

## FOI 202400436380 RESPONSE ANNEX A

**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]gov.scot

**Sent:** Friday, November 11, 2022 2:14 PM

**To:** Minister for Equalities and Older People <MinisterEOP@gov.scot>

**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

**Subject:** Routine - Universal Periodic Review: Interactive Dialogue update

P/S Minister for Equalities and Older People

### Universal Periodic Review – Interactive Dialogue update

1. The UK's Universal Periodic Review Interactive Dialogue session took place yesterday at the UN Human Rights Council headquarters in Geneva. During the session, the UK received around 330 recommendations from 115 UN member states, who also made comments on the human rights implications of specific areas of UK policy. These recommendations will be formally transcribed by the UN and provided to the UK in the coming weeks.

2. Recurring themes emerging from the recommendations and comments made by states during the session include:

- With relevance to reserved areas:
  - The Bill of Rights Bill and the future of the UK's status as a party to the ECHR;
  - UK migration policy;
  - Northern Ireland;
  - Outstanding UN treaty ratification (including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families).
- With relevance to devolved areas:
  - Non-discrimination and equality, including race equality, gender equality, disability equality, and LGBT equality;
  - Hate crime;
  - The right to a healthy environment.

3. The UK delegation provided official support to the UK Minister, who made a number of interventions during the session to respond to the comments and recommendations. A member of the Scottish Government's Human Rights Policy Team ([redacted S.38(1)(b)]) worked to ensure that positive examples of human rights progress in devolved areas were reflected appropriately during these interventions. Positive Scottish examples showcased accordingly during the session include:

- Gender equality in Scotland, including the role of the National Advisory Council on Women and Girls, women's political representation in Scotland, and legislation on equal representation on public boards, domestic abuse, and the free provision of period products;

- Action to tackle racialised health inequalities in Scotland;
- The Adult Disability Payment, the Young Carer Grant, the Scottish Child Payment (and its increase), and Whole Family Wellbeing Funding;
- The increase in the minimum age of criminal responsibility in Scotland;
- The Scottish Government’s Trafficking and Exploitation Strategy;
- The Scottish Government’s commitment to legislate to end conversion practices;
- Work on legal aid reform in Scotland;
- The ban on corporal punishment in Scotland;
- Measure to tackle bullying in Schools in Scotland;
- Legislation to incorporate the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots law subject to the limits of devolved competence.

4. The Scottish Government’s *Equally Safe and Ending Destitution Together* strategies were also proactively raised in comments by national delegations (Moldova and Ghana respectively) as positive examples of progress in the UK.

5. [Redacted S.30(b)(ii)]

### **Next steps**

6. [Redacted S.29(1)(a)]

7. You are invited to **note** the contents of this update.

Kind regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]



[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Redacted – out of scope]

## FOI 202400436380 RESPONSE ANNEX B

**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** 16 April 2024 14:22

**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot ; Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <DFMCSF@gov.scot>; DG Corporate <dgcorporate@gov.scot>; DG Communities <DGCommunities@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director for Local Government and Housing <DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot>; Ellen Leaver <Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Catriona MacKean <Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot>; Joe Brown <Joe.Brown@gov.scot>; Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** Minister for Housing <MinisterHousing@gov.scot>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <CabSecSJ@gov.scot>; Permanent Secretary <PermanentSecretary@gov.scot>; Callum McCaig <Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot>; David Hutchison <David.Hutchison@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** RE: Scottish Household Survey

The SG response was signed off by Ms Sommerville. See attached.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] is including lines in the SG Transparency FMQ brief.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:16 PM

**To:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>; DG Corporate <[dgcorporate@gov.scot](mailto:dgcorporate@gov.scot)>; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director for Local Government and Housing <[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; Ellen Leaver <[Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot](mailto:Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Catriona MacKean <[Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot](mailto:Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot)>; Joe Brown <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>; Communications DFM & Finance <[CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Cc:** Minister for Housing <[MinisterHousing@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterHousing@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <[CabSecSJ@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecSJ@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>; Callum McCaig <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: Scottish Household Survey

Copying in [redacted S.38(1)(b)] who leads on the SHS and [redacted S.38(1)(b)] who supports analysis of the data for this question.

Regards

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]  
Local Government & Analytical Services Division  
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]


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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot On Behalf Of Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:12 PM  
**To:** DG Corporate <[dgcorporate@gov.scot](mailto:dgcorporate@gov.scot)>; DG Communities <[DGCommunities@gov.scot](mailto:DGCommunities@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director for Local Government and Housing <[DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot](mailto:DirectorForLocalGovernmentandHousing@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Ellen Leaver <[Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot](mailto:Ellen.Leaver@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Catriona MacKean <[Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot](mailto:Catriona.MacKean@gov.scot)>; Joe Brown <[Joe.Brown@gov.scot](mailto:Joe.Brown@gov.scot)>; Communications DFM & Finance <[CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance <[DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)>; Minister for Housing <[MinisterHousing@gov.scot](mailto:MinisterHousing@gov.scot)>; Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice <[CabSecSJ@gov.scot](mailto:CabSecSJ@gov.scot)>; Permanent Secretary <[PermanentSecretary@gov.scot](mailto:PermanentSecretary@gov.scot)>; Callum McCaig <[Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot](mailto:Callum.Mccaig@gov.scot)>; David Hutchison <[David.Hutchison@gov.scot](mailto:David.Hutchison@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Scottish Household Survey

All,

The Deputy First Minister has highlighted the below tweet/article and asks if this received Ministerial sign off. I am not sure who would be the policy lead on this though I can see the article refers to lines cleared.

Grateful if relevant colleagues could respond to the DFM's query. Please extend this copylist as appropriate.



[Kieran Andrews](#)  
[@KieranPAndrews](#)

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EXC: Questions about trust in public institutions - including the Scottish government - have been removed from this year's household survey

Govt says it's to make it 15 mins shorter and Q will be asked every other year, sources say results were worsening  
[thetimes.co.uk/article/scotti...](https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/scotti...)  
15/04/2024, 07:07

Many thanks,  
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Deputy Private Secretary to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Finance – Shona Robison MSP

The Scottish Government  
St Andrew's House | Regent Road | Edinburgh | EH1 3DG  
[redacted S.38(1)(b)] E: [DFMCSF@gov.scot](mailto:DFMCSF@gov.scot)

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Scottish Ministers, Special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See [www.lobbying.scot](http://www.lobbying.scot)

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 15 April 2024 19:08  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot@gov.scot; Mick Wilson <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: SG Transparency and COVID Inquiry FMQ briefs

I notice that the article states:

“Questions that remain include asking people whether they feel useful.”

I'm not sure if they're trying to imply that this doesn't seem like a high priority question. It is one of the [Scottish Surveys Core Questions](#), as part of the Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Wellbeing Scale.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 4:46 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mick Wilson <[Mick.Wilson@gov.scot](mailto:Mick.Wilson@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: SG Transparency and COVID Inquiry FMQ briefs

Thanks [redacted S.38(1)(b)]. I'm happy with your suggested text.

There are lots of other questions that are asked biennially. This includes, for example, questions on internet use, housing, transport and climate change. Attached is the current version of the questionnaire. The 'stream' column specifies whether each question is annual or biennial.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mick Wilson <[Mick.Wilson@gov.scot](mailto:Mick.Wilson@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: SG Transparency and COVID Inquiry FMQ briefs

Thanks for this [redacted S.38(1)(b)]. As you are aware, there is now a Times article about this (attached) which carries critical comment from opposition spokespeople. I propose to incorporate the following lines in the 'Issue' box and within the brief:

ISSUE: 15 April: Kieran Andrews reports in *The Times* that questions about trust in public institutions - including the Scottish government - have been removed from this year's Scottish Household Survey. Article carries Scottish Government explanation that questions will now be included on a biennial basis, but suggests subtext of Scottish Government wishing to hide worsening results. Article carries critical

comment by opposition spokespeople re perceived Scottish Government evasion of scrutiny.

Changes to the Scottish Household Survey are part of a wider review aimed at shortening the interview from 1 hour to 45 minutes

- The Scottish Government is grateful to all participants in the Survey and does not wish participation to be excessively burdensome
- All non-core questions are now asked on a biennial basis, unless they meet specific criteria for annual inclusion
- Biennially collected data will continue to provide valuable insight into trends in relation to public trust in institutions and in a number of other important areas.
- In no way do the changes to the Survey reflect any wish to reduce scrutiny of the Scottish Government or other institutions in Scotland.

Grateful for your thoughts.

I anticipate that the FMQ team may ask whether there are other examples of question topics which have now become biennial as a result of the changes – in order to demonstrate that it's not only the 'confidence in institutions' questions which are now being asked less frequently. Can you advise of any other examples that could be sighted to illustrate that point?

Thanks,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]  
Head of FOI Policy  
Freedom of Information Unit  
Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support: Improving Public  
Engagement Division  
Scottish Government  
2W, St Andrew's House  
Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]  
[Yammer: @FOI - Community](#)

*I am currently working from home.*

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 3:12 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Mick Wilson <[Mick.Wilson@gov.scot](mailto:Mick.Wilson@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: SG Transparency and COVID Inquiry FMQ briefs

**Hi** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

The journalist contacted our comms team last week, and we contributed to the attached response.

Note that the results for the 2022 survey for this question are available [here](#), and the results for the 2023 survey will be published later this year.

Also attached is the FMQ that was produced when the most recent (2022 survey) results were published.

Let me know if you need anything further.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** <[\[redacted s.38\(1\)\(b\)\]@gov.scot](mailto:[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 2:51 PM

**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot

**Subject:** FW: SG Transparency and COVID Inquiry FMQ briefs

[redacted S.38(1)(b)], [redacted S.38(1)(b)]

The FOI Unit co-ordinates the overarching 'SG Transparency' FMQ brief (see attached). The FMQ team have been asked to add content to the brief in response to this tweet from Kieran Andrews:

[Kieran Andrews on X: "EXC: Questions about trust in public institutions - including the Scottish government - have been removed from this year's household survey Govt says it's to make it 15 mins shorter and Q will be asked every other year, sources say results were worsening https://t.co/N08wyLGH6g" / X \(twitter.com\)](https://t.co/N08wyLGH6g)

Would you be able to suggest a couple of lines on this, for me to incorporate? I'm meeting the FMQ team at 14:00 tomorrow, so if you could provide something before then that would be really helpful.

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

Head of FOI Policy

Freedom of Information Unit

Directorate for Communications and Ministerial Support: Improving Public

Engagement Division

Scottish Government

2W, St Andrew's House

Edinburgh, EH1 3DG

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

[Yammer: @FOI - Community](#)

*I am currently working from home.*

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 1:54 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** SG Transparency and COVID Inquiry FMQ briefs

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)] and [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Hope you both had a good Easter. I thought I'd get out ahead of the meeting tomorrow and flag a few things that we think need to be covered in your respective briefs this week. I suspect existing lines will cover most of this, but possibly some new content required for the Household Survey issue linked to in the Kieran Andrews tweet.

Looking forward to speaking tomorrow.  
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

For [redacted S.38(1)(b)]:

14 April

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[Kieran Andrews on X: "EXC: Questions about trust in public institutions - including the Scottish government - have been removed from this year's household survey Govt says it's to make it 15 mins shorter and Q will be asked every other year, sources say results were worsening https://t.co/N08wyLGH6g" / X \(twitter.com\)](#)

[OUT OF SCOPE]

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Deputy Head of FMQ Team | First Minister's Policy Unit |  
Scottish Government  
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]



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S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Director, Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice <DirectorTCPSJ@gov.scot>; <[redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; ScotXed <ScotXed@gov.scot>; Ross Ingebrigtsen <Ross.Ingebrigtsen@gov.scot>; Emilie-Louise Purdie <Emilie-Louise.Purdie@gov.scot>; Kevin Pringle <Kevin.Pringle@gov.scot>

**Subject:** TO CLEAR Media query: The Times: Scottish Household Survey

PO/Cab Sec,

As per my email earlier today (11.23am) I looked to respond to a query from The Times about the Scottish Household Survey on a 'for info' basis.

However the reporter has come back looking for an on the record quote. He also queried the removal of the trust in public authorities question in 2024, with elections due in 2024 and 2026, and asked for confirmation that data on the condition of Scotland's roads is available elsewhere.

I'm proposing to respond as below. This quote and approach has been agreed with policy colleagues and approved by Spads,

Can you let me know if Ms Somerville is content for this response to be issued, please?

Regards,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

**SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

A Scottish Government spokesperson said:

"This was part of a wider review of the Scottish Household Survey questionnaire aimed at shortening the interview from 1 hour to 45 minutes and reducing the burden on respondents. This included a move to asking all questions on a biennial basis apart from those which are part of the Scottish Surveys Core Questions or those needed for annual reporting.

"This review also looked at removing questions where relevant information can be found elsewhere.

"The question on trust in public institutions has not been removed from the survey, but it will now be asked every second year, beginning in 2025."

For background:

For the questionnaire review, the presumption was that all questions would be biennial unless they met specific criteria:

- [Scottish Surveys Core Questions](#)
- Needed for reporting against statutory fuel poverty targets, which pools local authority level data across several years
- Needed for reporting against Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators, which pools local authority level data across several years
- Travel diary questions needed for transport models

The 2024 Household Survey Results results will be published in 2025, after the forthcoming UK General Election and before the next Scottish Parliament Elections.

Data on road conditions in Scotland can be found [at this link](#), along with data tables in Chapter 4.

ENDS

#### INITIAL QUERY AND RESPONSE

For info:

This was part of a wider review of the Scottish Household Survey questionnaire aimed at shortening the interview from 1 hour to 45 minutes and reducing the burden on respondents. This review also looked at removing questions where relevant information can be found elsewhere.

The question on trust in public institutions has not been removed from the survey, but it will now be asked every second year, beginning in 2025.

The question about the condition of roads has been removed from the SHS from 2024 onwards. This is because there is an alternative data source that surveys actual road conditions.

ENDS

INITIAL QUERY:

on the Scottish Household Survey. I understand that the following questions have been removed from the survey. Could you please tell me why this is the case?

I WILL NAME A LIST OF INSTITUTIONS. FOR EACH, PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU TEND TO TRUST IT OR TEND NOT TO TRUST IT...

(Read out answer codes after first statement, and then again as needed)

...THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

THE CIVIL SERVICE

THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

THE HEALTH SYSTEM

THE POLICE

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES COURTS, LAWYERS AND PRISONS

- (1) Trust it a great deal [1]
- (2) Tend to trust it [2]
- (3) Tend to distrust it [3]
- (4) Distrust it greatly [4]
- Don't know or not sure [5]
- Refused [6]

THINKING ABOUT THE ROADS IN SCOTLAND THAT YOU DRIVE ON MOST OFTEN, HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THEIR GENERAL CONDITION?

(Read out codes)

- (1) Very satisfied [1]
  - (2) Fairly satisfied [2]
  - (3) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied [3]
  - (4) Fairly dissatisfied [4]
  - (5) Very dissatisfied [5]
  - (6) No opinion [6]
-

**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** 11 April 2024 16:01  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;  
Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>;  
Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Mick  
Wilson <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Director, Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice  
<DirectorTCPSJ@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted  
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: The Times: Policies and household survey

Hi All,

I can confirm that the trust in institutions question was included in the 2022 and 2023 Scottish Household Surveys. Key findings from this question in the 2022 SHS were reported in chapter 11 of the [Scottish Household Survey 2022: Key Findings Report](#). The question was also included in the 2023 SHS questionnaire and the results of this will be made available later this year. Going forward it has been agreed that this question will move to a biennial data collection, with the next collection scheduled in 2025, for the reasons [redacted S.38(1)(b)] set out in her previous email.

Best wishes,

[redacted S.38(1)(b)] Local Governance and Reform Research | LGAS | Scottish Government | [redacted s.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot | [redacted s.38(1)(b)]

**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;  
Communications DFM & Finance <CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot>;  
Communications Social Justice <CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot>; Mick  
Wilson <Mick.Wilson@gov.scot>; Director, Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice  
<DirectorTCPSJ@gov.scot>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted  
S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: The Times: Policies and household survey

Sorry, [redacted S.38(1)(b)] has just drawn my attention to the fact that the journalist is also asking about the question on the condition of roads, which [redacted S.38(1)(b)] leads on ([redacted S.38(1)(b)] is currently on leave, but I've copied him for awareness on his return).

The question on condition of roads has been removed from the SHS from 2024 onwards. This is because there is an alternative data source that surveys actual road conditions.

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:13 PM

**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications DFM & Finance <[CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot)>; Communications Social Justice <[CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: The Times: Policies and household survey

Just to add that these questions were in the 2023 survey, and the results will be available later this year.

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**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 3:09 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; Communications DFM & Finance <[CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot)>; Communications Social Justice <[CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot)>; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** RE: Media query: The Times: Policies and household survey

I'm bringing in [redacted S.38(1)(b)], as she's the lead analyst for these survey questions.

They haven't been removed from the survey, but they have been changed from annual data collection to biennial. So they will now be asked every second year, starting from 2025. We may also make some improvements to the question wording, but that has still to be determined ([redacted S.38(1)(b)] leads on this).

The change from annual to biennial for this question was part of a wider review of the Scottish Household Survey questionnaire, to reduce the interview length from 1 hour to 45 minutes. Surveys are continuing to become increasingly expensive to run, at a time when our budgets are under considerable pressure. As well as helping to keep within budget, reducing the questionnaire length also helps ensure [respondent burden](#) is minimised and proportionate to the usefulness of the data. It's likely to have a positive impact on response rates and data quality (as questionnaire length increases, respondents are less likely to give valid and reliable answers).

The general principles applied when deciding on changes were:

- Removing questions if the results to date have not been used
- Removing questions if the information they provide can be obtained from other sources
- Changing annual questions to biennial, unless they are
  - Scottish Surveys Core Questions
  - Needed for reporting against statutory fuel poverty targets, which pools local authority level data across several years
  - Needed for reporting against Local Government Benchmarking Framework indicators, which pools local authority level data across several years
  - Travel diary questions needed for transport models

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

---

**From:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 2:51 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Cc:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot;  
Communications DFM & Finance <[CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsDFMandFinance@gov.scot)>;  
Communications Social Justice <[CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsSocialJustice@gov.scot)>;  
[redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot; [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Media query: The Times: Policies and household survey

Hello [redacted S.38(1)(b)], and [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

We've had the media query below from the Times about the Scottish Household Survey. Please disregard the reporter's other ask, which is being picked up by DFM comms for a response.

He is asking about the omission of two questions from the SHS. I'm not sure if this relates to the findings published last December or the next iteration of the survey.

Can either of you suggest a response, or point me in the direction of anyone who could advise? Or happy to discuss via Teams,

Thanks

[redacted S.38(1)(b)]

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**From:** Andrews, Kieran <[kieran.andrews@thetimes.co.uk](mailto:kieran.andrews@thetimes.co.uk)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 12:53 PM  
**To:** [redacted S.38(1)(b)]@gov.scot  
**Subject:** Policies and household survey

Hi [redacted S.38(1)(b)],

Neither of these pieces are for tomorrow's paper but I would be hoping to get them written up by close of play tomorrow so would still appreciate responses before tomorrow lunchtime-ish.

I'll start with hopefully the most straightforward, on the Scottish Household Survey. I understand that the following questions have been removed from the survey. Could you please tell me why this is the case?

I WILL NAME A LIST OF INSTITUTIONS. FOR EACH, PLEASE INDICATE WHETHER YOU TEND TO TRUST IT OR TEND NOT TO TRUST IT...  
(Read out answer codes after first statement, and then again as needed)  
...THE SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT



THE CIVIL SERVICE  
THE EDUCATION SYSTEM  
THE HEALTH SYSTEM  
THE POLICE

THE JUSTICE SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES COURTS, LAWYERS AND PRISONS

- (1) Trust it a great deal [1]
- (2) Tend to trust it [2]
- (3) Tend to distrust it [3]
- (4) Distrust it greatly [4]
- Don't know or not sure [5]
- Refused [6]

THINKING ABOUT THE ROADS IN SCOTLAND THAT YOU DRIVE ON MOST OFTEN, HOW SATISFIED OR DISSATISFIED ARE YOU WITH THEIR GENERAL CONDITION?

(Read out codes)

- (1) Very satisfied [1]
- (2) Fairly satisfied [2]
- (3) Neither satisfied nor dissatisfied [3]
- (4) Fairly dissatisfied [4]
- (5) Very dissatisfied [5]
- (6) No opinion [6]

[OUT OF SCOPE]

Kieran Andrews

Scottish Political Editor, The Times and Sunday Times

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