identity of other members of the household had no impact on perceptions of the rest of the survey or willingness to complete it.”

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 13:01  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hey [redacted],

No worries I completely understand that this is a busy time for you.

Thank you for the really useful information, can I confirm face to face is still going ahead? It’s good to know that the question was cognitively tested, did this include children as well? The reason I ask is that Census in England and Wales did this and decided to ask just a sex question for under 16’s.

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 13:31  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Face to face isn’t going ahead. The survey was piloted over telephone / video call last year, and will continue with that mode this year.

The question wasn’t cognitively tested with children, because children aren’t surveyed. Adult respondents provide information about any children in the household.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 13:38  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

PS Not sure if you're already aware that there's an ongoing review of these issues in Scotland that's wider than just the SHS? Roger Halliday is the contact for that.

[Statistics Working Group on Sex and Gender in Data - March update - Statistics \(blogs.gov.scot\)](#)

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 24 March 2021 13:45  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Thanks— we have been engaging with Roger on the Scottish Government guidance as well. We have also drafted our own Code of Practice related guidance too, if you have any comments please let me know.

<https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/publication/draft-guidance-collecting-and-reporting-data-about-sex-in-official-statistics/>

Thanks  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 29 March 2021 12:42  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Scottish Household Survey

Hey [redacted],

We will be responding privately to the query regarding the gender identity question in the SHS. We will be highlighting that it is not for OSR to provide guidance on answering questions and that the survey questions are voluntary so they could choose not answer the question they find difficult.

As I mentioned in our earlier correspondence we found some conflation of sex and gender in the methods document, so it would be good if we can catchup to discuss this and the methods used to design the gender identity question more broadly. I don't have much spare time this week so happy for you to pick a date in the next couple of weeks.

Thanks  
[redacted]

Office for Statistics Regulation

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Sent:** 13 April 2021 11:53  
**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** SHS

Hello [redacted],

It was good to speak with you yesterday and thank you for answering all our questions. As promised below are copies of where the word derived is used in relation to variables in the methods document. The first is on page 38 and the second is on page 40.

“The data then underwent two additional processes. Firstly, the calculation of derived variables such as the age and sex of the Highest Income Householder and secondly, the imputation of household income.”

“The data then underwent two additional processes. Firstly, the calculation of derived variables such as the age and sex of the Highest Income Householder, and secondly, the imputation of household income and, for the first time in 2019, housing costs. The edited data was delivered to the Scottish Government, who ran further checks on the data. Any data issues identified by Scottish Government were discussed and, where necessary, corrected and the data processing routines were amended”

Thanks  
[redacted]

Office for Statistics Regulation

**From:** [redacted]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 13 April 2021 12:45  
**To:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk;  
[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk  
**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hi [redacted]

I had misunderstood what you were referring to yesterday. This relates to a part of the data processing undertaken on our behalf by the contractors Ipsos MORI. The household reference person is asked questions on age (question HA5) and gender (question HA6) for all members of the household and themselves (up to 10 people in total). They are also asked to identify the householder with the highest income (question HIHA2). Age and gender of the highest income householder are not specifically asked in the survey but are derived from the household reference person's responses.

We should be using gender rather than sex here and we will make sure this is corrected when we publish the methodology document for the 2020 fieldwork and reporting.

I had thought you meant we had talked about deriving a male or female gender in cases where a respondent has not selected one of these options. This is done in the data processing only for the purpose of deriving weights. I think the report would benefit from an explanation of this and also why we weight SHS data by age and gender to NRS estimates by age and sex. As discussed yesterday, I do not think there is much we can do to validate this approach at the moment though we are confident it produces robust results but we could look to validate this with data from the 2022 Census.

Thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk

**Sent:** 13 April 2021 14:34

**To:** [redacted]@gov.scot

**Cc:** [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk;

[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk; [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk

**Subject:** RE: SHS

Hey [redacted],

Thanks very much for getting to me on this so quickly. I will let you know if we have any follow up questions.

Thanks

[redacted]