

**Welsh Statistical Liaison Committee**  
**A National Statistics Joint Consultative Committee**  
**Minutes of meeting held on 8 October 2020**  
**Via Microsoft Teams**

**Attendees**

Sue	Leake	SL	Welsh Government (WG) - Chair
Tom	Brame	TB	Data Cymru
Lucy	Butler	LB	Vale of Glamorgan Council
Richard	Cardwell	RC	Natural Resources Wales
Lee	Clarke	LC	Cardiff County Council
Daniel	Cummings	DC	Data Cymru
Vicki	Doyle	VD	Caerphilly County Borough Council
Janine	Edwards	JE	Conwy County Borough Council
Leanne	John	LJ	City and County of Swansea
Helen	Jones	HJ	Senedd Research
Paul	Jones	PJ	Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council
Steve	King	SK	City and County of Swansea
Wanda	Kirby	WK	Bridgend County Borough Council
Nathan	Lester	NL	Public Health Wales
Anna	Nicholl	AN	Wales Council for Voluntary Action (WCVA)
William	Miles	WM	Monmouthshire County Council
Geraint	Morgan	GM	Powys County Council
Rob	Pascoe	RP	Data Cymru
William	Perks	WP	Welsh Government (WG)
Jonathan	Radcliffe	JR	Sport Wales
Hayley	Randall	HR	Data Cymru
Elaine	Smith	ES	Wrexham County Borough Council
Sam	Sullivan	SS	Data Cymru
Caitlin	Theodorou	CT	Ceredigion County Council
Alwyn	Williams	AIW	Isle of Anglesey County Council
Tryfan	Williams	TW	Gwynedd Council
Andy	Wilson	AnW	Torfaen County Borough Council
Nia	Wyn Jones	NWJ	Gwynedd Council

**Note Taker**

Rhiannon	Jones	RJ	Welsh Government (WG)
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**Speakers**

Elizabeth	McLaren	LM	Office for National Statistics (ONS)
Jonathan	Fudge	JF	Welsh Government (WG)
Gareth	Hall	GH	Welsh Government (WG)
John	Morris	JM	Welsh Government (WG)

Will	Perks	WP	Welsh Government (WG)
Susan	Barton	SB	Office for National Statistics (ONS)

## Apologies

Karen	Armstrong	Flintshire County Council
Gwyneth	Ayers	Carmarthenshire County Council
Phillip	Barlow	Pembrokeshire Coast National Park
Chris	Davies	Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Jay	Davies	Flintshire County Council
Shaun	Davies	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Karen	Hawkes	Denbighshire County Council
Kate	Jones	HM Prison and Probation Service in Wales
Chris	Llewelyn	Welsh Local Government Association
Lesley	Rees	Carmarthenshire County Council
Nita	Sparkes	Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Rob	Starr	Ceredigion County Council
Neil	Townsend	Office for National Statistics (ONS)

<b>1</b>	<b>Welcome, Introductions &amp; Apologies</b>	
	<p>SL opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She sent apologies on behalf of Stephanie Howard (SH) the Interim Welsh Government Chief Statistician replacing Glyn Jones. SH hopes to attend the next meeting.</p>	
<b>2</b>	<b>Note of last meeting and update on action points</b>	
	<p>The note of the last meeting was agreed.</p> <p>Update on Action Points from previous meeting (WSLC 2020-10 Paper 2):</p> <p>Action 1: NPTCBC had commissioned the poverty projections tracker website but it cannot be shared due to licensing considerations.</p> <p>Action 2: GJ confirmed it should be possible to publish LA-level National Survey for Wales (NSW) data on topics which had been included for most or all of the year from April 2021.</p> <p>Action 4. Glyn Jones circulated an update rather than publishing a blog.</p> <p>No other comments were made on Action Points.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Review of information papers</b>	
	<p>SL stated that this section would be a brief overview of the papers to give members an opportunity to ask questions.</p>	

	<p>Statistics Wales quarterly update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SL mentioned that whilst the section on education makes no mention of schools, WG is capturing school attendance data daily and working with schools to extract the attendance data from their data management systems. This data will be published following quality checks.</li> <li>• No comments from members except JE confirmed that whilst Data Cymru appears to be the only update online, the other two updates are in the side bar.</li> </ul> <p>Demography update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JE asked for confirmation as to when the National Park projections would be available</li> <li>• JE advised the group that the <a href="#">Small Area Population Estimates (SAPE)</a> were available, 2 months earlier than expected, and were split by parliamentary consistencies and ward</li> </ul> <p>Data Cymru (DC) update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SS welcomed two new statisticians Hayley Randall and Jonathan Owens</li> <li>• SS mentioned the new dashboard to understand the economic impacts of Covid-19 and advised this data would be available at the LA level and updated weekly where new data is available</li> <li>• TB explained the development of a new web tool for the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership (WSMP) to bring together data about migration. Registered users of the <a href="#">migration portal</a> have been consulted and TB would welcome feedback from the group on data they would like to see in the new tool to help shape the tool further</li> <li>• DC asked for volunteers to test the three new web pages mentioned in the update</li> <li>• RP talked about the new daffodil dashboard and offered a demonstration of the new tool</li> <li>• SK commented that the available data is currently way behind the current position for example the job protection scheme.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Action:</b> SL to advise on the delivery of the National Park projections.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Members to feedback ideas to Data Cymru on migration portal and Economic Impacts dashboard.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> RP to invite the group to a demonstration session of the new daffodil tool. SL to make WG colleagues aware of the new tool.</p>
<b>4</b>	<b>Covid-19: Update from Welsh Government (WG)</b>	
	<p>SL explained that WG had moved staff into COVID-19 related posts to manage the wide range of new data on COVID responses and priorities much of which is regularly published on the <a href="#">Statistics for Wales website</a>. WG were careful with what they asked of LAs during the pandemic which resulted in suspension and delay of some regular data collections. However, WG are starting to review some of those data collections and publications which had been suspended, for example housing statistics collections.</p> <p>WP currently manages the WG Statistics team which coordinates regular requirements to support WG in making Coronavirus decisions and coordinates the outputs. Covid-19</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> WP asked for feedback on how the users have used the data on the <a href="#">Covid-19 WG Statistics webpage</a></p>

	<p>Health stats now sit in the Health statistics team. Recent developments in Covid-related data include the Covid-19 Infection Survey (extended to Wales) and further data on contact tracing and PPE, regular publications on school attendance and the economy. National Survey for Wales' data is updated monthly and some specific analyses have been published by the Admin Data Research Unit considering children in shielded households and the access to outdoor spaces for the shielded group.</p> <p>SL commented on the unequal impacts of COVID-19 on different groups in the population. WG published, in June, a statistical article looking at <a href="#">Covid-19 and the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities</a> covering employment and those in critical jobs, industries that had shut down, housing, deprivation. The WG had recently responded to the Covid BAME Socio-economic Subgroup report with an indication that it was considering how to establish a race disparity unit in Wales.</p>	<p>and any particular interests.</p>
<b>5</b>	<b>Covid-19: Update from WSLC members</b>	
	<p>NL commented that much Covid-19 work continued in the Communicable Disease Surveillance Centre (CDSC) but with most of the other health protection work suspended. The <a href="#">COVID-19 recovery profile</a> on the Public Health Wales website covers the direct and indirect impacts with around 40/50 indicators covering mortality, admissions to hospital, mental wellbeing issues, drinking, nutrition, job security, growing economic impact and so on.</p> <p>GM mentioned the problems with small numbers in local areas and patchy data in looking at the economic impacts on retail and hospitality.</p> <p>General comments from the group that insufficient data and a shift of resource to Covid-19 work has impacted on other work, for example work on WBFSG needs assessments.</p> <p>VD supporting the PSB in an analysis of the Covid-19 cases in Caerphilly. She mentioned a PSB support network meeting on 20 October. SL to circulate the details of the meeting.</p> <p>JE: Commented that Well-being Assessment work looking at the future work was often based on past data but there has been a massive step change (cliff edge) and so it's difficult to know how the population will change. The data lag issues and data not being updated could lead to a delay in years before we understand the full impact of Covid-19.</p> <p>SL: It was noted that the Wellbeing of Wales report was likely to be affected by the same issue which much of the data available pre-pandemic and so report is likely to be limited this year.</p> <p>PJ commented that the PHW data had informed their LA but it did not provide data at geographic levels required. There was a</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> SL to circulate details of the meeting PSB Support Network meeting mentioned by VD on 20 October.</p> <p>.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> NL to facilitate a meeting between</p>

	<p>conversation around data being produced at MSOA (Torfaen) and LSOA (Merthyr) levels. NL agreed to speak to PJ outside of the meeting.</p> <p>There was interest from a number of LAs in a further discussion with PHW about the level of data available to LAs. NL agreed to liaise with CDSC to facilitate a meeting between them and those LAs interested in that discussion.</p> <p>RC explained that within NRW are trying to gain understanding of the public &amp; political attitudes to the natural environment, both in terms of more outdoor recreation over the summer and in terms of the causal links between the pandemic and the food-energy-water nexus. In particular how these attitudes have changed during the pandemic.</p>	<p>CDSC and LAs interested in discussion of level of data available to LAs.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Data Science and Administrative Data Research Unit</b>	
	<p>John Morris (WG) described Administrative Data Research Wales (ADR-W) which is a partnership between WG's Administrative Data Research Unit (ADRU) and academia in Wales that was funded by Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) for 3 years initially. JM explained projects being covered which were summarized in the recent <a href="#">ADR UK annual report</a>. Those wishing to access data for specific projects could do so via an approvals process (with the data being accessed via the UK Secure Research Platform).</p> <p>JM also described the WGs Data Science Unit which has been in place since April. Last week JM published a blog that succinctly describes the work carried out in the <a href="#">data science</a> unit.</p> <p>NL asked if WG were aware of the Network Data Lab work on the shielded population. JM confirmed that he was.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<b>Update on National Development Framework: Future Wales – The National Plan 2040</b>	
	<p>GH explained that after four years of work the NDF would result in a big change for WG. On the 21 September the draft NDF went to the Senedd for scrutiny which ends on 26 November. There is a planned Committee meeting with stakeholders on 5 November with the publication of the NDF in February 2021, from which point it will apply.</p> <p>GH mentioned that the core elements of the NDF are based on a 20-year strategy impacted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. It includes plans for regional strategic development plans and the local authorities element is captured under the LDPs.</p> <p>JE welcomed the long term focus and encouraged all to read the NDF.</p>	

8	<b>Local Housing Market Assessments (LHMAs) Update</b>	
	<p>JF explained that the housing need estimates link into the housing section of the NDF. The housing need estimates for Wales are at a national and regional level and have been based on the SG approach which is also being used to form our approach to LHMAs with the LAs. LHMAs are an integral element of the housing market area and informs LDP policies.</p> <p>The affordable housing review published in April 2019 shared the fundamental issues with the current LHMA process, stating it was inconsistent and lost some of the credibility it deserved. They gave a mandate for WG to work with LAs and stakeholders to change this. In Nov 2019 WG ran a stakeholder meeting with LAs, planning and housing officers, and there was quite a lot of unanimity. SG visited and shared their approach which seemed well accepted and WG are currently redesigning the new approach to address issues from the independent review such as the frequency of refresh and rewrite of the LHMAs and the role that WG should play in the process. It is likely that WG will give some high level commitment and continue to work on data sets, prepare a template report for LHMAs across the LAs, provide online training modules, looking to have a dedicated WG resource with the plan to update the LAs by the end of the year.</p> <p>No comments or questions from the group.</p>	
9	<b>Census Update, ONS outputs and dissemination (Neil Townsend and Liz McLaren)</b>	
	<p>Susan Barton (SB) kindly stood in for Neil Townsend (NT) who was unable to make the meeting and provide a <a href="#">Census 2021 update</a>.</p> <p>Census Engagement Managers had been employed and were being trained. SB explained that to ensure they have an accurate picture of the areas they are working in it is important to check they are engaged with the right communities in local areas with the right community engagement plans. They will be engaging with LA officials soon. Covid-19 has posed many challenges but ONS have risk-assessed the health and safety of staff and public and are offering a digital and online census.</p> <p>SB agreed to share links to the Census School Campaign and the Census questionnaires.</p> <p>ONS are running a series of workshops for LA partners (dates of which are in the presentation) and have set up bilingual online census guidance of the timelines, checklists etc. Details of the LA Workshops will be circulated.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> SB to share the link for the school campaign and questionnaires. Details of the LA workshops will be circulated.</p>

	<p>NWJ asked how they deal with the potential effect of less students and overseas students going to universities this year. SB noted much work had been considered around students.</p> <p>NL commented that for community advisers face-to-face – meetings will be a challenge, it would be useful for Census Engagement Manager to work, where possible, with successful outreach teams for the areas difficult to reach. NL asked ONS to consider what the impact of a lockdown will be on the effectiveness of enumerators' ability to maximise response from hard to reach populations</p> <p>SB provided two links: the first is the email address <a href="mailto:2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk">2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk</a>, if you don't know who your Assistant Census Liaison Manager is, and the second is the <a href="#">newsletter for local authorities</a>. Please email <a href="mailto:2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk">2021Census.LA.Liaison@ons.gov.uk</a> if you are part of a local authority and you aren't on the circulation list (and you'd like to be).</p> <p>LM shared the ONS plans for the <a href="#">Census outputs</a> and dissemination that had previously been shared at the Census advisory group for Wales (CAGW).</p> <p>SL commented that both presentations were very helpful and recognised the breath of work being undertaken at pace. SL encouraged sign up to the newsletters and noted the geography consultation is coming out next week.</p>	
<b>9</b>	<b>Any other business</b>	
	<p>The group asked for all links and papers to be made available.</p> <p>Next meeting to be held on Thursday 4 February 2021.</p> <p>Attendees were encouraged to suggest future agenda items. General opinions were to continue with the Covid-19 and Census updates and to add an item on the Wellbeing assessments.</p> <p>SL closed the meeting with thanks to the speakers and the group's engagement throughout.</p>	<p><b>Action:</b> Ensure all links and papers from the meeting are made available to the group.</p>

All [previous action points](#) are now complete.

## Summary of Action Points

No.	Action	Who?
1	Advise the group on the delivery of the national park projections.	SL
2	Members to feedback ideas to Data Cymru on migration portal and Economic Impacts dashboard.	All
3	RP to invite the group to a demonstration session of the new daffodil tool. SL to make WG colleagues aware of the new tool. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Details emailed to members</li> </ul>	RP/SL Completed 13/10/20
4	WP asked for feedback on how the users have used the data on the <a href="#">Covid-19 WG Statistics webpage</a> and any particular interests.	WP/All
5	<i>SL to circulate details of the meeting PSB Support Network meeting mentioned by VD on 20 October.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>The meeting was an invite only meeting for the PSB co-ordinators.</i></li> </ul>	SL Completed
6	NL to facilitate a meeting between CDSC and LAs interested in discussion of level of data available to LAs.	NL
7	SB to share the link for the Census school campaign and questionnaires. Details of the LA workshops will be circulated.	SB
8	All links and papers from the meeting to be made available to the group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Links circulated with presentations</li> </ul>	Secretariat Completed 16/10/20