

Scottish Sports Association

Scottish Government

Consultation on the design of the Scottish Household Survey (SHS) for 2017 and beyond

A submission on behalf of the Governing Bodies of Sport in Scotland

April 2016.



The Scottish Sports Association (SSA) thanks the Scottish Government for the opportunity to contribute to this consultation.

The SSA exists to represent and support Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) of Sport as the independent and collective voice for SGBs. We represent their interests and currently have 52 full members and 18 associate members. SGBs are responsible for the governance, development and delivery of their individual sports and provide a formal structure for the over 900,000 individuals in Scotland who are members of one of Scotland's 13,000 sports clubs. Most of these organisations are run on a not-for-profit basis and are managed by volunteers. They provide coaching, competition and participation development opportunities for their local communities and most of the 195,000 people who volunteer in sport do so within the club structure.

As the collective voice of Scottish governing bodies of sport - who in turn represent the 900,000 individuals in Scotland who are members of Scotland's 13,000 sports clubs - the SSA asks that the Scottish Government's consideration of this response is appropriate to this level of representation.

The SSA has, as usual, compiled this response in consultation with our members.

Our members would be happy to further discuss the detail of this response if that is of assistance.

Consultation Questions

Section A Use of SHS

1. **What are the main social survey topics you use in the SHS?** Please tick all that apply. Please distinguish between the topics in your following answers.

HOUSEHOLD INTERVIEW

- Household composition & characteristics of all occupants
- Employment status of the highest income householder
- Household income from employment and other sources
- Health/disability
- Driving Transport – Cars, fuel spend, and bicycles
- Accommodation - Type of property, tenure, housing aspirations
- SHCS social survey – Heating patterns, repairs, adaptations
- SHCS social survey – Household energy efficiency measures and renewables
- Internet access
- Recycling
- Savings and household finances, including housing costs (mortgage and rent)
- Children in the household (childcare, schools, and travel to school)

RANDOM ADULT INTERVIEW

- Key adult characteristics

- Health/disability and caring responsibilities
- Accommodation/housing experiences
- Neighbourhoods and community safety (including perception of local crime rate and local police performance, harassment and discrimination)
- Education - Qualifications
- Employment/economic activity
- Transport – Travel Diary
- Transport – Use of private/public transport, congestion
- Perceptions of local government and services
- Participation in sports activities
- Participation in cultural activities
- Environment – Access to the outdoors, green space, land use
- Environment – Climate change
- Internet access and use
- Volunteering

- Other – please specify

2. What do you use the SHS for?

We are particularly interested in how analysis of SHS data is used for informing, monitoring and evaluating policy and practice decisions, including examples of where analysis has influenced decision making.

Please be as specific as possible in your answers.

The SHS is the definitive source of participation data for sport in Scotland. The only other mechanism which exists to support this is the Scottish Health Survey, but the sample size for this is too small to be used on its own. As such, the questions which produce the ‘participation in sports activities’ figures from the SHS are vital. The figures are widely used across Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) of sport – and across sport in Scotland.

The SHS is also the definitive source of information in relation to ‘access to the outdoors, green space’ (which is used across our 30 Outdoor Pursuits Group SGBs and across sport and adventurous activities in Scotland more widely).

Both of these data measures are vital to the Scottish Government’s monitoring of the National Performance Framework, in relation to the following indicators: ‘increase physical activity’ and ‘increase people's use of Scotland's outdoors’. Therefore, our members recommend that the questions which produce these data measures are added to the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQs) in order to ensure robust monitoring against these National Performance Framework indicators.

The third area of principal interest to our members, where the SHS is also the definitive source of data is in relation to volunteering. The 13,000 sports clubs supported by our members are reliant on the 195,000 volunteers who make sport in Scotland function. As such, questions which provide information on volunteering are also vital.

The SHS data is also vital to tracking legacy indicators from the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

3. Are there any alternative sources of evidence available for the topics and/or questions you use in the SHS?

i. Please tick

Yes

No

ii. Please list alternative sources of evidence for each topic

While the Scottish Health Survey adds value to the data utilised by SGBs, it in no way replaces the invaluable and more robust data gathered via the SHS.

Section B Views on options for 2017

4. What would be the impact of SHS option A for your organisation's use of the SHS? Please distinguish between the different topics you use when answering.

Our members' preference is for the questions which produce the data measures for participation in sport and access to the outdoors to be added to the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQs) in order to ensure robust monitoring against the related National Performance Framework indicators.

Our members are concerned that the smaller overall sample size resulting from option A for the SHS would provide a poorer quality of data. As the SHS is the definitive source of participation in sport data, they strongly feel this option is not viable.

This same concern is applicable to the access to the outdoors data.

5. What would be the impact of SHS option B for your organisation's use of the SHS? Please distinguish between the different topics you use when answering.

Our members' preference is for the questions which produce the data measures for participation in sport and access to the outdoors to be added to the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQs) in order to ensure robust monitoring against the related National Performance Framework indicators.

Our members feel that this option would provide an overall larger aggregated sample size than option A, which is the most critical factor for both the participation in sport questions and the access to the outdoors questions.

In relation to the volunteering questions, as our members understand that many of these questions are asked biennially anyway, option B would have a minimal impact on this.

6. Do you prefer option A or option B?

i. Please tick

Option A

Option B

ii. What is the reason for your option preference?

Given the vital role of the SHS in providing robust data on participation in sport and access to the outdoors, the validity of this data is foremost in our members' minds. As such, option B increases the overall sample size which is more favourable to our members.

7. Under option A (biennial) half of the topics would be asked in 2017 (odd year) and half in 2018 (even year) (assuming this is the model adopted for 2018 - 2021). Do you have any views on what topics should be asked in 2017 and 2018?

Our members' preference is for the questions which produce the data measures for participation in sport and access to the outdoors to be added to the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCQs) in order to ensure robust monitoring against the related National Performance Framework indicators.

8. Under option B (reduction in sample size), a small reduction in full sample topic coverage of around 4 minutes (around 7% of questions) is necessary to maintain current 'one third sample questions' at around their present sample size.

How should this be achieved?

- i. By cutting topics completely
- ii. By reducing breadth of larger topics
- iii. By introducing more biennial topics and questions
- iv. By introducing more one third sample questions

Our members wish, in the strongest terms possible, to reiterate the vital nature of the sports participation, volunteering and access to the outdoors questions asked within the SHS. However this option is implemented, our members advocate that this should not, in any way, impact on these questions.

9. In order to contribute to the 4 minute reduction, which of the topics which you use do you think could be:

- i. Cut completely and/or reduced in breadth
- ii. Go biennial
- iii. Move from full to one third sample

Please be as specific as possible in your answers.

No response.

10. Under option B (cut in sample size), would you prefer local authority data to be published on a:

i. Please tick.

Two year rolling average basis every year

Two year basis every two years

(i.e. 2017 and 2018 data would be published in 2019, 2019 and 2020 data would be published in 2021)

ii. What is the reason for your preference?

Our members feel this option ensures the frequency of this vital data is available.

Section C Looking Ahead

11. Looking ahead to 2018 - 2021, the Scottish Government may need to make further reductions to the SHS.

- a. If this is necessary, would you prefer any further changes to the SHS to be based on:**
- i.** A reduction in the overall SHS sample size
 - ii.** A reduction in the frequency of SHS data collection
 - iii.** A reduction in SHS topic coverage
 - iv.** Other – please state

No response.

b. Please explain why.

Our members wish, in the strongest terms possible, to reiterate the vital nature of the sports participation, volunteering and access to the outdoors questions asked within the SHS. However the SHS may be implemented in the future, our members advocate that this should not, in any way, impact on these questions.

12. What would be the impact on the work of your organisation if there were to be a further:

- i.** Reduction in the overall SHS sample size
- ii.** Reduction in the frequency of SHS data collection
- iii.** Reduction in SHS topic coverage

It would result in the loss, or serious undermining, of the only viable source of sports participation, volunteering and access to the outdoors data in Scotland.

Section D Any other comments and information about your organisation

13. Do you have any other comments about the SHS or this consultation?

Our members wish to propose the addition of a further aspect to an existing question within the re-designed SHS. In addition to knowing the level of participation in sport in Scotland (which the SHS currently provides) – the further vital aspect to this question is to understand if their participation in sport is via a sports club and, if so, if they are members of that club. The addition of this extra element of the existing question would be invaluable for Scottish Governing Bodies of sport. As such, our members request this addition is included in the re-designed SHS.

As outlined above, the SHS is the definitive source of participation data for sport in Scotland and ‘access to the outdoors, green space’ in Scotland. As both of these data measures are vital to the Scottish Government’s monitoring of the National Performance Framework in relation to the ‘increase physical activity’ and ‘increase people's use of Scotland's outdoors’ indicators, our members recommend that the questions which produce these data measures are added to the Scottish Surveys Core Questions (SSCOs)

in order to ensure robust monitoring against these National Performance Framework indicators.

Our Outdoor Pursuits Group members request that their concern is noted that the question asked in the former Scottish Recreation Survey, relating to expenditure in the outdoors has been lost (as it is not asked in either the SHS or the Scotland's People and Nature Survey).

14. What sector do you work in?

- Central government
- Local government
- Parliament
- NHS
- Other public sector (e.g. NDPB)
- Higher/further education (excluding students)
- Third sector (Voluntary and charity)
- Private sector
- Student
- Journalists / media
- Other (please specify)

15. What is the main topic area(s) that your organisation as a whole focuses on?

- Health
- Housing
- Environment
- Transport
- Income and wealth
- Communities
- Sport
- Culture
- Young People
- Equalities
- Other – please state

Please also make sure that you complete the separate Respondent Information Form in Annex D.

Respondent Information Form



Consultation on the Design of the SHS

Please Note this form **must** be returned with your response.

Are you responding as an individual or an organization?

- Individual
 Organisation

Full name or organisation's name – **Scottish Sports Association**

Phone number

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Postcode

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The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your consultation response.

Please indicate your publishing preference:

- Publish response with name
 Publish response only (anonymous)
 Do not publish response

We will share your response internally with other Scottish Government policy teams who may be addressing the issues you discuss. They may wish to contact you again in the future, but we require your permission to do so. Are you content for Scottish Government to contact you again in relation to this consultation exercise?

- Yes
 No