CONSULTATION ON THE DESIGN OF THE SCOTTISH HOUSEHOLD SURVEY (SHS) FOR 2017 AND BEYOND
Annex B  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

Participation in a local or national campaigning or solidarity organisation or group
Perceived influence on decision making in their local area
Availability of support from friends, family, local area
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.

Evidence from SHS was included in our statutory review of equality and human rights. This statutory review is specified by the Equality Act 2006. Evidence papers prepared for the 2015 review made use of Scottish Household Survey data to provide information by protected characteristic (those available through SHS are sex, age, disability and race) and socio-economic group on a range of issues.


Data from the Scottish Household Survey was also utilised in the review to assess progress over time across a range of indicators:

% of adults in substandard accommodation
% of children in substandard accommodation
% of adults in overcrowded accommodation
% of children in overcrowded accommodation
Average number of problems with local environmental quality cited
% who feel they can influence decisions affecting their local area
% who were a member of a local decision making body in the last 12 months
Amount of support available in the neighbourhood
Experience of harassment and discrimination

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

Part of our remit is to evaluate progress in relation to equalities and human rights. Often the groups of interest are relatively small. By moving to Option A, it would be more difficult to pool data across years (which we may need to do to ensure the sample size is large enough), the date range would be extended and the sample size would actually be smaller than if data was pooled in Option B. It may also be difficult to conduct intersectional analysis if topic areas no longer fall into the same year.

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.

The smaller sample size may mean that some groups of interest will not be available on an annual basis. It will also limit the extent to which intersectional analysis can be conducted without pooling data for more than one year.

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?
While this is unlikely to provide annual evidence for the groups we are interested in, pooling data across two years should be easier and will provide a larger sample than 2 years worth of data in Option A. Measuring change over time would be less complex than in Option A, where there would be gap years.

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?
This is difficult to assess but we would need questions on protected characteristics to be included in all years, as proposed.
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

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.

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 main focus is on national level analysis however a rolling average basis would provide more frequent updates.

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

   b. Please explain why.

It is difficult to comment on this without fully understanding the scope of the reductions. Option ii, for the reasons already given, would not be our first choice.
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 is difficult to comment on this without understanding the scope of the reductions.

Section D Any other comments and information about your organisation

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

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

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is the National Equality Body (NEB) for Scotland, England and Wales. We work to eliminate discrimination and promote equality across the nine protected grounds set out in the Equality Act 2010: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
We are an “A Status” National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) and share our mandate to promote and protect human rights in Scotland with the Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC).

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

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Department & Division

Phone number

0141 228 5923

Address

151 West George Street
Glasgow

Postcode

G2 2JJ

Email

Sarah.munro@equalityhumanrights.com

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