

Distribution Sub-Group (2021) Paper 18 – Treatment of datasets in the 2022-23 settlement

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Treatment of datasets influenced by COVID-19 in the 2022-23 settlement

Summary

1. This paper looks at particular datasets used in the calculation of the local government settlement where the distribution could have been impacted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic or where the data has not been collected.

Views Sought

2. Views are welcomed on the data that cannot be collected and the distributional impact of updating datasets which are likely to have been influenced by the pandemic

Recent Related Papers

DSG (2020) Paper 21: Dataset collections impacted by Covid-19 update

DSG (2020) Paper 17: Impact of COVID-19 on settlement datasets

Background

3. The local government settlement formula uses a number of datasets which will have been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. This paper looks at the data that this relates to and allows DSG to consider the treatment of these datasets for the 2022-23 Settlement.

Analysis

4. Most of the data for the 2022-23 settlement have been collected and are currently being processed prior to the validation stage which should take place in mid to late September. Any authority that has not submitted data that we collect ourselves i.e. street lighting will be asked to send the data through during the validation round.
5. This paper takes an in-depth view of datasets/indicators that we were not able to collect or that we have collected and these are likely to have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Data collections

6. We have been informed by colleagues that data for *Private sector dwelling stock* will unlikely be available until October and data on the *Amount of grants for completed Disability Facility Grants (DFG)* has no scheduled publication date, and if it is published it won't be available until March/April 2022. These indicators feed into the General Capital Funding calculation, and account for around 8% (~£5m)

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of the Non-HRA housing IBA in the revenue settlement formula. It is also worth noting that the DFG dataset is averaged over three years.

7. DSG are asked to agree that, in the event the data is unavailable prior to the settlement being calculated, last year's data is rolled forward or that last year's three year average is frozen?
8. Similarly, we are in discussions with official regarding the timing of the final quarter of planning applications data, where currently three of the four quarters are available. In the event of the fourth quarter not being available, DSG are asked to agree to continue with updating the 12 quarter average with the 3 quarters of available data?

Registered deaths of Welsh residents

9. Table 1 shows the impact of updating the mortality data in the 2022-23 settlement. Across Wales there were 4,216 more deaths in 2020 than 2019. This increase differed across Wales, ranging from 1.3% increase in Conwy to a 22.9% increase in Blaenau Gwent.
10. In the 2021-22 settlement the Standard Spending Assessment (SSA) unit (i.e. how much SSA each unit of data distributes to each authority) was -£79.73 per unit (i.e. per registered death). Updating the SSA unit for the 2020 data increases the SSA unit to -£70.74 (due to the increase in caseload on a negative IBA total).
11. Through using this we see the change in SSA for the mortality indicator ranging from a 9% increase in Blaenau Gwent (£6k decrease in SSA) to a 10.1% decrease in Conwy (£13k increase in SSA).
12. Given the relatively small financial changes we would recommend to update the data to reflect the most up-to-date figures available.

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Table 1: Analysis of the mortality indicator used in the settlement.

SSA unit (£)	-79.73	-70.74	(£000s)					
	2019 Deaths	2020 Deaths	Change		2021-22 SSA		Change	
			n	%	old data	new data	n	%
Isle of Anglesey	803	877	74	9.2%	-64	-62	2	-3.1%
Gwynedd	1,405	1,428	23	1.6%	-112	-101	11	-9.8%
Conwy	1,566	1,587	21	1.3%	-125	-112	13	-10.1%
Denbighshire	1,234	1,338	104	8.4%	-98	-95	4	-3.8%
Flintshire	1,546	1,765	219	14.2%	-123	-125	-2	1.3%
Wrexham	1,382	1,590	208	15.1%	-110	-112	-2	2.1%
Powys	1,603	1,725	122	7.6%	-128	-122	6	-4.5%
Ceredigion	790	877	87	11.0%	-63	-62	1	-1.5%
Pembrokeshire	1,524	1,559	35	2.3%	-122	-110	11	-9.2%
Carmarthenshire	2,210	2,404	194	8.8%	-176	-170	6	-3.5%
Swansea	2,510	3,009	499	19.9%	-200	-213	-13	6.4%
Neath Port Talbot	1,601	1,902	301	18.8%	-128	-135	-7	5.4%
Bridgend	1,634	1,878	244	14.9%	-130	-133	-3	2.0%
Vale of Glamorgan	1,333	1,419	86	6.5%	-106	-100	6	-5.5%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	2,611	3,104	493	18.9%	-208	-220	-11	5.5%
Merthyr Tydfil	640	773	133	20.8%	-51	-55	-4	7.2%
Caerphilly	1,803	2,122	319	17.7%	-144	-150	-6	4.4%
Blaenau Gwent	796	978	182	22.9%	-63	-69	-6	9.0%
Torfaen	1,016	1,165	149	14.7%	-81	-82	-1	1.7%
Monmouthshire	990	1,058	68	6.9%	-79	-75	4	-5.2%
Newport	1,440	1,699	259	18.0%	-115	-120	-5	4.7%
Cardiff	2,746	3,142	396	14.4%	-219	-222	-3	1.5%
Wales	33,183	37,399	4,216	12.7%	-2,646	-2,646		

Tourism data used in the enhanced population indicator

13. The 2020 *tourism data* now includes *AirBnb* stays (as agreed in the DSG (2021) paper 3) whereas the 2019 data did not. This data is used within the *enhanced population indicator* to proxy the additional population of visitors to each local area. The tourism only data can be seen in Annex A for reference.
14. Table 2 shows the impact of updating the tourism figures, with the caseload of the *enhanced population indicator* decreasing by over 290k (or down 8%). Once again this differs by authority, ranging from a decrease of 19% in Conwy to the smallest decrease of 2% in Neath Port Talbot.
15. As with deaths, we can use the 2021-22 *enhanced population SSA* unit to crudely calculate the impact of this change on the 2022-23 settlement. Both Gwynedd and Conwy see the *largest* monetary decrease (down £1.2m and £1.1m respectively), whereas Rhondda Cynon Taff has the largest monetary increase in SSA up £860k.
16. Comparing this data to DSG (2021) paper 3, those authorities that would have gained more through including Airbnb data have lost further funding in updating the data this year as a potential result of the pandemic.
17. DSG are asked to consider this dataset, noting that the data is used to proxy the average number of visitors in a given area on any given day and whether the data

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should be updated or not. DSG should also consider from their local knowledge whether this data will revert back to the historic pattern.

18. If DSG recommends that the 2020 Tourism data is not used for the 2022-23 settlement, the group are asked to confirm whether the 2022-23 settlement should include the updated 2019 data on AirBnb stays. Exemplifications of this can be found in DSG (2021) paper 3.

Table 2: Analysis of the enhance population indicator used in the settlement.

SSA unit (£)	55.70	60.54						
	2019	2020	Change		2021-22 SSA		Change	
	Enhanced Population	Enhanced Population	n	%	old data	new data	n	%
Isle of Anglesey	85,289	76,930	-8,359	-9.8%	4,751	4,658	-93	-2.0%
Gwynedd	186,194	152,050	-34,144	-18.3%	10,371	9,206	-1,166	-11.2%
Conwy	166,866	135,156	-31,710	-19.0%	9,295	8,183	-1,112	-12.0%
Denbighshire	127,767	107,291	-20,476	-16.0%	7,117	6,496	-621	-8.7%
Flintshire	175,540	162,946	-12,594	-7.2%	9,778	9,865	87	0.9%
Wrexham	143,959	139,007	-4,952	-3.4%	8,019	8,416	397	5.0%
Powys	162,639	143,893	-18,746	-11.5%	9,059	8,712	-348	-3.8%
Ceredigion	93,867	81,617	-12,250	-13.1%	5,229	4,941	-287	-5.5%
Pembrokeshire	168,700	146,598	-22,102	-13.1%	9,397	8,875	-521	-5.5%
Carmarthenshire	206,695	196,081	-10,614	-5.1%	11,513	11,871	358	3.1%
Swansea	271,507	255,001	-16,506	-6.1%	15,124	15,439	315	2.1%
Neath Port Talbot	149,489	146,460	-3,029	-2.0%	8,327	8,867	540	6.5%
Bridgend	162,696	152,630	-10,066	-6.2%	9,063	9,241	178	2.0%
Vale of Glamorgan	150,661	139,925	-10,736	-7.1%	8,392	8,471	79	0.9%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	249,832	244,062	-5,770	-2.3%	13,916	14,776	860	6.2%
Merthyr Tydfil	65,655	62,394	-3,261	-5.0%	3,657	3,778	120	3.3%
Caerphilly	188,259	183,028	-5,231	-2.8%	10,486	11,081	595	5.7%
Blaenau Gwent	72,167	70,463	-1,704	-2.4%	4,020	4,266	246	6.1%
Torfaen	97,584	94,628	-2,956	-3.0%	5,436	5,729	293	5.4%
Monmouthshire	103,519	97,651	-5,868	-5.7%	5,766	5,912	146	2.5%
Newport	172,108	162,042	-10,066	-5.8%	9,587	9,811	224	2.3%
Cardiff	431,497	392,189	-39,308	-9.1%	24,035	23,744	-291	-1.2%
Wales	3,632,490	3,342,041	-290,449	-8.0%	202,338	202,338	0	

Traffic flow

19. Similar to the Tourism data, the pandemic has also impacted the traffic flow on non-trunk A roads with people working from home and when lockdowns meant people couldn't travel. Table 3 shows the change in the *Traffic flow data* from 2019 to 2020.
20. Across Wales overall traffic flow on non-trunk A roads decreased by 23.5% between 2020 and 2019. Ranging from a 24.9% decrease in Gwynedd to a 20.4% decrease in Merthyr Tydfil.
21. Using SSA units to calculate the distributional impact of updating this data Gwynedd would see the largest monetary decrease down £29k, and Swansea has the largest monetary increase up £29k.

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22. Again DSG are asked to consider whether they have any concerns regarding updating this dataset.

Table 3: Analysis of the Traffic flow indicator used in the settlement.

SSA unit (£)	0.003	0.005			(£000s)			
	2019 Traffic flow	2020 Traffic flow	Change		2021-22 SSA		Change	
			n	%	old data	new data	n	%
Isle of Anglesey	217,272,310	165,434,408	-51,837,902	-23.9%	754	750	-4	-0.5%
Gwynedd	452,803,255	339,988,780	-112,814,475	-24.9%	1,570	1,541	-29	-1.9%
Conwy	227,310,450	173,323,693	-53,986,757	-23.8%	788	786	-3	-0.3%
Denbighshire	328,966,615	250,122,704	-78,843,911	-24.0%	1,141	1,134	-7	-0.6%
Flintshire	506,912,069	387,535,479	-119,376,590	-23.5%	1,758	1,757	-1	-0.1%
Wrexham	262,054,458	205,336,119	-56,718,340	-21.6%	909	931	22	2.4%
Powys	265,637,687	199,862,250	-65,775,437	-24.8%	921	906	-15	-1.7%
Ceredigion	154,183,531	117,319,526	-36,864,005	-23.9%	535	532	-3	-0.6%
Pembrokeshire	272,411,317	206,635,010	-65,776,307	-24.1%	945	937	-8	-0.9%
Carmarthenshire	487,664,913	373,302,057	-114,362,856	-23.5%	1,691	1,692	1	0.0%
Swansea	623,268,564	483,207,215	-140,061,350	-22.5%	2,162	2,190	29	1.3%
Neath Port Talbot	398,746,500	306,162,903	-92,583,597	-23.2%	1,383	1,388	5	0.4%
Bridgend	478,016,019	367,908,021	-110,107,998	-23.0%	1,658	1,668	10	0.6%
Vale of Glamorgan	356,623,056	269,800,705	-86,822,351	-24.3%	1,237	1,223	-14	-1.1%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	731,830,938	553,896,756	-177,934,183	-24.3%	2,538	2,511	-27	-1.1%
Merthyr Tydfil	65,692,803	52,265,797	-13,427,006	-20.4%	228	237	9	4.0%
Caerphilly	539,912,462	418,140,094	-121,772,368	-22.6%	1,872	1,895	23	1.2%
Blaenau Gwent	190,681,332	144,459,965	-46,221,368	-24.2%	661	655	-7	-1.0%
Torfaen	168,657,494	130,646,065	-38,011,429	-22.5%	585	592	7	1.2%
Monmouthshire	149,785,899	113,345,066	-36,440,833	-24.3%	519	514	-6	-1.1%
Newport	347,087,925	267,400,514	-79,687,411	-23.0%	1,204	1,212	8	0.7%
Cardiff	947,109,742	727,021,038	-220,088,703	-23.2%	3,285	3,295	11	0.3%
Wales	8,172,629,338	6,253,114,165	-1,919,515,173	-23.5%	28,344	28,344		

CTRS Caseload

23. The changes to CTRS caseload are small in comparison to the overall settlement therefore no detailed analysis has been presented but the table can be found in Annex B.

Ships

24. Total SSA for the ships indicator was around £411k in the 2021-22 settlement. Given this is a relatively small amount in the context of the overall settlement we would suggest this data gets updated. For context the data and re-distributional impact is shown in Annex C

CTRS Expenditure

25. CTRS expenditure increased by £23m between 2019-20 and 2020-21, as shown in table 4, ranging from a 4.2% increase in Rhondda Cynon Taf to a 13.3% increase in Powys.

26. Updating this data would equate to a £880k decreases of SSA to Rhondda Cynon Taf to a £401k increase in SSA for Cardiff.

27. In previous years, the changes in distribution of funding for CTRS expenditure followed a similar pattern to the changes in council tax increases but this year the relationship differs somewhat therefore these are shown within the table for

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context. This data could also be influenced somewhat by the additional funding made available

28. DSG are asked to consider the data and whether the data should not be updated ahead of the 2022-23 settlement.

Table 4: Analysis of the CTRS Expenditure indicator used in the settlement.

SSA unit (£)	0.90	0.83			(£000s)				% change in council tax 2020-21	Rank Change
	2019-20 CTRS Expenditure	2020-21 CTRS Expenditure	Change n	%	2021-22 SSA old data	SSA new data	Change n	%		
Isle of Anglesey	5,777,761	6,325,769	548,008	9.5%	5,186	5,230	45	0.9%	4.45	15
Gwynedd	9,516,566	10,128,723	612,157	6.4%	8,541	8,375	-166	-1.9%	4.10	20
Conwy	10,181,187	11,267,973	1,086,786	10.7%	9,138	9,317	179	2.0%	4.91	9
Denbighshire	9,938,698	10,609,796	671,098	6.8%	8,920	8,773	-148	-1.7%	4.34	16
Flintshire	10,706,747	11,568,673	861,926	8.1%	9,609	9,565	-44	-0.5%	4.68	14
Wrexham	10,097,276	11,249,948	1,152,672	11.4%	9,062	9,302	239	2.6%	6.38	2
Powys	9,777,441	11,076,591	1,299,150	13.3%	8,775	9,158	383	4.4%	4.86	10
Ceredigion	5,707,209	6,319,565	612,356	10.7%	5,122	5,225	103	2.0%	4.09	21
Pembrokeshire	9,122,193	9,670,981	548,788	6.0%	8,187	7,996	-191	-2.3%	4.94	8
Carmarthenshire	15,593,867	17,011,763	1,417,896	9.1%	13,996	14,066	70	0.5%	4.99	7
Swansea	21,463,457	23,182,640	1,719,183	8.0%	19,264	19,168	-96	-0.5%	4.81	11
Neath Port Talbot	17,801,746	19,169,387	1,367,641	7.7%	15,977	15,850	-127	-0.8%	4.21	19
Bridgend	14,582,208	15,298,283	716,075	4.9%	13,088	12,649	-439	-3.4%	4.78	12
Vale of Glamorgan	10,097,254	11,048,902	951,648	9.4%	9,062	9,136	73	0.8%	4.99	6
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24,441,288	25,465,976	1,024,688	4.2%	21,936	21,056	-880	-4.0%	3.31	22
Merthyr Tydfil	6,234,442	6,899,703	665,261	10.7%	5,595	5,705	109	2.0%	5.11	5
Caerphilly	13,784,522	15,053,607	1,269,085	9.2%	12,372	12,447	75	0.6%	5.12	4
Blaenau Gwent	8,988,272	9,814,751	826,479	9.2%	8,067	8,115	48	0.6%	4.23	18
Torfaen	9,282,004	10,130,548	848,544	9.1%	8,331	8,376	46	0.5%	4.31	17
Monmouthshire	6,410,233	7,234,639	824,406	12.9%	5,753	5,982	229	4.0%	5.38	3
Newport	11,234,252	12,304,134	1,069,882	9.5%	10,083	10,173	91	0.9%	6.95	1
Cardiff	31,124,206	34,270,199	3,145,993	10.1%	27,934	28,336	401	1.4%	4.76	13
Wales	271,862,829	295,102,551	23,239,722							

Conclusion

29. DSG are asked to discuss the datasets identified in the paper and agree their recommended their suggested approach on whether to update the datasets or not ahead of the 2022-23 settlement.

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Annex A

Tourism data used within the enhance population indicator

	(£000s)					
	2019	2019	2020	2020	Difference	
	Tourist nights	Tourist days	Tourist nights	Tourist days	Nights	Days
Isle of Anglesey	4,921	707	2,271	304	-2,650	-403
Gwynedd	18,538	3,836	7,831	2,072	-10,707	-1,764
Conwy	10,628	7,220	3,681	2,585	-6,948	-4,635
Denbighshire	7,262	4,401	2,495	1,689	-4,767	-2,712
Flintshire	3,893	2,930	1,151	1,072	-2,742	-1,858
Wrexham	1,128	1,544	360	504	-768	-1,040
Powys	8,007	3,011	3,419	752	-4,588	-2,259
Ceredigion	6,596	1,576	2,943	756	-3,653	-821
Pembrokeshire	13,549	2,052	5,990	1,538	-7,559	-514
Carmarthenshire	4,181	2,275	1,793	786	-2,388	-1,489
Swansea	5,247	3,125	1,863	480	-3,384	-2,645
Neath Port Talbot	858	1,146	300	597	-558	-549
Bridgend	2,612	3,061	801	1,195	-1,810	-1,866
The Vale of Glamorgan	2,143	3,669	727	1,164	-1,416	-2,506
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	1,227	1,575	359	336	-868	-1,239
Merthyr Tydfil	494	1,297	174	427	-321	-870
Caerphilly	921	1,421	230	202	-691	-1,220
Blaenau Gwent	386	558	115	206	-270	-352
Torfaen	475	887	128	154	-347	-733
Monmouthshire	1,338	1,725	578	341	-760	-1,384
Newport	1,649	3,880	495	1,356	-1,153	-2,524
Cardiff	4,192	19,296	1,505	7,626	-2,687	-11,671
Wales	100,244	71,192	39,209	26,141	-61,036	-45,051

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Annex B

Analysis of the CTRS admin indicator used in the settlement.

SSA unit (£)	17.60	17.13	(£000s)					
	2019-20	2020-21	Change		2021-22 SSA		Change	
	CTRS caseload	CTRS caseload	n	%	old data	new data	n	%
Isle of Anglesey	5,739	5,922	183	3.2%	101	101	0	0.5%
Gwynedd	9,071	9,442	371	4.1%	160	162	2	1.3%
Conwy	10,103	10,871	768	7.6%	178	186	8	4.7%
Denbighshire	9,378	9,698	320	3.4%	165	166	1	0.7%
Flintshire	10,476	10,881	405	3.9%	184	186	2	1.1%
Wrexham	11,104	11,648	544	4.9%	195	200	4	2.1%
Powys	9,404	10,217	813	8.6%	165	175	10	5.8%
Ceredigion	5,376	5,502	126	2.3%	95	94	0	-0.4%
Pembrokeshire	10,297	10,255	-42	-0.4%	181	176	-6	-3.1%
Carmarthenshire	16,256	16,201	-55	-0.3%	286	277	-9	-3.0%
Swansea	22,416	22,852	436	1.9%	394	391	-3	-0.8%
Neath Port Talbot	17,011	17,322	311	1.8%	299	297	-3	-0.9%
Bridgend	13,155	13,049	-106	-0.8%	231	224	-8	-3.4%
Vale of Glamorgan	9,549	9,754	205	2.1%	168	167	-1	-0.6%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	24,747	25,704	957	3.9%	435	440	5	1.1%
Merthyr Tydfil	6,297	6,358	61	1.0%	111	109	-2	-1.7%
Caerphilly	16,720	16,714	-6	0.0%	294	286	-8	-2.7%
Blaenau Gwent	8,892	9,260	368	4.1%	156	159	2	1.4%
Torfaen	10,074	10,389	315	3.1%	177	178	1	0.4%
Monmouthshire	5,780	6,168	388	6.7%	102	106	4	3.9%
Newport	13,260	13,248	-12	-0.1%	233	227	-6	-2.7%
Cardiff	30,499	31,661	1,162	3.8%	537	542	6	1.1%
Wales	275,604	283,116	7,512					

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Annex C

Analysis of the *Ships* indicator used in the settlement

SSA unit (£)	59.91	66.51	(£000s)					
	Ships arriving at ports in 2019	Ships arriving at ports in 2020	Change		2021-22 SSA		Change	
			n	%	old data	new data	n	%
Isle of Anglesey	3,108	2,811	-297	-9.6%	186	187	1	0.4%
Gwynedd	2	2	0	0.0%	0	0	0	11.0%
Conwy	74	50	-24	-32.4%	4	3	-1	-25.0%
Denbighshire	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Flintshire	7	4	-3	-42.9%	0	0	0	-36.6%
Wrexham	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Powys	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Ceredigion	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Pembrokeshire	2,595	2,325	-270	-10.4%	155	155	-1	-0.5%
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Swansea	139	135	-4	-2.9%	8	9	1	7.8%
Neath Port Talbot	165	168	3	1.8%	10	11	1	13.0%
Bridgend	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Vale of Glamorgan	65	48	-17	-26.2%	4	3	-1	-18.0%
Rhondda Cynon Taf	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Caerphilly	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Blaenau Gwent	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Torfaen	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Monmouthshire	0	0	0	N/A	0	0	0	N/A
Newport	491	429	-62	-12.6%	29	29	-1	-3.0%
Cardiff	211	204	-7	-3.3%	13	14	1	7.3%
Wales	6,857	6,176	-681	-9.9%	411	411		