

Annex A – Information related to part (1) of request

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 23 June 2021 08:44
To: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: OSR compliance check - Scottish Household Survey

Good morning Roger

I just wanted to give you a quick update on the compliance check (cc) for the Scottish Household Survey(SHS).

At this stage I see the cc looking to address 3 main areas

- The introduction of the change in the gender question in 2018, as per your request
- Consideration of current position regarding this question against the Quality pillar of the Code
- A broader consideration of the SHS particularly against the Value pillar

In carrying out our research on the questions introduction and reviewing materials, I feel we can helpfully feed into the team more generally on their work as it relates to the standards of the Code and recognise where we see areas of good practice or areas where improvements could be made.

As I said we have done the majority of our desk research at this end and we met with [redacted] and colleagues on Friday. The SHS team were extremely helpful in providing further information and answering our questions. [redacted] told us a related FOI has come in and I think this will be valuable for us to review when it is published as part of this compliance work.

For broader context, we would also like to meet with someone to speak more generally about the Scottish Survey Core Questions and also follow up with the contacts you sent through to me on the equality protected characteristics project work. We should be making arrangements for that shortly.

I think it would be helpful for us to also arrange a meeting with you at this point, to get your perspective on the changes and your thoughts on how things link through to the guidance on data on sex and gender. Would you be open to that?

If anything isn't clear or if you have any questions, I'm happy to clarify – please just give me a call. I look forward to speaking with you soon on this.

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted][redacted]@statistics.gov.uk

Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

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From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2021 11:21

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

Thanks [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted][redacted]@statistics.gov.uk

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From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 June 2021 09:48

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot

Subject: RE: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

Hi [redacted]

The people to contact are [redacted] ([redacted]@gov.scot) and [redacted] ([redacted]@gov.scot).

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted]Scottish Household Survey team

e: [redacted]@gov.scot

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 23 June 2021 08:06

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

Good morning all

I wondered if you could help with something else. So I mention we might want to speak with the team who lead on the SSCQs, more general discussion about the questions and harmonisation work. Who would be best to contact to take that forward?

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |

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

Website: Office for Statistics Regulation | Twitter: @StatsRegulation | OSR LinkedIn

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From: [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 June 2021 15:38

To: [redacted]@gov.scot

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

[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

Hi [redacted],

Thanks very much for meeting with us on Friday, we found it all very helpful.

We mentioned at the meeting that we had a few follow up questions so we have sent these on below:-

On the introduction of this question

- You launched the questionnaire review and you said the gender question was passed across to the equality unit as part of the review. Was that part of the lead analysts led approach or something separate? Did wider policy areas or other lead analysts fed back on any requirements on demographic data captured?
- You said census 2011 advised to use gender. Could you expand on that a bit? Do you mean generally to SG or specifically for this review?
- The reason for the change primarily looked linked to respondent's needs. Is that right? Were any issues raised by those completing the survey in earlier years – any feedback from Ipsos Mori on this?
- Did you seek expert or legal advice beyond the user feedback? I think you said you did get advice on asking gender identity for others and for children so that might be apparent in the FOI information.
- How was the final decision made, by whom? I don't suppose you have the criteria scoring for that question change in your records.
- I think you mentioned that the new question was tested, where can I find details on this?
- How did you alert users of the change in question once the decision was made?

- So the review covered SHS 2018-2021. Is there a review happening at the moment or is another one planned?
- You mentioned that you do also look at the questions annually outside these major review points. Has there been any thought to change the gender identity question since it was introduced?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Many thanks

[redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation

Queen Elizabeth House | 1 Sibbald Walk | Edinburgh | EH8 8FT

[redacted] Email: [redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk

Website: <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

Twitter: @StatsRegulation

From: [redacted]
Sent: 29 June 2021 15:55
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

Hello

We've provided initial responses to your questions, below. Happy to provide more detail as required.

[redacted]

Questions	Answers
You launched the questionnaire review and you said the gender question was passed across to the equality unit as part of the review. Was that part of the lead analysts led approach or somethin	Yes, that was part of the lead analysts approach. [redacted] was the lead analyst for the equality questions in the survey. [redacted] engaged with the Equality Unit, as the policy leads on both LGBT and gender equality. The Equality Unit regularly liaises with key external equality stakeholders, to maintain expertise on current issues and terminology in a high profile and fast moving area. [redacted] also engaged with the Family Law team, mainly for ethical and legal considerations. All email correspondence relating to development of the question that we have on record will be released in response to a recent FOI request.

<p>g separate? Did wider policy areas or other lead analysts fed back on any requirem ents on demogra phic data captured?</p>	
<p>You said census 2011 advised to use gender. Could you expand on that a bit? Do you mean generally to SG or specificall y for this review?</p>	<p>The Census in Scotland in 2011 asked ‘what is your sex’ but advised that this should be based on self-identity:</p> <p>“For the census conducted in 2011, National Records of Scotland collected information on sex using guidance that asked transgender or transsexual people to ‘select the option for the sex that you identify yourself as’. Therefore the question intends to measure ‘self-identified sex’, rather than biological sex or assigned sex at birth. However, this guidance is not explicit in the question itself”</p> <p>https://www.scotlandscensus.gov.uk/media/rquhe4ol/sex_and_gender_identity_topic_report.pdf</p> <p>So, conceptually, it was very similar to the (current) SHS gender identity question, which is also based on self-identity. The other similarity is that a respondent can answer on behalf of the other household members.</p>
<p>The reason for the change primarily looked linked to responde nt’s needs. Is that right? Were any</p>	<p>Yes, inclusivity and respondent need was a key driver for the change. The rationale was that, if a binary question is asked, then people who identify as neither a man nor a woman have nowhere they can accurately and honestly respond. Note that the development work by NRS for the next Census also identified respondent need for a non-binary question.</p> <p>We’re not aware of any specific feedback from respondents about the previous question in earlier years. Interviewers indicated that the previous question often wasn’t asked of respondents at all. We’re</p>

<p>issues raised by those completing the survey in earlier years – any feedback from Ipsos Mori on this?</p>	<p>aware from LGBT stakeholder contacts that even when the question states 'sex', trans people tend to give their current gender.</p>
<p>Did you seek expert or legal advice beyond the user feedback? I think you said you did get advice on asking gender identity for others and for children so that might be apparent in the FOI information.</p>	<p>The Scottish Government's Family Law team were kept abreast of the developments, for any ethical and legal considerations. The email correspondence with them that we have on record will be released in response to a recent FOI request.</p>
<p>How was the final decision made, by whom? I don't</p>	<p>The change was approved by the Scottish Household Survey Steering Group. Details of the criteria are provided in annex 4 of the SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review - Report</p>

<p>suppose you have the criteria scoring for that question change in your records.</p>	
<p>I think you mentioned that the new question was tested, where can I find details on this?</p>	<p>Cognitive testing report attached.</p>
<p>How did you alert users of the change in question once the decision was made?</p>	<p>Stakeholders with a particular interest in the development of the gender identity question were informed directly of the change in question once the decision was made.</p> <p>In addition, the 2018 annual report explains that:</p> <p>“In SHS 2018, the question on gender was non-binary and included ‘Identified in another way’ and ‘Refused’ responses in addition to ‘Man’ and ‘Woman’. In previous years the question on gender was binary, i.e. only two response options were provided to respondents: ‘Male’ and ‘Female’”.</p>
<p>So the review covered SHS 2018-2021. Is there a review happening at the moment</p>	<p>This particular question will be reviewed following the conclusion of the Sex and Gender in Data Working Group.</p> <p>Information on the wider SHS 2018-21 questionnaire review is here: SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review - Report</p> <p>SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review - Annex 2A - Full external responses</p>

<p>or is another one planned?</p>	<p>SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review - Annex 3A - Full Lead Analysts Internal Responses</p> <p>SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review - Annex 6 - Detailed summary of changes</p> <p>It is intended that any future full scale questionnaire reviews would be timed to coincide with reviews of questions for the Scottish Health Survey and the Scottish Surveys Core Questions, to enable a co-ordinated approach – likely to be when new contracts for the Scottish Household Survey and Scottish Household Survey are being commissioned. Ministerial approval has been granted to extend the current contracts for up to two survey years (2022 and 2023).</p>
<p>You mentioned that you do also look at the questions annually outside these major review points. Has there been any thought to change the gender identity question since it was introduced?</p>	<p>We're not aware of any consideration being given to changing the question, prior to the establishment of the Sex and Gender in Data Working Group. As far as we know, respondents and interviewers had not raised any concerns about the question. The question will be reviewed following the conclusion of the working group.</p>

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.

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 05 July 2021 14:45
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

[redacted]

Excellent, thank you for sending on the link to the FOI

Many thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted][redacted]@statistics.gov.uk

Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 05 July 2021 14:36
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

No problem, [redacted]. The FOI response has now been published:
<https://www.gov.scot/publications/foi-202100209858/>

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 29 June 2021 16:32

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Scottish Household Survey Compliance Check - follow-up questions

Hi [redacted],

Thank you for your comprehensive response to our outstanding questions, it's all really useful. Once we've had a look at the material, we may come back to you if there's anything we're still not sure on but having had an initial look, it all looks very clear.

We'll keep a look out on Friday for the publication of the response to the FOI too.

Many thanks again,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation

Queen Elizabeth House | 1 Sibbald Walk | Edinburgh | EH8 8FT

[redacted] Email: [redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk

Website: <https://osr.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/>

Twitter: @StatsRegulation

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 August 2021 08:22
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Equality data collection in the Scottish Public Sector

Thanks [redacted]

That is really helpful.

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk

Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

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From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 August 2021 19:02
To: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot;
[redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Equality data collection in the Scottish Public Sector

Hi [redacted]

The work streams will be brought together under the new Equality Data Improvement Programme (EDIP), led by my team. The first phase of this project aims to understand barriers to equality data collection; to understand how to increase response levels; and to develop good practice guidance and case study examples. It will also allow public bodies to input their views of how we can best support the data element of the further roll-out of mainstreaming work in the public sector. We have set up a webpage with more info: [Equality Data Improvement Programme Project Board: terms of reference - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Equality-Data-Improvement-Programme-Project-Board-terms-of-reference). In addition to Roger's work we are reviewing the guidance for public bodies on the other protected characteristics.

I hope this is useful and happy to provide further information or discuss.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 02 August 2021 12:26

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

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

[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: Equality data collection in the Scottish Public Sector

Hi [redacted],

[redacted] and [redacted] are you able to comment on [redacted] first point?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

Sent: 02 August 2021 12:20

To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Equality data collection in the Scottish Public Sector

Thanks [redacted]

I suppose I am just quite interested in how all these work streams come together and how anything from this work might feature or be visible through Roger's guidance on sex and gender data and the associated training and support for public bodies.

Thanks

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 02 August 2021 11:04

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

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

Subject: Equality data collection in the Scottish Public Sector

Hi [redacted],

I am sorry that due to leave it has taken so long to come back to you.

When we spoke about sex and gender in SSCQ you highlighted the [Understanding equality data collection in the Scottish public sector report](#) and asked how the findings are being taken forward in the public sector.

I have checked with my colleagues [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] who led on this and the work has moved in to a second phase, developing more in-depth case studies from a smaller selection of the public sector orgs.

SG have commissioned the production of a small number of case studies to showcase good practice in equality data collection in the public sector, based on findings from the recently concluded [Public sector – understanding equality data collection](#) commission. It is anticipated that the final case studies will be published by the end of October 2021.

As part of the EDIP they plan to share these ideas for good practice widely amongst public sector orgs.

Please let us know if you have any follow on questions.

All the best,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 September 2021 14:22

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@sasa.gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
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[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: FW: Guidance for public bodies on collecting data on sex and gender published

For info

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 22 September 2021 14:20

To: All Statisticians <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: Guidance for public bodies on collecting data on sex and gender published

Hello all,

The Chief Statistician has today published guidance for public bodies on the collection of data on sex and gender.

Links to the guidance and associated documents are available via the following links:

- [Guidance](#)
- [Equality Impact Assessment](#)
- [Data Protection Impact Assessments](#)
- [Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment - Stage 1](#)
- [Children's Rights and Wellbeing Impact Assessment - Stage 2](#)
- [Analysis of consultation responses](#)
- [Published consultation responses](#)

A blog post has also been published [here](#).

If you have any questions on the guidance please get in touch.

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] Scottish Government | Office of the Chief Statistician

[redacted] [redacted]@gov.scot

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 23 September 2021 13:01

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

Subject: SSCQ 2022

Dear all,

Please find attached a summary of the core question changes for 2022.

01 - Core Questions for 2022 (A34744548) [FOI note – document included below]

More background is also available in the paper we sent to Roger for approval a couple of weeks ago.

SSCQ core questions for 2022 data collection (A34530222) [FOI note – document included below]

Happy to discuss at 3 surveys.

Thanks,

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

Scottish Surveys core and harmonised questions for 2022

[redacted]

Change in wording

Gender

We should now questions on sex and trans status as per the [published guidance for public bodies on the collection of data on sex and gender](#) (page 15 and 16)

[redacted]

Proposed approach for SSCQ core questions in the 2022 data collection

[redacted]

Sex and Gender

Currently the sex and gender question is asked differently across the 3 household surveys;

- SHS
 - For each member of the household; How would you describe your gender identity / how would you describe the gender identity of {name}?
 - 1. Man/boy
 - 2. Women/girl
 - 3. In another way
- Scottish Crime and Justice Survey (SCJS)

INTERVIEWER: ASK IF NECESSARY OR AUTO-CODE.

- Are male or female?

1 Male

2 Female

- SHeS
 - Main interview:

Interviewer, ask if necessary: (Is name of household member),

- are you male or female?

1 Male

2 Female

- Self-completion module:

- How would you describe your gender identity?
- 1. Man/boy
- 2. Women/girl
- 3. In another way

- This divergence arose after a review of SHS in 2018 suggested a change to the wording for this survey. This was implemented on the advice of the equalities unit and their liaisons with equality stakeholders. All email correspondence relating to development of the question that we have on record has been released in response to a recent FOI request.
- SHeS and SCJS had specific concerns around moving to a gender identity question rather than a sex question – e.g. there is a need for data on biological sex for health specific considerations and also for sex based crime reporting. Therefore these surveys continued to ask a binary sex question (although SHeS also asks about gender identity in the self-completion module)
- Further background is available here;
[FOI note – background document included below]

- During a recent review by OSR we committed to re-harmonising the data collected on sex and gender in the three household surveys and to implementing the guidance from the sex and gender working group at the earliest possible point after it is finalised.
- The census wording will include 2 questions;
 1. What is your sex?
 - Female
 - Male
 2. Do you consider yourself to be trans or have a trans history?
 - No
 - Yes, please describe your trans status (for example non-binary, trans man, trans woman)
- Until the guidance is published we assume the working group guidance will align with the census.

[redacted]

Timelines for sign off for 2022 questions

- SHes:
 - o Mainstage questionnaire content signed off – 5 November.
- SHS
 - o First indication of scope of changes in early September, and final spec in late September/early October
- SCJS
 - o 21/22 questionnaire finalised - 24th September

Sex and Gender in Household Surveys

Questions from OSR and suggested responses

1. Why the Gender questions differ between the 3 surveys

- We agree this is not ideal and we acknowledge the inconsistencies.
- The change to the SHS wording arose as part of a question review in 2018 and based on advice from the equality unit. The Equality Unit regularly liaises with key external equality stakeholders, to maintain expertise on current issues and terminology in a high profile and fast moving area. [redacted] also engaged with the Family Law team, mainly for ethical and legal considerations. All email correspondence relating to development of the question that we have on record will be released in response to a recent FOI request.
- Inclusivity and respondent need was a key driver for the change. The rationale was that, if a binary question is asked, then people who identify as neither a man nor a woman have nowhere they can accurately and honestly respond. Note that the development work by NRS for the next Census also identified respondent need for a non-binary question.
- Cognitive testing was performed for the changed question which returned positive results

[FOI note – cognitive testing document included above]

- SHeS and SCJS had specific concerns around moving to a gender identity question rather than a sex question – e.g. there is a need for data on biological sex for health specific considerations and also for sex based crime reporting.
- We are committed to re-harmonising the data collected on sex and gender in the three household surveys and will implement the guidance from the sex and gender working group as soon as this is finalised.

2. Why we ask about gender rather than sex which is a protected characteristic

- SCJS and SHeS do ask about sex. SHS asks about gender for the reasons laid out in [redacted] response and the published FOI.

3. What is the governance on decisions around the core questions

- The core questions are managed by the office of the chief statistician led by Roger Halliday
- The equalities unit will provide guidance and advice on questions relating to equality groupings

- We are in the process of setting up a more formal governance process for survey strategy and core questions. This is likely to consist of a working group chaired by the chief statistician and the chief researcher with a panel of experts.

4. How will be implement the new guidance from the sex and gender working group

- This guidance will be implemented at the earliest possible point after publication. If there is a delay to changes being made due to timelines for questionnaires needing to be agreed then we will communicate this to users and will use the guidance to inform how data is communicated.

Summary of current situation

Questions used

- **SHS**
 - For each member of the household; How would you describe your gender identity / how would you describe the gender identity of {name}?
 1. Man/boy
 2. Women/girl
 3. In another way
- **SCJS**
 - INTERVIEWER: ASK IF NECESSARY OR AUTO-CODE. Are male or female? 1 Male 2 Female
- **SHeS**
 - **Main interview:**
Interviewer, ask if necessary: (Is name of household member), are you male or female? 1 Male 2 Female
 - **Self-completion module:**
How would you describe your gender identity?
 1. Man/boy
 2. Women/girl
 3. In another way

Combining in the core

- Male/Man/boy responses from different questions combined
- Female/women/girl responses from different questions combined
- Responses from the self-completion module in SHeS not used

- Those responding ‘in another way’ in SHS randomly allocated to male/female category for weighting purposes. For reporting these individuals are separated out and reported on as a separate category (although numbers so low that disclosure control applied).
- The following wording is used to describe how we present data on gender

In some surveys forming part of the SSCQ, respondents were asked a non-binary question on gender, with the option to report "Male", "Female" or "In Another Way". The handling of this within SSCQ is explained below.

The calibration of weights in SSCQ is to the national statistics of NRS Population Estimates for 2019. These estimates are presented split by Male and Female and do not disaggregate or present estimates for "In Another Way". Therefore during the weighting process, adults who reported "In Another Way" were randomly assigned to Male or Female to allow for the calibration to take place and for their data to contribute to the population totals.

When reporting estimates, all three categories for gender have been reported. Due to the small number of people reporting this "In Another Way", estimates for this group have been redacted for disclosure control reasons as well as due to the lack of statistical robustness of estimates based on small group sample sizes. In order to preserve disclosure of individuals reporting "In Another Way", estimates presented for "Male" and "Female" have been rounded to a lower level of accuracy in order to prevent disclosure from calculations based on "Male" and "Female" and the comparison to combined estimates.

Questions from draft guidance

Interviewer led (Face to face/phone) interview – Sex

Question wording	What is your sex? Or “what is the sex of (<i>name of respondent</i>)?” when responding for another person
Question responses	1. Female 2. Male 3. Prefer not to say To not include in the question, but to code 9. Not known
Question guidance	This will align the guidance for Scotland’s Census 2022 [to be confirmed]. The value “Not known” indicates that sex has not been recorded. This covers the sex of an unborn child, when someone has refused to answer the question or when the question has not been asked.

Interviewer led (Face to face/phone) interview – trans status

Question wording	Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?
-------------------------	--

Question responses	<p>1. No 2. Yes 3. Prefer not to say</p> <p>To not include in the question, but to code 9. Not known</p>
Question guidance	<p>Here we use trans is as a term used to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth.</p> <p>To only be asked for people aged 16 or over</p> <p>Ideally present a show card with options 1-3. Otherwise read out options 1-3.</p> <p>Responding with the answer 2-Yes opens the question on trans status description</p> <p>The value “Not known” indicates that trans status has not been recorded. This covers when someone has refused to answer the question or when the question has not been asked.</p>

Full draft guidance and background submissions

[redacted][FOI note – submission documents included below]

Background

- SHS FOI

[Information regarding “gender identity” question in Scottish Household survey: FOI release - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot)

- Non-redacted copy of email chain discussing the change
[redacted]

From: Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Digital Directorate
18 June 2021

Executive Team

Sex and Gender in Data – progress update

Purpose

1. To provide an update about the sex and gender in data Working Group, and progress made to develop guidance for public bodies on the collection and reporting of sex and gender data.
2. To share with you a revised version of guidance before a recommendation is put to Ministers.

Priority

3. Routine. For consideration.

Background

4. As you will be aware, the topic of how data about a person's sex and their gender is collected has come under increasing scrutiny over the past year or two. In part this has been driven by work on the UK Censuses to develop their questions on sex and gender identity/trans status/history, as well proposals to reform the Gender Recognition process in Scotland, and more recently, interest from the Office for Statistics Regulation on sex and gender identity data in official statistics.
5. Public bodies across Scotland, as well as parts of the Scottish Government are increasingly looking at how they collect information about sex and gender, and are seeking advice on what is considered best practice. Therefore, my focus has remained on developing and finalising guidance that can be used to support these considerations and decisions.

Update - Consultation

6. In my previous update in September 2020, I shared a draft copy of the guidance and outlined the next steps for sharing the draft with external stakeholders for their feedback and comments.
7. In December 2020 a copy of the draft guidance was shared with external stakeholders (key stakeholders and members of the public who had attended one of the public events that were held in February 2020) as well as published on the working group's gov.scot page. Between then and February 2021 people were invited to share their feedback and comments on the draft.

8. The consultation received a total of 76 responses; 56 from individuals, 9 from academics and 11 from organisations. These were analysed by Office of the Chief Statistician, and an initial analysis report was produced for use by the Working Group to develop the draft guidance. The intention is to publish consultation responses and analysis in due course.
9. Overall, there was a broad degree of support for the proposals, that organisations should collect data based on their needs; that it is important to have data on men and women; and that an intersectional approach that allows for a greater understanding of how inequality and discrimination affects groups with different characteristics is valuable.
10. Whilst these high-level proposals were welcome several issues were highlighted around definitions and conflation of terms, potential impacts on data quality and consistency, and concerns about collecting data about men and women primarily on the basis of gender identity rather than sex.
11. The most common themes that emerged from the analysis of responses were:
 - **Sex.** The importance of collecting data on *both* sex and gender identity/the trans population so that the needs and experiences of different groups of people can be understood and measured. Failure to collect data on sex strongly highlighted as an issue.
 - **Definitions.** The difficulty of trying to strictly define the term sex, and concept of gender/gender identity when there is no single agreed definition in law and/or practice. Conflation of these terms in the draft guidance.
 - **Quality.** Potential impacts of the proposals in the draft guidance on data quality, reliability, consistency and harmonisation.
 - **Evidence.** The need for an evidence driven approach – to set out clearly the evidence on which the proposals in the guidance are based.
 - **What does the law say?** Legal framework and considerations linked to the collection of data on sex, in particular, where discussed in the draft guidance are unclear and in some parts potentially misleading.

Update – guidance

12. The sex and gender in data working group met for the first time in over a year at the end of April 2021, and the purpose of that meeting was to discuss the points raised during the consultation and how to develop the draft guidance accordingly. The above points were considered further with Working Group members in order to develop the draft guidance.
13. I have updated the draft guidance accordingly, to take into account the discussion I have had with working group members, as well as their written feedback and advice from Scottish Government legal and data protection colleagues.

14. The key changes made to the guidance have been to align the recommended questions for sex and trans status or history with the questions that will be asked in Scotland's Census 2022, and to remove the recommended question on gender identity.
15. This was in response to strong stakeholder feedback that it is important to collect data on sex (albeit there are differences of opinion on how this should be collected), and to have data on the trans population. It also means that there is a more harmonised approach to data collection across Scotland.
16. There has also been a focus on making sure the definitions used in the draft guidance are used consistently, and are explained in the context of the guidance (rather than being portrayed as official Scottish Government definitions, which is outside of the working group's scope). The messaging around expectations on public bodies to collect and use equality data generally has also been strengthened to reiterate to organisations the importance of this data in underpinning their day-to-day activities.

Sensitivities

17. Preparing this guidance is not straightforward. As you know, the conversation around sex and gender attracts strong views.
18. Whilst not in scope for this working group, the recommended sex question does not allow non-binary people (individuals who do not identify as being either male or female) to answer according to their lived reality. Some non-binary people will not view themselves as trans and will therefore not be captured in the trans history/status question either.
19. Based on the stakeholder feedback received, I have taken the decision to not include a recommended question on gender identity. This reflects, in part, my aim for harmonisation with Scotland's Census 2022, but also that the Office for Statistics Regulation are currently in the process of carrying out a compliance check on the Scottish Household Survey and the way it collects data on gender identity (using the gender identity question that was included in the previous version of the draft guidance, that was shared for external feedback).
20. My current thinking, now that the recommended questions in the guidance are aligned with the sex and voluntary trans status or history questions in Scotland's Census 2022, is to also align the guidance that accompany these questions with that in the Census. As you may be aware, Ministers are considering Scotland's Census sex question guidance in light of the successful legal challenge brought by Fair Play For Women to the sex question guidance in the England and Wales Census 2021 (i.e. to change it from a self-identified sex to a legal sex question). We are working with colleagues in National Records of Scotland (NRS) to ensure that our positions are aligned.

21. I do not plan to share a final version of guidance with Ministers until this has been resolved, and will not share with Public Bodies until NRS and Ministers are content.

Next steps

22. A final version of this guidance will be shared with Ministers with a note setting out my recommendations on how public bodies should be collecting, disaggregating and reporting data on sex and gender. Following that, I will write to public bodies in Scotland to share the Guidance and offer my support to help them implement my recommendations.

23. The guidance will also be published on the gov.scot website, alongside the consultation analysis and consultation responses.

Recommendation

24. You are invited to note this progress update.

25. If you have any comments that you would like to share, it would be helpful to have these by **Wednesday 23 June**.

ROGER HALLIDAY

Chief Statistician, Digital Directorate
18 June 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness

Director Digital
 Director Justice
 Director Local Government and Communities
 Gavin Henderson, Deputy Director, Civil Law and legal system
 Analytical Leadership Group
 Senior statisticians
 Working group members

Annex A: copy of revised guidance attached separately to email

From: Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician
Digital Directorate
30 June 2021

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Housing and Local Government

RECORDING OF SEX AND GENDER IN DATA – WORKING GROUP UPDATE

Purpose

To provide an update on the progress of the Working Group on sex and gender in data and the Chief Statistician's development of guidance for public bodies about how to collect data on sex and gender.

Priority

Routine.

Background

The topic of how data about a person's sex and their gender is collected has come under increasing scrutiny over recent years. In part this has been driven by work on the UK Censuses to develop their questions on sex and gender identity/trans status/history, as well proposals to reform the Gender Recognition process in Scotland, and more recently, interest from the Office for Statistics Regulation on sex and gender identity data in official statistics.

That is why in 2019, the then Cabinet Secretary for Social Security and Older People asked the Chief Statistician to set up a working group to look at the issues that had been raised around the collection and reporting of data on sex and gender.

Public bodies across Scotland, as well as the Scottish Government, are increasingly looking at how they collect information about sex and gender, and are seeking advice on what is considered best practice. Therefore, the Chief Statistician has remained focused on developing and finalising guidance that can be used to support these considerations and decisions.

Consultation

In December 2020 a version of draft guidance was shared with external stakeholders (key stakeholders and members of the public who had attended one of the public events that were held in February 2020) as well as published on the working group's gov.scot page. Between then and February 2021 people were invited to share their feedback and comments on the draft.

The draft guidance was developed in consultation with members of the working group, including colleagues from the Scottish Government (SG) Equality Unit, the Family Law Unit, National Records of Scotland (NRS) and representatives from the Equality and

Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and was brought together in a way that aimed to balance the views of different members, as well as the stakeholders who have been engaged during the course of the work.

This version of the draft guidance set out recommended questions for asking for information about a person's (legal) sex, gender identity and trans status/history either in a survey or on an administrative system, and emphasised that for the majority of data collections, where information on men and women is required, that a gender identity question should be used as a preference over asking about sex.

The consultation received a total of 76 responses; 56 from individuals, 9 from academics and 11 from organisations. These were analysed by Office of the Chief Statistician, and an initial analysis report was produced for use by the Working Group to develop the draft guidance. The intention is to publish consultation responses and analysis in due course.

Overall, there was a broad degree of support for the proposals, that organisations should collect data based on their needs; that it is important to have data on men and women; and that an intersectional approach to analysis which allows for a greater understanding of how inequality and discrimination affects groups with different characteristics is valuable.

Whilst these high-level proposals were welcomed several issues were highlighted around definitions and conflation of terms, potential impacts on data quality and consistency, and concerns about collecting data on men and women primarily on the basis of gender identity rather than sex.

Two of the most common themes that emerged from the analysis of responses were about:

- **Sex.** Stakeholders emphasised the importance of collecting data on both sex and gender identity/the trans population so that the needs and experiences of different groups of people can be understood and measured. Failure to collect data on sex at all strongly highlighted as an issue (though there were mixed views about how data on sex should be collected). This issue has attracted strong and often opposing views from stakeholders as to whether sex should be collected on biological, legal or self-identified sex.
- **Definitions.** Stakeholders highlighted the difficulty of trying to strictly define the term sex, and the concept of gender/gender identity within the guidance when there is no single agreed definition in law and/or practice. It was felt that these terms were conflated in the draft guidance.

Update

The sex and gender in data working group met for the first time in over a year at the end of April 2021, and the purpose of that meeting was to discuss the points raised during the consultation and how to develop the draft guidance accordingly. The above points were considered further with Working Group members in order to develop the draft guidance.

The key changes made to the guidance since then have been to align the recommended questions for sex and trans status/history with the questions that will be asked in Scotland's Census 2022, and to remove the recommended question on gender identity.

This was in response to the strong stakeholder feedback that it is important to collect data on sex, and to have data on the trans population. It also means that there is a more harmonised approach to data collection across Scotland.

There has also been a focus on making sure the definitions used in the draft guidance are used consistently, and are explained in the context of the guidance (rather than being portrayed as official Scottish Government definitions, which is outside of the working group's scope). The messaging around expectations on public bodies to collect and use equality data generally has also been strengthened to reiterate to organisations the importance of this data in underpinning their day-to-day activities.

Relationship with Scotland's Census 2022

Given the recommended questions in the guidance are now aligned with the sex and voluntary trans status/history questions in Scotland's Census 2022, the intention is to also align the guidance that accompany these questions with that in the Census.

As you will be aware, Ministers are considering Scotland's Census sex question guidance in light of the successful legal challenge brought by Fair Play For Women to the sex question guidance in the England and Wales Census 2021 (i.e. to change it from a self-identified sex to a legal sex question). We are working with colleagues in NRS with the intention of aligning our positions.

The Chief Statistician will update the guidance accordingly following a decision on the Census' sex question guidance, and will not share final guidance with Public Bodies until NRS and Ministers are content.

Recommendation

You are invited to:

- Note this update on developing guidance for public bodies on how to collect data on sex and gender;
- Note the intention to align the recommended questions in the guidance with the sex and trans status or history questions from Scotland's Census 2022, and their accompanying guidance which is pending decision.

Roger Halliday

Chief Statistician, Digital Directorate

30 June 2021

Copy List:	For Action	For Comments	For Information		
			Portfolio Interest	Constit Interest	General Awareness
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Covid Recovery			X		
Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture			X		
Minister for Equalities and Older People			X		

Director Digital
 Director Justice
 Director for Local Government and Communities
 Paul Lowe, Chief Executive National Records of Scotland
 Peter Whitehouse, Director of Statistical Services, National Records of Scotland
 [redacted], National Records of Scotland
 [redacted], Family Law Unit
 [redacted], Equality Unit
 [redacted], Equality Analysis
 [redacted], Office of the Chief Statistician
 [redacted], Office of the Chief Statistician

From: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 03 November 2021 08:12
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Scottish Government surveys co-ordination

Thanks [redacted], that all sounds very positive. I would be keen to be kept in the loop particularly on the last point about roles and oversight.

Thanks

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]

Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

You can access the **Code of Practice for Statistics** [here](#).

Important - Privacy Policy

We take great care to protect your personal information. To reflect changes to data protection law (GDPR), we have updated our [Privacy Policy](#) and would encourage you to take a moment to read it. Our Privacy Policy explains how we handle and protect your personal information, your legal rights and who to contact if you have any questions about how your personal information is being used.

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 November 2021 21:31
To: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: Scottish Government surveys co-ordination

Hi [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2021 13:55
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OSR catch up

Hi [redacted],

You are correct – interviewers are not expected to tell respondents that it is self-identified sex. If asked, interviewers can read out the census guidance. This says:

- If you are non-binary or you are not sure how to answer, you could use the sex registered on your official documents, such as your passport.
- If you are transgender the answer you give can be different from what is on your birth certificate.
- A voluntary question about trans status or history will follow. You can respond as non-binary in that question.

I appreciate this is might be a bit wordy and not exactly tailored to an interview setting, but maintains consistency of approach if people need to refer to guidance for other data collections.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 December 2021 11:11
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OSR catch up

Hi [redacted] and [redacted],

Are you able to give a steer on this?

Thanks,

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 December 2021 18:10
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: OSR catch up

The update to core questions for 2022 is attached and we will publish this online by end of January (just have a few website issues to resolve!). I have had previous discussions with [redacted] about this and I am happy to follow up with OSR if you think this would be useful.

Thanks,

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>

Sent: 08 December 2021 11:32

To: [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]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; McAlpine A (Alastair) <Alastair.McAlpine@gov.scot>; [redacted]@socialsecurity.gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@nrscotland.gov.uk>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>; Whitehouse P (Peter) <Peter.Whitehouse@nrscotland.gov.uk>; Wilson A (Amy) <Amy.Wilson@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: OSR catch up

Hi [redacted]

For info

I had a catch up meeting with the OSR. They asked a lot of questions about the Equality Data Improvement Programme and its alignment with the ONS inclusive taskforce work. I said things were progressing nicely. They also focussed on where things were with the sex and gender work. I mentioned that I'm receiving replies from public bodies in what they are doing differently in response to the sex/gender in data guidance. They asked in particular what the household surveys were doing. I was pretty vague. They reminded me that we continue to need good evidence about why change have been made to a specific survey questions, and this was a key message from their review of the 2021 census operations.

[redacted]

Roger

Cc: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>

Subject: OSR review of SHS

[redacted]

It was good to catch up on Friday, thanks for taking the time to meet with us. We discussed the timelines for the review of the SHS in light of correspondence between Roger and Ed earlier in the year. Currently we are aiming to undertake the desk research and meet with you again 10 March. The aim will be to publish outcomes, which will also tie in findings linked to our previous review on the gender identity question, in April.

Just for your information, we have recently had an FOI request where we will likely be sharing these plans as part of our response.

Thanks and please let me know if you have any questions.

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]

Website: [Office for Statistics Regulation](#) | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)

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From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2022 16:18
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ question review

Hi [redacted],

Happy for [redacted] to say that we intend to do a review. As we've discussed previously, covid has got in the way of this before now so see it as an important thing to ensure we do.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 February 2022 16:07
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: SSCQ question review

Hi [redacted],

[redacted] has been in touch as she has a meeting with [redacted] from OSR tomorrow about the SHS review and she was also interested in SSCQ. We had planned to do a review of the SSCQ questions for 2023 but before committing to this I wanted to check with you and [redacted].

I wasn't in post for the last review but it will involve asking stakeholders to make a case for questions to be included in SSCQ and then making a judgement on the value of these proposals bearing in mind space limitations (e.g. any new question would mean something else with a similar time demand needs to be taken out). The improvement service are likely to be a stakeholder with strong opinions here as they weren't very happy about us dropping the local satisfaction questions for 2022 (although it turned out they were only using SHS data anyway).

For background I have attached a paper we prepared laying out our proposed approach with links to the last review, email exchange with Roger approving approach and the final set of questions used for 2022.

Are you happy for [redacted] to say to OSR that there will be a review prior to the 2023 questions being agreed?

Thanks,

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 14 April 2022 13:33
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

[redacted]

It is great you are reflecting on our conversation. I'll maybe give you a call next week to share thoughts. Thanks for following up.

Have a happy Easter and I'll speak to you soon.

[redacted]On 14 April 2022 at 13:23:58 BST, [redacted]@gov.scot wrote:

Thanks

Thinking about this a bit more, I suppose that women's groups could still argue that they weren't specifically consulted on the proposed change to the gender question (to include a non-binary response option). My understanding is that the open consultation stage was asking people what changes they'd like to see made to the questionnaire, using the existing questionnaire as a starting point. So it makes sense that women's groups wouldn't have commented at this stage, if they were happy with the previous binary gender question.

I don't think it's standard practice for there then to be a subsequent open consultation stage where all the proposed changes are set out and comments invited on them. That might be the ideal way to do things, but I'm not sure how feasible it would be in terms of time and resources.

Currently, lead analysts have the opportunity to make tweaks to existing questions in between the full scale questionnaire reviews (although they're strongly discouraged from doing so, and made aware this will break the time series). The onus is on the lead analysts to make sure their stakeholders are supportive of any changes. But I doubt that this generally involves a fully open consultation for each and every question change.

If the expectation is that every question change should be subject to an open consultation, we'd need to make sure that lead analysts are aware of this.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2022 15:51
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

Brillinat

I can update to reflect

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]

Website: Office for Statistics Regulation | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | OSR LinkedIn

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 12 April 2022 15:06

To: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

Hi [redacted]

I've done a bit of digging, and the process for the SHS 2018-2021 questionnaire review is described in this report <https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/20180213004257/http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/16002/Publications/QuestReviewFullReport>

“The Scottish Government launched the SHS 2018-2021 Questionnaire Review in mid-January via the SHS website, with a closing date of 14th March 2017. The consultation was widely promoted in order to alert as many interested parties as possible. A combination of:

- direct emails to lead analysts and all known users of SHS data, including those who had responded to the SHS 2017 consultation ;
- issuing a ScotStat notice;
- placing information on the Scottish Household Survey website;
- ‘tweeting’ via the ScotStat Twitter account were used.

2122 individuals were contacted through SCOTSTAT and 88 organisations and/or individuals through Lead Analysts. 65 organisations responded to the consultation. Stakeholders were asked to contact the relevant lead analyst for the topics that they were interested in, and to complete a separate proforma (Annex 1) with their response on specific topics. These proformas were then sent directly to lead analysts for review and shared with the SHS team. Responses from stakeholders were also submitted via email in the form of exchanges with lead analysts. The questionnaire review was structured as ‘lead analyst led’ as the lead analysts for the different topic areas (e.g. housing, sport) know the policy and stakeholder use of ‘their’ SHS (and SSCQ) questions best. In other words, stakeholders were asked to send in views on their topics of interest so that the lead analysts could weigh up, with their policy colleagues, the relative merit of different questions from policy and stakeholder interests.”

[redacted]

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

Sent: 12 April 2022 13:45

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

I would quite like you to look at some draft text. It is very draft so just wanted to talk you through it.

[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]
Website: Office for Statistics Regulation | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | OSR LinkedIn

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 April 2022 13:33
To: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

Great, that works for me. Could you let me know what it is you want to discuss, please? That way I'll (hopefully!) be able to provide the info you need when we meet.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2022 13:31
To: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

I'm free between 2-3 if you are
[redacted] | Office for Statistics Regulation |
[redacted]
Website: Office for Statistics Regulation | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | OSR LinkedIn

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 12 April 2022 13:28
To: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>;
[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

Yes, no problem. Would sometime today or tomorrow suit?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 12 April 2022 13:27

To: [redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SHS/ OSR Review

Hi [redacted]

I don't suppose you might have 20/30 Mins for a chat?

Thanks

[redacted] Office for Statistics Regulation [redacted]
Website: Office for Statistics Regulation | Twitter: [@StatsRegulation](#) | OSR LinkedIn

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 03 May 2022 15:21

To: [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>

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

Subject: sex and gender questions in Scottish population surveys

[redacted]

You'd asked for confirmation of the questions that are currently in the field for the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, Scottish Health Survey and Scottish Household Survey. These are set out below.

All 3 surveys have changed to be in line with [the sex, gender identity and trans status data collection guidance](#).

Colleagues in Office of Chief Statistician will update [the Scottish surveys core and harmonised questions document](#) and send a ScotStat email to make users aware of the change.

[redacted]

SCOTTISH CRIME AND JUSTICE SURVEY

ASK ALL (single respondent answers on behalf of all household members, as part of household grid)

QDSEX What is <your / their> sex?

(INTERVIEWER: READ OUT QUESTION. DO NOT AUTOCODE.)

Male

Female

Prefer not to say

ONLY ASK FOR RESPONDENT (NOT OTHER MEMBERS OF HOUSEHOLD).

QDTRANS Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?

(IF NECESSARY: Trans is as a term used to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth)

No

Yes

IF Yes AT QDTRANS.

QDTRANSTAT If you would like to, please describe your trans status (for example non-binary, trans man, trans woman)

SCOTTISH HEALTH SURVEY

For SHeS, the sex question is asked as part of the household CAPI interview (with one person answering on behalf of everyone in the household). It is then asked again, followed by the trans questions, of each adult respondent as part of the self-completion. The reason for asking the sex question twice is that we need it as part of the household interview so that we get this information for everyone in the household, even those that don't take part, but it also makes sense to ask it directly of the individual prior to asking the trans question to allow self-expression.

CAPI

(One adult answers the questions for everyone in the household)

What is the sex of (*name of respondent*)?

- 1 Female
- 2 Male
- 3 Prefer not to say

Self-completion

(Asked of each adult)

Q29 What is your sex?

Female

Male

Prefer not to say

Q30 Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history? Tick ONE box only

No

Yes

Prefer not to say

Q31 If you would like to, please describe your trans status (for example non-binary, trans man, trans woman)

SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY

Household questionnaire (one respondent answers HA621 on behalf of self and all other household members, TRANSHH+TRANSDDESC on behalf of self only)

HA621 WHAT IS YOUR SEX? WHAT IS THE SEX OF {NAME}?

(Read out codes. Do not autocode)

(IF NECESSARY:

- If you are non-binary or you are not sure how to answer, you could use the sex registered on your official documents, such as your passport.*
- If you are transgender the answer you give can be different from what is on your birth certificate.*
- A voluntary question about trans status or history will follow. You can respond as non-binary in that question.)*

Female

Male

Prefer not to say

TRANSHH DO YOU CONSIDER YOURSELF TO BE TRANS, OR HAVE A TRANS HISTORY?

(Note to interviewer: Trans is a term used to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth.)

No

Yes

Prefer not to say

TRANSDESC (*Ask if TRANSHH=Yes*) IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO, PLEASE DESCRIBE YOUR TRANS STATUS (FOR EXAMPLE NON-BINARY, TRANS MAN, TRANS WOMAN)

Random adult questionnaire

If random adult is not the same person as the household questionnaire respondent, they are asked to respond to HA621, TRANSHH and TRANSDESC (if applicable), on behalf of self only

Annex B – Information related to part (2) of request

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 18 January 2022 08:29
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Imputation of Sex/Gender in surveys

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 16:42
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Thanks all for your input. I'll go ahead and confirm with the contractors that they should remove the auto-code instruction then.

[redacted] – maybe we can discuss how we deal with missing data when we know the extent of it further down the line?

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 13:49
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Hi all,

I also hadn't realised that autocode had been in the interviewer instructions. I thought that when we'd heard this might be happening, it was interviewers choosing not to ask the question, to save time etc.

I'd say we'd want interviewers asking the question of everyone, so if removing autocode helps that, then that would be fine?

On the imputing issue, this is a longstanding issue across all 3 surveys to do with weighting. This has happened recently with in another way, where we have randomly assigned to male/female in order to calibrate to NRS male/female numbers.

In past SHeS, I know they have been some missing ages for household members from the household matrix, where we have had to impute based on household relationships. E.g. daughter of a 50 year old, assume mothers age minus average age of birth .

In SCJS we have also had missing gender and age for respondents and HRP for SCJS and all household members for SSCQ, where we have imputed. I know ScotCen have done some of this imputation for us recently for the variables need in SCJS weighting, based on what we've done in the past. We've imputed for the SSCQ other household members - a quick look at SSCQ 2019 imputation suggests most of these were for children and we assumed random gender or if more than one child, 1 male 1 female etc. For adults if household relationship data is available, this was used. SCJS does not calibrate to household totals like SHes, SHS and SSCQ.

We should maybe review imputation of sex and change to true random assignment where missing? If we can't assign a male/female sex then the individual or household size wouldn't be correctly reflected in the calibration weights. Age feels less contentious.

Happy to discuss further,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 10:52
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Hi [redacted],

I hadn't considered this either, and must confess I wasn't aware that interviewers are autocoding sex currently.

I agree with [redacted] – autocoding is against the spirit of the guidance and I would be keen to avoid. Even a hidden autocode purely for weighting is something that doesn't feel right. I suggest that we run with the questions as is and assess based the missing data we have.

[redacted] – do you have thoughts on this?

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 09:48
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for raising this and not something I had considered. I am not sure I understand the logistics of how this would generally work. Would an interviewer often autocode based on other discussions (e.g. if somebody says they live with their wife and daughter they would fill in female in both case without explicitly asking)?

I am assuming suggesting interviewers should autocode would be against the spirit of the guidance although if the alternative is missing data when in the vast majority of cases the autocode would accurately reflect the situation this seems like a bigger impact on data quality. I am also aware that interviewers may not follow the guidance and autocode anyway.

[redacted]/[redacted] what would your suggestion on this be?

Thanks,

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 08:52
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Hi all

Hope you're keeping well.

We've been having a conversation with the contractors about the changes to the questionnaire, including the sex and gender questions, and [redacted] has come back with the email below.

I just wanted to check your thoughts on it, and whether this is something that has been considered?

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Sent: 28 September 2021 19:13
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Hi [redacted],

Just to flag that the current QDGEN has the interviewer instruction INTERVIEWER: ASK IF NECESSARY OR AUTO-CODE for the respondent. Removing the interviewer instruction and reference to male and female in the question wording may mean that we get missing data, in which case we have to impute data for male/female which is needed for weighting.

Can I just check that consideration of this been given by OCS who will be producing the weights?

Thanks, [redacted]

QDGEN ASK ALL.
INTERVIEWER: ASK IF NECESSARY OR AUTO-CODE. **Are <you / they> male or female?**

- 1 Male
- 2 Female

REF

From: [redacted]@gov.scot <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 September 2021 16:16
To: [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]@ipsos.com; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]@ipsos.com
Cc: [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot; [redacted]@gov.scot
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

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Thanks [redacted], that's my understanding of how the questions should be asked too.

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@ipsos.com>
Sent: 28 September 2021 14:44
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]@scotcen.org.uk; [redacted]<[redacted]@ipsos.com>; [redacted]@scotcen.org.uk; [redacted] <[redacted]@ipsos.com>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SCJS Year 6: Quest Development: Main Sections

Thanks.

So just to confirm, the sex question will be asked of all members of the household ('What is <your / their> sex?') but the trans questions will only be asked of the respondent (ethically we would not be allowed to ask this of other members of household). Does this sound ok?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 July 2021 12:38
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Timelines and agreeing core questions for 2022 surveys

Dear all,

We have been considering what should be included in the core for 2022 data collection and it would be useful to understand the timelines and deadlines others are working to.

- [redacted]/[redacted], [redacted] **and [redacted] would you be able to confirm your deadlines for drafting 2022 questions for SHeS, SCJS and SHS and then final sign off?**

We will also want to incorporate any changes to guidance collecting data for age, disability, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation as well as a new guidance note on trans status.

- [redacted] **and [redacted] – when are you expecting the refreshed guidance to be available?**

Following the guidance on sex/gender will also be important (and something OSR are interested in). My understanding is that the timelines for publication of this are still uncertain and dependent on factors out of OCS's control but hopefully this will be in time for 2022 questions.

[redacted]

Happy to discuss this or hear any thoughts/suggestions on this.

I would appreciate it if you could respond to the above points on timelines as soon as you know the answer.

Thanks,

[redacted]

| Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 13:17
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022

Hi [redacted]

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 12:40
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022

Hi all,

Thanks for all your comments.
[redacted] – the sex/gender issue – have I misunderstood here? Does this mean that if the SG guidance is not published in time for the surveys, we would shift the surveys to asking the 2 questions that the census use?

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 09:57
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022

Hi [redacted]

Apologies for not coming back yesterday – yes, we can say our guidance will mirror the census guidance.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 09:46
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022

Hi [redacted],

Thanks, this is very helpful to see. I've made just a small update to the timescales section at the end.

Best,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 07 September 2021 09:35
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 06 September 2021 16:25
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022

Hi [redacted],

This all looks fine from our perspective. ScotCen are aware that there will be some changes and I don't see any issues implementing once agreed.

[redacted]
Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 02 September 2021 17:19
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: SSCQ questions for 2022

Dear all,

I have pulled together a short paper on the suggested approach for the core questions in the 2022 surveys which I hope reflects the advice from the equalities unit.

I would like to send this to Roger for his approval (on the provision we will do a stakeholder review of which questions are included for 2023). In particular I would like his view on rotating out the local satisfaction questions and back in the mental wellbeing and confidence in police. In my view this is the right approach (until we can hold a full review) but it may result in some push back from the improvement service.

Could I ask you all to have a look over this and respond to me and [redacted] by the end of Monday if at all possible so we can hopefully get a response from Roger next week?

In particular;

- [redacted] – could you check this reflects your current guidance?
- Survey teams - Do you foresee any issues with implementing these changes and are the timescales I have included at the end correct?
- [redacted] – are we ok assuming for this purpose that the sex and gender guidance is likely to follow the census?

Thanks,

[redacted]

| Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>
Sent: 09 September 2021 16:25
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ questions for 2022 surveys

Hi [redacted]

All good here thanks + hope same is true for you. You asked for comments on proposals for the 2022 SSCQ questions.

I'm very happy with alignment across the surveys on protected characteristics questions being asked on the census. I assume there will be a bit of cognitive testing of these questions for the different survey modes that will be running in 2022?

[redacted]

Thanks for your work on developing these questions. Hope that's helpful.

Roger

Professor Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government
Interim CEO, Research Data Scotland
[redacted], e: roger.halliday@gov.scot tw: @ScotStat @HallidayRoger

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 08 September 2021 13:34
To: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: SSCQ questions for 2022 surveys

Hi Roger,

I hope all is well with you.

We have been preparing for our 2022 surveys and the questionnaire content that is required. As part of this, we have been looking at which questions/variables should be included in SSCQ 2022.

[redacted] has drafted a paper, in consultation with the survey teams and equalities ASD to explain our proposal and rationale in more detail.
SSCQ core questions for 2022 data collection (A34530222) [FOI note – document included above]

[redacted]

[redacted] has updated us on plans for the sex/gender guidance, but should it's release be delayed we may need to take a decision on what to include within the surveys.

It would be great to get your advice and thoughts on this approach/change, to allow us to prepare in line with the timescales at the end of the paper.

Thanks and happy to discuss, if required.

[redacted]

**Office of the Chief Statistician | Statistics and Data Access Division
Scottish Government**

[redacted]

From: [redacted]) <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 09:49
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Thanks for this [redacted] and [redacted]. I am happy with this response.

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 09:32
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Thanks [redacted],

I've added some lines in red at the end.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 09:06
To: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Hi all,

Thanks everyone for your advice and input. I've drafted a response below and would be grateful for any edits and suggestions. Once we're happy I'd be happy to send the reply or let [redacted] reply on the chain.

I've left a space at the end for [redacted]/**Roger**/[redacted]/[redacted] to add anything extra on how the guidance has been developed/latest position etc. to reflect any other conversations you may have had with [redacted]/other stakeholders previously.

Looking at the questionnaire wording, I'm wondering if [redacted]/others may prefer the non-binary option to be made available to everyone, regardless of trans status – I imagine has already been considered?

Thanks,
[redacted]

Dear [redacted],

Thanks for your email. We're really pleased to see the consultation being picked up.

You have raised a good point for clarification and I'll do my best to do that here.

The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey is one of three surveys contributing to the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) – an annual publication pooling together results from the three surveys to offer a larger sample size, enabling more precise and granular breakdowns by equality groups and at sub-national geographies. To pool results in this way question wording must be harmonised and therefore all three surveys must ask the same question(s).

As you recognise until now the three surveys have been asking different questions on sex and gender. All three surveys will now be asking the following three questions – where respondents will have the opportunity to tell us if they identify as non-binary, or how they identify, in their own words:

ONE. Question wording

What is your sex?

Question response

1. Female 2. Male 3. Prefer not to say To not include in the question, but to code 9. Not known

Question guidance

This aligns with the guidance for Scotland's Census 2022¹⁹ with the exception that the respondent may state that they would prefer not to answer the question.

TWO. Question wording

Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?

Question responses

1. No 2. Yes 3. Prefer not to say To not include in the question, but to code 9. Not known

Question guidance

Here we use trans as a term used to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth.

THREE. Question wording – trans status description

For those who respond to the trans status question "yes": If you would like to, please describe your trans status (**for example non-binary**, trans man, trans woman):

Question responses

This is an open text response 8. Prefer not to say 9. Not Applicable

These question and supporting information are available in the [latest guidance](#) published on the 22nd September.

You'll be aware that given the differing views in this space, it was not likely nor feasible to have unanimous agreement among stakeholders in the development of the Chief Statistician guidance. The final guidance evolved to best meet the needs of those with different interests. The questions and guidance align with those used in Scotland's Census 2022. An advantage of this is that the questions were tested and understood by respondents through the development process of Census 2022.

Best wishes,
[redacted]

From: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 16:02

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Sounds good – thanks for confirming [redacted].

Roger

Professor Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government
Interim CEO, Research Data Scotland
[redacted], e: roger.halliday@gov.scot tw: @ScotStat @HallidayRoger

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 15:09

To: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Hi Roger,

Yes both questions will be included across all three surveys as per the guidance. In some cases there may be a sex question at the start to allow routing (e.g. for the health survey to allow questions on pregnancy etc.) and then the trans status question will be asked in the self-completion module.

Thanks,

[redacted]

| Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 15:05

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Thanks for copying me in [redacted]. Completely agree with [redacted]: as well as a binary sex question, there is a trans status question that allows people to define their status (inc non-binary). I assume that both sex and trans status questions will be included across the surveys?

Roger

Professor Roger Halliday
Chief Statistician, Scottish Government
Interim CEO, Research Data Scotland
[redacted], e: roger.halliday@gov.scot tw: @ScotStat @HallidayRoger

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 14:56

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]
<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; Halliday R (Roger) <Roger.Halliday@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Given [redacted] and [redacted] are on leave today cc'd in Roger Halliday for any contribution.

Thanks,

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 11:16

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

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

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

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Also to note that the numbers in the SHS are considerably lower than the 0.2% [redacted] has suggested:

Adults

Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Man/Boy	47.93 %	47.95 %	48.02 %	48.06 %	48.10 %	48.10 %	48.13 %	48.13 %
Woman/Girl	52.07 %	52.05 %	51.98 %	51.94 %	51.90 %	51.90 %	51.84 %	51.81 %
In another way	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.01%	0.04%
Refused	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.02%	0.02%
All	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Sample size	9,890	9,920	9,800	9,410	9,640	9,810	9,700	9,780

[redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 September 2021 11:12

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

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

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

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Thanks all

I'm sure [redacted] and colleagues will have lines on this, but my take on it is that the new trans question is where respondents have the opportunity to tell us if identify as non-binary:

Question wording

Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history?

Question responses

1. No 2. Yes 3. Prefer not to say To not include in the question, but to code 9. Not known

Question guidance

Here we use trans is as a term used to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth. To only be asked for people aged 16 or over Ideally present a show card with options 1-3. Otherwise read out options 1-3. Responding with the answer 2-Yes opens the question on trans status description The value "Not known" indicates that trans status has not been recorded. This covers when someone has refused to answer the question or when the question has not been asked.

Question wording – trans status description

For those who respond to the trans status question "yes": If you would like to, please describe your trans status (for example **non-binary**, trans man, trans woman):

Question responses

This is an open text response 8. Prefer not to say 9. Not Applicable

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 10:41

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

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

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

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Just to add that [redacted] and [redacted] both on leave today but will be back tomorrow

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]

Sent: 27 September 2021 10:38

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

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

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

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Hi all,

Thanks for bringing this to our attention. I would agree with [redacted] that we should have a joint response to this.

[redacted], [redacted] and [redacted] are the team who have been leading on the publication of the guidance and hopefully will have some lines already on why the decision was made to go with this wording for the guidance rather than a non-binary option. Can you advise on a response please?

Thanks,

[redacted]

| Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 10:28

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Hi All,

Just for information here is the paragraph in the Consultation that mentions the SSCQ.:

“The Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) is an annual Official Statistics publication. From January 2012 a set of 20 core questions have been asked in the Scottish Household Survey, the Scottish Health Survey and the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey. In addition, where two or more surveys ask questions on the same topic, wording has been harmonised. Results from the three surveys on the core questions are pooled together each year to offer a larger sample size, enabling more precise and granular breakdowns of results for equality groups and at sub-national geographies. It is anticipated that the SCJS’s function as one of the three core question surveys will not be affected by the re-procurement process.”

Neither gender nor sexual orientation are mentioned in the consultation.

Best Wishes

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 27 September 2021 10:20

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

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

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

Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Hi [redacted],

I also think there has been a bit of confusion on the wording in the SCJS consultation. Which as far as I'm aware just stated that SCJS will still remain part of the SSCQ going forward, rather than mentioning and SSCQ questions specifically.

The current plan for sex/gender is to move in line with the Chief Statistician's guidance.

As far as I'm aware SCJS hasn't asked a gender identity/ non-binary question to date. Please correct me if I'm wrong.

Copying in [redacted] and [redacted] also, so we can come up with a joint response across the teams to this.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 September 2021 10:14
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Thanks [redacted]. Just copying in [redacted] and [redacted], who are leading on the SCJS consultation.

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 27 September 2021 10:10
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

[redacted] / [redacted]

Please see the correspondence below from [redacted] - are you able to provide him with an update on your plans for this question?

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@equality-network.org>
Sent: 27 September 2021 09:19
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: Core questions in the household survey and new sex and gender guidance

Dear [redacted]and [redacted],

Hope that you're both keeping ok, and you are the right people to reach out to – please do let me know if I should be talking to colleagues instead!

I noticed that there is a consultation out on the Scottish Crime and Justice Survey:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/consultation-scottish-crime-justice-survey/>

I was pleased to see that it mentions that the core questions, including those on gender and sexual orientation, will not be changed. I wanted to confirm that this is the case following the publication of the Chief Statistician's guidance on sex/gender data, which we were very disappointed to see was no longer recommending that a non-binary option be provided in questions on sex/gender, despite this having been included in the original draft. We know that only a small number of respondents use this option (I believe that tables I saw recently had it at around 0.2% for the last couple of household surveys), but importantly, it seems that the question has been working well, that some people are using the option, and that this has had no impact on data quality or reporting on differences between men and women for these surveys.

We'd be really concerned and disappointed if there were to be a change to revert back to only providing male and female options, as this would be an unnecessary and unusual step back on LGBTI equality and inclusion, and would send the wrong message to non-binary people around the direction of travel of the Scottish Government on these issues. I'd welcome some reassurance that this won't be that case, and would be happy to discuss further by meeting if that would be helpful.

All the best,

[redacted]

[redacted]



Scottish Trans

30 Bernard Street

Edinburgh

EH6 6PR

Telephone: 0131 467 6039

www.scottishtrans.org



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Registered Scottish Charity: SC037852.
Company limited by guarantee: SC220213.

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 October 2021 16:07
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Thanks all for your input – I've replied with the following responses and will let you know if we receive any follow up.

[redacted]

– we have a few follow-up questions about implementing Roger's new sex and gender identity guidance for the SCSJ. I meant to ask these on Monday!

- Will you be introducing a new gender identity / trans status question in addition to updating the sex question? If yes, will that be included in the 2021/22 questionnaire? If no, what's the rationale for not including the question? Will the 2023/24 questionnaire include a gender identity / trans status question?
Yes, from 2021/22 (November) we will ask questions on sex and trans status as per the [published guidance for public bodies on the collection of data on sex and gender](#) (page 15 and 16).
- You mentioned that the contractor(s) highlighted the challenge of how to handle the 'Prefer not to say' data for the revised sex question. Is that linked to weighting the data (due to the addition of a new category)? **Yes, the challenge with having a 'prefer not to say' category is that the sex of respondents is used in our weighting processes in order to calibrate the weights to the population size. National Records of Scotland (NRS) currently produce mid-year population estimates split by Male and Female. Our current proposal is to randomly assign male or female gender to those who have responded 'prefer not to say' for weighting purposes, however we will wait and see the extent of the issue before making a final decision. We are aware, via the Cross-Government Survey Group, that ONS are seeking to do research into this issue in order to inform their surveys and we would be interested in taking a consistent approach, if this was possible.**

- How are decisions made about updating survey questions – is that done by your team in discussion with Ipsos MORI and ScotCen? Questions on sex and gender now come under the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) and are therefore determined by the Office of the Chief Statistician in consultation, in this case with the Sex and Gender in Data Working Group. More widely, we regularly review and update the SCJS questionnaire. At the lowest level (e.g. correcting typos, deleting duplicated categories) this is done in discussion with Ipsos MORI and ScotCen. When planning substantive questionnaire development (e.g. introducing new modules) we engage users and stakeholders, and decisions cleared by the SCJS Project Board.
- Is there any coordination happening across the three household surveys (SJCS, SHS, SHeS) on implementing the new guidance / updating questions? As above. There are also plans to alert stakeholders to the change in the questions across the three major SG household surveys, explaining that this will bring them in line and how it will impact on the SSCQ data.
- Have any users or stakeholders contacted you about the impact of the guidance on the survey? The SG has been contacted by stakeholder groups in relation to the new guidance and specifically the SSCQ. For example, in relation to identifying as non-binary. The non-binary working group will be reflecting on the guidance however, given the differing views in this space, OCS accept it was not likely nor feasible to have unanimous agreement among stakeholders in the development of the Chief Statistician guidance. The final guidance evolved to best meet the needs of those with different interests and the questions and guidance align with those used in Scotland's Census 2022. An advantage of this is that the questions were tested and understood by respondents through the development process of Census 2022.

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 21 October 2021 12:16

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>

Subject: RE: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Hi [redacted],

This sounds good - I've just added some additional wording below in blue. Not sure if we should be calling this question sex or gender though?

For reference to everyone – ONS were in touch with the Cross Government Surveys Group about this issue and clearly we'd look at reflecting any guidance they had or learning from across the government survey community. Attached is the email.

Thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 October 2021 10:59
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Hi [redacted]

I've drafted a response to OSR's question below.

[redacted], please can you confirm that you think what I've said is accurate?

- You mentioned that the contractor(s) highlighted the challenge of how to handle the 'Prefer not to say' data for the revised sex question. Is that linked to weighting the data (due to the addition of a new category)? **Yes, the challenge with having a 'prefer not to say' category is that the gender (sex?) of respondents is used in our weighting processes in order to calibrate the weights to the population size.** National Records of Scotland (NRS) currently produce mid-year population estimates split by Male and Female. **Our current proposal is to randomly assign male or female gender to those who have responded 'prefer not to say' for weighting purposes, however we will wait and see the extent of the issue before making a final decision.** We are aware, via the Cross-Government Survey Group, that ONS are seeking to do research into this issue in order to inform their surveys and we would be interested in taking a consistent approach, if this was possible.

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 21 October 2021 10:32
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for sharing this. I have a meeting with OCR next week on the same topic.

One of the things I was going to raise at the 3 surveys meeting this afternoon was agreeing an approach for handling the “Prefer not to say” option in terms of reporting. For SHeS, almost all of our published analysis is currently presented for males, females and all adults so this is something we need to be clear on.

Thanks

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 20 October 2021 17:28
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Hi all,

JAS met with OSR earlier this week on a range of things, including the SCJS and the latest guidance on sex and gender.

OSR have some follow ups questions I have started answering below and would be grateful for any additions or updates.

[redacted] – there’s a question on handling ‘Prefer not to say’ data I would be grateful for your help with

[redacted]/[redacted] – any comments welcome in general and in particular on the final question re. user feedback

Many thanks,
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 20 October 2021 16:30
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Subject: RE: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for [redacted] and [redacted] contact details and the link to the hate crime report.

[redacted]— we have a few follow-up questions about implementing Roger's new sex and gender identity guidance for the SCSJ. I meant to ask these on Monday!

- Will you be introducing a new gender identity / trans status question in addition to updating the sex question? If yes, will that be included in the 2021/22 questionnaire? If no, what's the rationale for not including the question? Will the 2023/24 questionnaire include a gender identity / trans status question?
Yes – from 2021/22 (November) we will ask questions on sex and trans status as per the [published guidance for public bodies on the collection of data on sex and gender](#) (page 15 and 16).
- You mentioned that the contractor(s) highlighted the challenge of how to handle the 'Prefer not to say' data for the revised sex question. Is that linked to weighting the data (due to the addition of a new category)? [redacted] **– grateful if you can provide an answer here**
- How are decisions made about updating survey questions – is that done by your team in discussion with Ipsos MORI and ScotCen?
Questions on sex and gender now come under the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) and are therefore determined by the Office of the Chief Statistician in consultation, in this case with the Sex and Gender in Data Working Group.
More widely, we regularly review and update the questionnaire. At the lowest level (e.g. correcting typos, deleting duplicated categories) this is done in discussion with Ipsos MORI and ScotCen. At the highest level (e.g. substantive questionnaire development, introducing new modules) users and stakeholders will be consulted and decisions cleared by the SCJS Project Board. For example, please see the following [update](#).
- Is there any coordination happening across the three household surveys (SJCS, SHS, SHeS) on implementing the new guidance / updating questions? **As above. There are also plans to alert stakeholders to the change in the questions across all three surveys, explaining that this will bring them all in line and how it will impact on the SSCQ data.**
- Have any users or stakeholders contacted you about the impact of the guidance on the survey? [redacted]/[redacted] **– what can we say here? As you know we were contacted by the Equality Network – do you know the outcome of the call arranged with Roger?**

Thanks in advance.

[redacted]

Office for Statistics Regulation | [@StatsRegulation](#) | [OSR LinkedIn](#)
[redacted] | [Office for Statistics Regulation](#)

[redacted]

From: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>

Sent: 19 October 2021 13:44

To: [redacted]<[redacted]@statistics.gov.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>

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

Subject: Contact and Hate Crime Report link

Hi [redacted], [redacted]

Thanks again for the catch up yesterday.

Here are [redacted] and [redacted] emails in Police Scotland;

[redacted]

And here's a link to the hate crime analysis we published in February, follow up report for 2020/21 due next year.

[Characteristics of police recorded hate crime in Scotland: study - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

I'll send a separate calendar request for the next catch up.

Cheers

[redacted] Justice Analytical Services

[redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 05 November 2021 08:08
To: [redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk' <[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Sex, gender identity, trans status - data collection and publication: guidance

Hi [redacted],

Apologies for the delay in responding to your email. We do pick up emails to the sscq@gov.scot address, but contacting me or [redacted] directly, is likely to get a quicker response.

Please find answers to your questions below. I know the 3 surveys (Scottish Crime and Justice Survey, Scottish Health Survey and Scottish Household Survey) are having meeting with colleagues of yours along similar lines, therefore if you are unaware of these, [redacted] may be able to provide more information.

Also happy to follow up on these via a call, if you think this would be helpful.

Thanks,
[redacted]
Office of the Chief Statistician | Statistics and Data Access Division
Scottish Government

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@Statistics.gov.uk>
Sent: 25 October 2021 17:07
To: SSCQ Project Team <SSCQ@gov.scot>
Subject: Sex, gender identity, trans status - data collection and publication: guidance

Good evening,

I work at the Office for Statistics Regulation where we have some ongoing work on the recording of sex and gender in government statistics and I was hoping you could answer a few questions. These mostly relate to the [new guidance](#) published by the Chief Statistician in Scotland. We were interested in:

- What impact the guidance has had on your work

The Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQ) combines answers from 3 surveys. In 2022, all 3 surveys will ask the proposed questions on sex and trans status in [the published guidance for public bodies on the collection of data on sex and gender](#). These questions therefore will be combined into the responses for SSCQ 2022 data. We would publish the data for sex and will explore the possibility of publishing output from the trans status question, as we are aware that stakeholders are very interested in the data. The SSCQ will have a larger sample size to work with

rather than individual single surveys, hopefully allowing more meaningful analysis and less disclosure issues.

- Whether there has been any issues with your publication as a result

This will mean a shift in questions used for SSCQ 2022 as opposed to SSCQ 2021. We wouldn't expect this to cause a major shift in timeseries due to low numbers of people reporting different gender identity to sex.

There is an additional challenge with weighting. The challenge with having a 'prefer not to say' category is that the sex of respondents is used in our weighting processes in order to calibrate the weights to the population size. National Records of Scotland (NRS) currently produce mid-year population estimates split by Male and Female. Our current proposal is to randomly assign male or female gender to those who have responded 'prefer not to say' for weighting purposes, however we will wait and see the extent of the issue before making a final decision. We are aware, via the Cross-Government Survey Group, that ONS are seeking to do research into this issue in order to inform their surveys and we would be interested in taking a consistent approach, if this was possible.

- What communications, support or guidance you will be producing for users in relation to any impact

There are plans to alert stakeholders to the change in the questions across the three major SG household surveys, explaining that this will bring them in line and how it will impact on the SSCQ data via the SG website.

- Whether you see the introduction of the guidance as an opportunity to align the questions in the 3 surveys from which you draw

Yes, the same questions on sex and trans status will be asked in the 3 surveys.

I would also be interested in how you engage with the 3 teams that produce the surveys from which you draw your data e.g. how often and by what means. In relation to your own output I was also hoping to find out about the calculation of "in another way" results for gender; from your report I understood that you calculate but do not publish these? If that is the case, is there a weighting used in the calculation?

We meet as a 3 survey group via videocall every fortnight to discuss issues which are affecting all surveys and where we can learn from each other and align decisions. We also meet roughly quarterly across the wider SG survey group, currently also via videocall.

In the 2019 SSCQ dataset, if someone responded "In Another Way" to the SHS, then they are included in the analysis as "In Another Way". The data has been weighted to mid-year population estimates produced by NRS. As mentioned above, this is an issue as these are reported split by Male/Female. During the SHS weighting process individuals reporting "In Another Way" are randomly assigned to Male or Female for the purposes of weighting. These random assignments are retained during the

SSCQ weighting process. An explanation of this was presented to users in the [SSCQ technical report](#) Section 1.5. The numbers and estimates for those who reported “In Another Way” are all redacted due to the small responses, but would be published if figures were larger.

More than happy to have a conversation about the above if preferred and apologies if this is not the correct/best email address, if so please let me know.

Best regards

[redacted]

|Office for Statistics Regulation

[redacted] | [redacted]@statistics.gov.uk | Website: [Office for Statistics](#)

[Regulation](#)

UK Statistics Authority | Awdurdod Ystadegau'r Deyrnas Unedig |

[@UKStatsAuth](#)

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From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 13 January 2022 14:24
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: FW: SSCQ 2022

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 September 2021 12:07
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

Hi [redacted],

[redacted] I would also agree that if there aren't specific reasons to not have the sex and trans question together in the main survey (as it seems there are for SHeS) we should aim for the largest sample size.

Thanks,

[redacted]

| Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 September 2021 10:07
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

Thanks both.

[redacted] – our contractors didn't want to put the sex and gender questions in self-complete section as there's a smaller sample that choose to answer that section but if it's the place that makes most sense for you then maybe that's ok? I'm not sure what I would do if I was you, sorry!

[redacted]

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 30 September 2021 09:23
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;

[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

Hi [redacted],

We're still considering the best placement for the sex and trans questions within SHeS. The sex question is currently answered by the person answering the household questions. This allows us to get the sex of everyone in the household, including those who don't take part which is important as this feeds into the non-response weighting. But it doesn't make sense to have the trans question directly afterwards as this should be answered by the individual directly.

We are wondering whether we need to also include the sex question in the self-comp before the trans question to allow self-expression. That would obviously lead to some duplication and it's possible that individuals will answer in a different way to the household respondent so we'd need to decide what to do in terms of reporting.

If anyone has any thoughts that would be helpful.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 16:54
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

Hi [redacted]

My plan was to include both the trans and the veterans question in the random adult part of the survey. The trans question would come directly after the sex question.

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 29 September 2021 16:52
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

Hi all

We had a meeting with our contractors this afternoon and a couple of points were raised around the positioning of core questions and whether they should be consistent with the other surveys.

1. We are proposing to put the trans question directly after the sex question. I know SHeS said they were putting it in the self-completion section but to maximise response our contractors thought it best to have it in the main survey, and SHS don't have a self-complete survey so this wouldn't be consistent anyway. Is this ok?

[redacted]
Many thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 24 September 2021 14:32
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 23 September 2021 16:42
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: SSCQ 2022

[redacted]

[redacted] | Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]
Sent: 23 September 2021 13:01
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: SSCQ 2022

Dear all,

Please find attached a summary of the core question changes for 2022.

01 - Core Questions for 2022 (A34744548) [FOI note – document included above]

More background is also available in the paper we sent to Roger for approval a couple of weeks ago.

SSCQ core questions for 2022 data collection (A34530222) [FOI note – document included above]

Happy to discuss at 3 surveys.

Thanks,

[redacted]

| Office of the Chief Statistician | [redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Sent: 28 September 2021 15:04
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Subject: RE: Changes to core questions in SHeS 2022 mainstage

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for this, we'll incorporate these changes into the mainstage questionnaire ahead of sharing any drafts of that with you.

I've also attached the pilot questionnaire for reference.

Thanks
[redacted]

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From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 26 October 2021 14:44
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Subject: RE: Note of SG/ScotCen SHeS update- 19.10.21

Hi [redacted],

Thanks for sending the minutes.

In relation to the sex question I just wanted to confirm that in both the household questions and the self-complete module we'll need the three response options:

'Female'
'Male'
'Prefer not to say'

We're going to work with the other household surveys to work out how we'll deal with potential 'prefer not to say' responses.

Thanks
[redacted]

From: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Sent: 22 October 2021 14:35
To: [redacted] <[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Subject: Note of SG/ScotCen SHeS update- 19.10.21

Hi all,

Please find attached a minute of the SG and ScotCen SHeS update meeting on 19 October 2021.

Do let me know if I have missed anything and have a good weekend when it comes.

Best wishes
[redacted]

ScotCen - Social Research that works for society

[redacted]

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0131 240 0210

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From: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>
Sent: 28 September 2021 14:36
To: [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Cc: [redacted]<[redacted]@gov.scot>; [redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>;
[redacted]<[redacted]@scotcen.org.uk>
Subject: Changes to core questions in SHeS 2022 mainstage

Hi [redacted] and [redacted],

As discussed previously, there are changes we need to make to some of the core questions for SHeS 2022 mainstage following the publication of guidance from the equalities team and a review of the sex/gender identity questions by Roger Halliday, the Chief Statistician.

I have outlined the changes that we will need to make in the attached document. Please let me know if any of this isn't clear.

If you have it to hand can you please send me the CAPI questionnaire that is being used in the 2022 pilot for reference.

Thanks

[redacted]

Health and Social Care Analysis
COVID Public Health Directorate
Scottish Government

Changes to core questions in SHeS 2022

The following document outlines the changes that need to be made for mainstage SHeS 2022 to the [redacted] sex/gender questions.

Sex/Gender identity

Replace current sex question with:

Question wording	What is your sex? Or 'What is the sex of (name of respondent)?' when responding for another person.
Question responses	1. Female 2. Male 3. Prefer not to say To not include in question, but to code 9. Don't know
Question guidance:	This aligns with the guidance for Scotland's Census 2022 with the exception that the respondent may state that they would prefer not to answer the question. The value "Not known" indicates that sex has not been recorded. This covers the sex of an unborn child, when someone has refused to answer the question or when the question has not been asked.

Gender identity/trans

We will need to remove the gender identity question from the self-completes and replace it with the following 2 trans questions:

Question wording	Do you consider yourself to be trans, or have a trans history? Tick ONE box only
Question responses	1. No 2. Yes 3. Prefer not to say To not include in the question, but to code 9. Not known
Question guidance	Here we use trans as a term to describe people whose gender identity is not the same as their sex registered at birth. To only be asked for people aged 16 or over. The write-in box for the trans status description should be visible underneath the trans status question.

	The value “Not known” indicates that trans status has not been recorded. This covers when someone has refused to answer the question or when the question has not been asked.
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For those who respond to the trans status question “yes”

Question wording	If you would like to, please describe your trans status (for example non-binary, trans man, trans woman):
Question responses	This is an open text response 9. Not Applicable
Question guidance	The value “Not applicable” indicates that the trans status description question was not asked, ie the trans question has a response of 1,3 or 9.