

Sustainable Development Indicator Outputs 2014

Consultation response form

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Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

This consultation is open from 14 April 2014 to 4 July 2014. Please return this form to:

Social Justice Statistics Team
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

or complete electronically and send to:

e-mail: stats.inclusion@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Further Information

Your contributions will help us to understand the impact these changes could have on the individuals and organisations that use these statistics. This is in line with the Official Statistics Code of Practice which states that effective user engagement is fundamental both to trust in statistics and securing maximum public value.

For further information please refer to the [Supporting Documentation](#).

Question 1 – Do you agree with the proposal to cease publication of the Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales ‘In Your Pocket’ booklet?

*Please note the analysis of the 5 headline indicators will still be included in the annual Statistical First Release and all the other indicators will be updated and available on Statswales.

Yes No

What impact would ceasing the publication of the Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales ‘In Your Pocket’ booklet have on your work?

If the same information is still available via the Sustainable Development Indicators Statistical First Release and StatsWales data tables, ceasing its production will have little impact on our work.

Questions 2 – Do you receive a hard copy of the SD indicator ‘In Your Pocket’ booklet?

Yes No

How useful do you find this booklet?

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Very Useful

Question 3- Sustainable Development indicators are grouped into six broad themes. Please refer to Annex 1 in the [Supporting Documentation](#) for the list of individual indicators included under each theme.

3.1 Please indicate which of the following themes you have used, selecting multiple items if appropriate:

Headline Indicators

Sustainable Resource Use

Sustaining the Environment

- A Sustainable Economy
- A Sustainable Society
- The Wellbeing of Wales

To aid our understanding of the use and relevance of our statistics we would welcome examples of how the statistics have been used in your work. Please give details using the space provided below.

3.2 Within the theme ‘**Headline Indicators**’; please give details on the specific indicators used and their application in your work.

The headline indicators are not looked at in isolation of the sub indicators. As they stand, the headline indicators alone do not truly reflect progress with Sustainable Development in Wales, but are a good approximate. We look at all the indicators across all themes. Part of our role is to communicate and influence on Sustainable Development and this requires an understanding in an integrated way of the progress and interconnection across all of these issues.

We suggest that in future Sustainable Development indicators will need to be aligned to the Goals in the Future Generation Bill and be able to be articulated in a way that can show the interconnections, which will demonstrate sustainability.

We use the trend element of the data when informing and advising on policy to demonstrate or articulate where we are or are not moving towards a more sustainable Wales. In the past we have used many of the indicators for operational planning purposes. We are keen to use the Indicators for planning work we need to do on integrating action and delivering natural resource plans.

3.3 Within the theme ‘**Sustainable Resource Use**’; please give details on the specific indicators used and their application in your work.

A few people in our organisation use the individual indicator data from here. Most will go to internal sources as we provide the data that goes to make up the following Indicators and have these observations:

7a & b – waste arisings/disposal by sector Wales

Municipal waste data is readily available and is comparable between years. It is already published by StatsWales on a quarterly and annual basis in the ‘Local Authority municipal waste management’ report.

Industry & commerce (I&C) and construction & demolition (C&D) data is not readily available since it is gathered via ad hoc surveys. We have

recently published the results of new surveys based on 2012 calendar year. The previous I&C survey was based on the 2007 calendar year and the previous C&D survey was based on 2005/06 data. This highlights the constraints with the ability to plot a time series and update this data.

Where survey methodologies are similar between reporting years, the ability to compare results is constrained by the precision achieved between the surveys. Surveys have a certain margin of error, so differences in results may sometimes be due to sampling error rather than a genuine change in waste generation or management. This must be taken into consideration when comparing results. It is not possible to make the user fully aware of these issues through plotting the headline results on a time series graph as per the sustainable development indicators. Consequently, NRW has included a comparison section in the new NRW 2012 survey reports to clearly outline the issues with comparisons and to outline where statistically significant differences have been identified. We would therefore be in support of removing this indicator.

8. Household waste

Household waste data is published by StatsWales via the annual 'Local Authority municipal waste management report'. However, this is reported in tonnages, not on a per person basis. It would be useful to make this data available via the StatsWales report/website if the sustainable development indicator was removed.

3.4 Within the theme '**Sustaining the Environment**'; please give details on the specific indicators used and their application in your work.

We provide the data that goes to make up the following Indicators and have these observations:

13 River Quality

There will be no new updates to this indicator as the monitoring programme which provided the data ceased in 2010. NRW now report river quality based on the Water Framework Directive classifications as described in the State of Environment Report, but note this has not been updated since July 2012

15 Sustainable water resources management

This is the only place this data is currently published

3.5 Within the theme '**A Sustainable Economy**'; please give details on the specific indicators used and their application in your work.

No specific comments

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3.6 Within the theme ‘**A Sustainable Society**’; please give details on the specific indicators used and their application in your work.

No specific comments

3.7 Within the theme ‘**The Wellbeing of Wales**’; please give details on the specific indicators used and their application in your work.

All indicators are useful cross-reference material – all quality of life measures can be useful context for our quality of visitor experience information (to our own managed sites – woodland, National Nature Reserves)

Question 4– We publish the data for each indicator on Statswales. Were you aware of this?

Yes No

Have you used data from Statswales before?

Yes No

Questions 5 – If you have any general comments you wish to make with regards to Sustainable Development Indicators for Wales ‘In Your Pocket’ booklet please include these in the space below.

The booklet is a useful ready reference document of the indicators and sub indicators, particularly where it shows the trends over time. The traffic light approach is also helpful. Having a pocket size booklet is useful to take to meetings

Question 6 – If you have any related issues that we have not considered, please use the space below to let us know.

SD Indicators describe individually the sustainability of particular elements. They do not describe the sustainability of Wales. Increasing economic output does not necessarily correlate to sustainable development of Wales. Economic output has to deliver social and environmental benefit in order to demonstrate SD. Such benefits would include, low carbon, resource efficient, biodiversity enhancing as well as supporting social cohesion, social justice and equality of opportunity. It is therefore important when looking at the statistics to not look at them in isolation but at the detail and whole to see if we are truly moving to a more sustainable nation. If the booklet that shows this information altogether is to cease, care must be taken to get this message across on the web based products.

The indicators will need reviewing in light of the Future Generations Bill and proposed Goals. Development of indicators as the measures of progress for the Bill will be central to final Sustainable Development indicators for Wales.

It will also be important to be able to show trends of where Wales has come from as well as being considered alongside or informing future forecasts (future scenarios).

Sustainable Development Indicators need to remain comparable within the UK, and with EU and Global SD indicators otherwise Wales will not be able to understand how it is progressing with Sustainable Development.

With the development of State of Natural Resources Reporting we expect to be using the SD Indicators more. This work is currently evolving. Such SD indicators may not form part of the report but will be important to provide context.

Operational Staff are more interested in the information at a local level and having access to the raw data that is used to create the indicator.

Question 7- If we need to can we contact you about your response to this questionnaire?

Yes No

Thank you for taking part- your feedback is valuable to us.