

Scottish Sports Association

Scottish Government

2018-2021 Scottish Household Survey (SHS),
Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS),
Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ)
Questionnaire Reviews

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

March 2017.



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

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.

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

Our members have four key themes of interest in relation to the questions asked via the Scottish Household Survey (SHS):

- Participation in sports activities
- Volunteering
- Access to the outdoors, green space
- Transport, travel diary.

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 SGBs – 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.

The SSA is a member of the Scottish Volunteering Forum and, as such, supports the submission made by Volunteer Scotland on behalf of the Scottish Volunteering Forum in relation to the volunteering questions. Therefore, this response will focus on the two other key areas of 'participation in sports activities' and 'access to the outdoors, green space'.

Our members would also like to note that the SHS data is also vital to tracking legacy indicators from the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

External Pro-forma

2018-2021 Scottish Household Survey (SHS), Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS), Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews: External Pro-forma

Please return submissions before 7th March 2017. Please complete the details below.

Please Note this form must be returned with your response.

Please indicate how you wish your response to be handled and, in particular, whether you are happy for your response to be published.

Are you responding as an individual or an organisation?

Individual

Organisation

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

If responding on behalf of your organisation, please specify which team or department:

Name: **Kim Atkinson, CEO**

Organisation: **Scottish Sports Association**

Address: **Caledonia House, South Gyle, Edinburgh**

Postcode: **EH12 9DQ**

Email: kim@thessa.org.uk

Phone number: **0131 339 8785**

The Scottish Government would like your permission to publish your 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

2018-2021 Scottish Household Survey (SHS), Scottish House Condition Survey (SHCS), Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) Questionnaire Reviews
EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS QUESTION REVIEW PROFORMA

(1) Questions you would like to stay in SHS (including SHCS and SSCQ).

(a) For each question or set of questions that you would like to stay in the survey and that you **propose remain completely unchanged** (in terms of sample size and/or frequency of collection), **please provide justification**. Remember to refer to specific variable names for clarity.

Our members propose that questions SPRT3A and SPRT3B remain completely unchanged:

In the last four weeks, have you done any of the activities listed on this card?

On how many days in the last four weeks did you do at least one of these activities?

Our justification for this is that the SHS is the definitive source of gathering this data and is the only place where this is gathered nationwide. The figures are widely used across Scottish Governing Bodies (SGBs) of sport – and across sport in Scotland – and are vital to the Scottish Government’s monitoring of the National Performance Framework in relation to the ‘increase physical activity’ indicator and in relation to the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework (ASOF) (eleven of the eighteen indicators from the ASOF come from the SHS).

Our members propose that the outdoors question remains completely unchanged:

How, often, on average, have you taken visits to the outdoors for leisure and recreation in Scotland in the last 12 months?

Our justification for this is that the SHS is the definitive source of gathering this data and is the only place where this is gathered nationwide. The figures are widely used across organisations involved in outdoor/adventurous activities (amongst many other industries) across Scotland and are vital to the Scottish Government’s monitoring of the National Performance Framework in relation to the ‘increase people’s use of Scotland’s outdoors’ indicator.

Our members propose that the wording of questions RF10C and RF10D is amended to reflect the now prevalent model of leisure and culture trusts in local authorities. The proposed minor wording changes are shown below:

RF10C: should reflect the ‘use of public services’.

RF10D: should reflect the ‘satisfaction with public services’.

It is important to amend the wording to ‘public services’ to reflect this common model of provision within local authorities and without creating confusion as to which facilities are run by the council and which are run by the trust. Likewise, it is important to retain the definition that these questions relate to local authority owned/managed facilities (ie public facilities) and not to services in the same themes which may be run by other providers – eg local community groups.

(2) Questions to be deleted

Suggestion of which current questions could be dropped from the survey, from the same topic area, to make room for new higher priority questions

For each question, or group of questions, that are being deleted, please provide the main reason/justification and evidence that you have:

N/A; as there are so few questions on sports participation and use of the outdoors, our members are strongly resistant to any questions being removed.

(3) Proposed new questions

(a) For each new question, or group of new questions, please explain why you need each individual question/variable in the SHS (including SHCS and SSCQ). Your answer should address the following: justification of full vs. one third sample, and annual vs. biennial, policy rationale for the question and how the data will be used.

Our members propose the addition of two new questions:

1. How important is sport and physical activity to your life?

It is proposed that this new question is added to the SSCQ as a core question. The understandable complexity of the SHS means that it is difficult for the breadth of impact of activities such as sport and physical activity to be demonstrated as truly cross cutting themes. An example of this is the significant contribution of sport and sports clubs to 'social context' or 'social capital'. It is understood that ~900,000 people are members of one of Scotland's 13,000 sports clubs. This must have a fundamental impact on 'social capital', including social networks and personal relationships, social participation, community cohesion and community empowerment. To help to further understand this (amongst other contributions) it is vital that this new question is added to the SSCQ.

The intelligence resulting from this question will assist in making a stronger policy case for the invaluable work of sport and physical activity and to help to strengthen the work of both the National Strategic Group on Sport and Physical Activity and the Active Scotland Division of the Scottish Government.

Supporting more people to be active was a key strand of the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions from the 2014 Commonwealth Games. This proposed new question would help Scottish Government and its partners to better understand and track the importance of this area and the breadth of legacy of the Games in action.

Further, a key challenge for Scottish society and an underpinning priority for the Scottish Government is the prevention agenda. The [many benefits of sport and being active](#) (to the individuals who participate and the benefits to the nation resulting from participation) are a contributory part to this participation agenda as a vital cross cutting theme. To better understand the potential and impact of this, our members propose that this new question is added to the SSCQ.

2. As a follow up to SPRT3A and SPRT3B:

- a. Have you taken part in these activities through a sports club
- b. If so, are you a member of that sports club?

The points made for the first additional question above also support the rationale for an additional question to be asked within the sporting theme. The further rationale that this is the additional question that should be asked is underpinned by the understanding that

900,000 people are members of one of Scotland's 13,000 sports clubs. Community clubs, of any form, are fundamental to the fabric of Scottish society, community integration, community cohesion, community participation and social capital.

Sports clubs are the lifeblood of most sporting opportunities in Scotland. Further, people who participate in sport via a club participate for longer and more often than those who participate via other environments, therefore further enhancing their physical and mental wellbeing. To reflect and to better understand the unparalleled contribution of sports clubs our members propose that this new question is added as a follow up to the existing questions within the SHS which will also help to monitor progress against the ASOF.

As this proposal is for two additional questions under SPRT3 – if only one additional question was possible under SPRT3 the first question (2a) would be prioritised. Currently, the extent of the contribution of sports clubs is not well understood in relation to the number of activities, events and opportunities they provide for non-club members and the contribution their work makes across all of the ASOF outcomes. Further knowledge of this would help to further shape policy which reflects this contribution in communities across Scotland.

For any suggested new questions:

At what sample size do you require the data? Please note that only questions that illustrate a clear need for local authority level data on an annual basis, or that require a 10,000 sample size to reach a small sub-group will be considered for 'full sample' data. Otherwise the default sample size should be 'one-third sample' (around 3,500 for households and 3,200 for adults), which would enable publication of annual results at a national level, but would require data from 3 years to be combined to produce Local Authority results.

The first additional question is requested to be asked within the SSCQ to be asked of the full sample.

The second additional question is requested to be asked within the existing random adult sample used for questions SPRT3A and SPRT3B.

It is anticipated that there will be significant nationwide interest in the responses to these questions, including by local authority area, hence a full sample is required to permit the appropriate interrogation of the data at the required levels.

At what frequency do you need the data? Annual, biennial or one off? Please note that only those questions that have estimates which are likely to change year on year, or whether there is a strong policy need for annual data, will be placed in the SHS (including SHCS and SSCQ) questionnaire on an annual basis.

As the overall health (physical and mental) of our nation remains a fundamental concern, along with the health inequalities within this, and while the prevention agenda remains a key opportunity to change this, our members believe that these questions should be asked annually in order that the significant efforts in these areas can be appropriately monitored to ensure optimal impact.

Why is the SHS, SHCS or SSCQ the most appropriate survey to gather this information? Are other sources of data available (including administrative data source) and why is the SHS (including SHCS and SSCQ) better?

In relation to both the new questions proposed:

- The SHS is the only source of such data nationwide in Scotland and, as such, is the best, most cost effective and most efficient way of gathering this vital data
- No other such data sources exist which either does or can capture this scale and detail of data. To establish a mechanism to gather this outwith the SHS would incur significant additional cost.

What would be the impact on your area of work if this data was not collected in the SHS (including SHCS and SSCQ)? No impact/Some impact/Major impact.

Some impact:

- The importance of sport and physical activity to our nation would remain unknown in research terms
- The scale of participation and involvement of sports clubs would remain unknown; it is understood that sports clubs support the participation and involvement of many more people than those which are directly members of the club.

This would in turn have an impact on establishing rigorous data in these areas which would undermine and limit the setting of true evidence based policy.

Is it important to link data on this new question/topic to other existing questions/topics in the SHS (including SHCS and SSCQ)? If yes, please explain why and specify which questions/topics you need to link to.

Yes, as outlined above:

- The additional question on sports clubs should be linked to the existing questions SPRT3A and SPRT3B
- Both new questions should be linked to the consideration of 'social capital'.

Please indicate the likely number of questions, including proposed question wording. If the question has been asked in another survey, please insert links to the questionnaire and the findings.

OR

If you have not devised appropriate question wording, please indicate the feasibility of constructing suitable questions.

The proposed wording is detailed below:

1. How important is sport and physical activity to your life?
2. (As a follow up to SPRT3A and SPRT3B):
 - a. Have you taken part in these activities through a sports club?
 - b. If so, are you a member of that sports club?

If only one of the questions under point 2 above was possible, the following would be prioritised: "Have you taken part in these activities through a sports club?"

Relevance to Scottish Government, Local Authority and/or other organisations' policy objectives. This should cover how the data will be used (e.g. to inform legislation, to allocate funding, or to monitor Single Outcome Agreement indicators)

The data will help to better monitor progress against the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework, which in turn will help to inform the contribution of sport/physical activity towards other relevant indicators within the National Performance Framework and other key areas of work (eg the contribution of sport/sports clubs to social capital).

The data will also help to inform local authorities, sportscotland and the SSA's members in relation to budgeting and support programmes to ensure the voice of individuals is heard and is being supported.

BID FOR INCLUSION WITHIN SCOTTISH SURVEY CORE QUESTIONS (SSCQ)

Are you bidding for any existing SHS/SHCS questions to be made Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ)? If yes, please specify which one(s) and explain why it should become an SSCQ.

Our members propose the addition of one new question to the SSCQ:

1. How important is sport and physical activity to your life?

It is proposed that this new question is added to the SSCQ as a core question. The understandable complexity of the SHS means that it is difficult for the breadth of impact of activities such as sport and physical activity to be demonstrated as truly cross cutting themes. An example of this is the significant contribution of sport and sports clubs to 'social context' or 'social capital'. It is understood that ~900,000 people are members of one of Scotland's 13,000 sports clubs. This must have a fundamental impact on 'social capital', including social networks and personal relationships, social participation, community cohesion and community empowerment. To help to further understand this (amongst other contributions) it is vital that this new question is added to the SSCQ.

The intelligence resulting from this question will assist in making a stronger policy case for the invaluable work of sport and physical activity and to help to strengthen the work of both the National Strategic Group on Sport and Physical Activity and the Active Scotland Division of the Scottish Government.

Supporting more people to be active was a key strand of the Scottish Government's legacy ambitions from the 2014 Commonwealth Games. This proposed new question would help Scottish Government and its partners to better understand and track the importance of this area and the breadth of legacy of the Games in action.

Further, a key challenge for Scottish society and an underpinning priority for the Scottish Government is the prevention agenda. The [many benefits of sport and being active](#) (to the individuals who participate and the benefits to the nation resulting from participation) are a contributory part to this participation agenda as a vital cross cutting theme. To better understand the potential and impact of this, our members propose that this new question is added to the SSCQ.

Are you bidding for any of these new questions in the SHS/SHCS listed above to be made Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ)? If yes, please specify which one(s) and explain why it should become an SSCQ.

N/A

Are you bidding for a current Scottish Survey Core Questions (SSCQ) to be moved out of the core and replaced with something new?

N/A.

Please return pro-formas before **7th March 2017** via your SG lead analysts.

Further Contact details:
shs@gov.scot