

# Assessment of Scottish Household Survey outputs

*produced by the Scottish Government*

## Assessment Report 26

December 2009

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### **About the UK Statistics Authority**

The UK Statistics Authority is an independent body operating at arm's length from government as a non-ministerial department, directly accountable to Parliament. It was established on 1 April 2008 by the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*.

The Authority's overall objective is to promote and safeguard the production and publication of official statistics that serve the public good. It is also required to promote and safeguard the quality and comprehensiveness of official statistics, and good practice in relation to official statistics.

The Statistics Authority has two main functions:

1. oversight of the Office for National Statistics (ONS) – the executive office of the Authority;
2. independent scrutiny (monitoring and assessment) of all official statistics produced in the UK.

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## **ASSESSMENT AND DESIGNATION**

Under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*, the UK Statistics Authority has a statutory function to assess sets of statistics against the Code of Practice for Official Statistics, with a view to determining whether it is appropriate for the statistics to be designated, or to retain their designation, as National Statistics.

Designation as National Statistics means that the statistics are deemed to be compliant with the Code of Practice. Whilst the Code is wide-ranging, designation may be broadly interpreted to mean that the statistics meet identified user needs; are produced, managed and disseminated to high standards; and are well explained.

Designation also signifies that, subject to any caveats in this report, the Statistics Authority judges that the statistics are readily accessible, produced according to sound methods and managed impartially and objectively in the public interest.

Assessment reports will not normally comment further, for example on the validity of the statistics as a social or economic measure; though reports may point to such questions if the Authority believes that further research would be desirable.

Designation as National Statistics will sometimes be granted in cases where some changes still need to be made to meet fully the requirements of the Code, on condition that steps are taken by the producer body, within a stated timeframe, to address the weaknesses. This is to avoid public confusion and does not reduce the obligation to comply with the Code.

Designation is granted on the basis of the information provided to the Statistics Authority, primarily by the organisation that produces the statistics. The information includes a range of factual evidence and also assurances by the producer organisation. The views of users are also sought. Should further information come to light subsequently which changes the Authority's analysis, the Assessment report may be withdrawn and revised as necessary.

Once designated as National Statistics, it is a statutory requirement on the producer organisation to ensure that the set of statistics continues to be produced, managed and disseminated in compliance with the Code of Practice.

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# 1 Summary of findings

## 1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 This is one of a series of reports prepared under the provisions of the *Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007*<sup>1</sup>. The report covers the following outputs from the *Scottish Household Survey*, produced by the Scottish Government<sup>2</sup>:

- Scotland's People (*Scottish Household Survey* annual report)
- Scottish Household Survey quarterly data releases
- Travel Diary
- Household Transport
- Transport Across Scotland
- People and Culture in Scotland
- People and Sport in Scotland.

All the above outputs are currently designated as National Statistics. In 2009, *Transport Across Scotland* was replaced by web tables to allow users more timely access to the data.

1.1.2 This report was prepared by the Authority's Assessment team, and approved by the Board of the Statistics Authority on the advice of the Head of Assessment.

## 1.2 Decision concerning designation as National Statistics

1.2.1 The Statistics Authority confirms that the outputs from the *Scottish Household Survey* are designated as National Statistics, subject to the Scottish Government implementing the enhancements listed in section 1.5 below and reporting them to the Authority by April 2010.

## 1.3 Summary of strengths and weaknesses

1.3.1 The Statistics Authority is satisfied that the *Scottish Household Survey* outputs comply with most aspects of the Code of Practice. For most elements of the survey there is extensive engagement with users, and the Scottish Government adopts a range of approaches to maximise the use of survey data. Producers make the survey data available for follow-up analysis and are responsive to users' queries and follow-up requests. The outputs from the survey include appropriate commentary to aid understanding of the data.

1.3.2 There is scope to improve user engagement for the Sport module of the survey. This includes increasing both the level of consultation with users and the publicity for the Sport module report in order to develop interest among users and potential users.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2007/ukpga\\_20070018\\_en\\_1](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/ACTS/acts2007/ukpga_20070018_en_1)

<sup>2</sup> These outputs are available at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/Publications>

## 1.4 Detailed recommendations

- 1.4.1 The Assessment team identified some areas where it felt that the Scottish Government could strengthen its compliance with the Code. Those which the Assessment team considers essential to enable re-designation as National Statistics are listed in section 1.5 below. Other suggestions, which would improve the statistics and the service provided to users but which are not central to their designation, are listed at annex 1.

## 1.5 Requirements for designation as National Statistics

<b>Requirement 1</b>	Develop the user engagement strategy for the Sport module and publish details of the uses and potential uses of the module results, the users, and their views about the module (para 3.5)
<b>Requirement 2</b>	Publish a Revisions Policy for <i>Scottish Household Survey</i> statistics (para 3.8)
<b>Requirement 3</b>	Ensure that all latest releases of these statistics are accessible via the National Statistics Publication Hub (para 3.11)
<b>Requirement 4</b>	Confirm that the current review of the survey will consider the resources allocated to these statistics to ensure these are sufficient to meet the standards of the Code of Practice (para 3.28)
<b>Requirement 5</b>	Include appropriate signposting and commentary for the relevant national indicator in the Travel Diary publication (para 3.31)
<b>Requirement 6</b>	Publish the timetable for statistical releases twelve months in advance of publication (para 3.37)
<b>Requirement 7</b>	Publish the name and contact details of the responsible statistician in all statistical reports (para 3.39)

## 2 Subject of the assessment

- 2.1 The *Scottish Household Survey*, which started in 1999, is designed to provide accurate, up-to-date information about the characteristics, attitudes and behaviour of Scottish households and individuals. The survey covers a wide range of issues, including housing, economic activity, finance, childcare, education, transport, internet, health, local services, volunteering, culture and sport. The Scottish Government produces an annual report from the survey, quarterly reports with updated trends, and separate publications covering special topics included in the most recent survey.
- 2.2 The *Scottish Household Survey* runs continuously and covers 31,000 households across Scotland every two years. The survey is designed to be representative for the whole of Scotland every quarter, representative for larger local authorities every year and for all local authorities - regardless of size - over a two-year period. The survey uses computer assisted personal interviewing.
- 2.3 The survey team reviews the content of the questionnaire every two years and also reviews issues such as survey methodology on a regular basis. The Scottish Government initiated a wide-ranging review of the *Scottish Household Survey* in November 2009. The review will assess the operation of the survey, including project specification, design and data issues, topic coverage and interaction with other major surveys. One of the possible key outcomes from this review will be the provision of annual data for all local authorities.
- 2.4 In addition to the "core" element of the survey, there are also separate modules on *Sport* and *Culture*, and a Travel Diary. The core survey and each of the modules are managed by separate teams within the Scottish Government. In the 2007 survey, the Culture and Sport questions were answered by around 5000 respondents, and the Travel Diary module was answered by around 20,000 respondents.
- The Sport module data are used to provide a baseline against which to monitor trends in participation levels in various sporting activities.
  - The Scottish Government and providers of cultural services (such as arts councils, museums, libraries) use data from the Culture module to identify which parts - and what proportion - of the Scottish population take part in cultural activities, reasons for taking part or not taking part, and the outcomes and benefits of taking part. This information may then be used to make cultural activities more accessible to these groups.
  - The Travel Diary is the main transport module from the *Scottish Household Survey*. It has been an integral part of the survey since its inception. The Scottish Government uses the data from this module to:
    - inform a range of policies, such as the concessionary bus fare scheme
    - develop local travel plans and infrastructure; and

- assess the impact of transport on climate change in Scotland.

Other organisations also use the data to help their planning and policy development - for example, Transport Scotland uses the data to develop Scotland's transport model, and Greener Scotland has used the data on car use for short journeys in its campaign to encourage 'greener' transport.

2.5 The *Scottish Household Survey* is the data source for five of the 45 national indicators in the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework<sup>3</sup>:

- Improve people's perceptions of the quality of public services delivered.
- Reduce the proportion of driver journeys delayed due to traffic congestion.
- Reduce the percentage of the adult population who smoke to 22% by 2010.
- Increase the percentage of adults who rate their neighbourhood as a good place to live.
- Increase the proportion of journeys to work made by public or active transport.

2.6 The annual cost of the core survey is approximately £1.5 million. The data collection for 2007 to 2010 is carried out by two firms of contractors - TNS-BMRB and Ipsos-MORI. TNS-BMRB is responsible for writing the main annual report. Teams within Scottish Government write the reports for the travel, culture and sport outputs from the survey

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/About/scotPerforms>

### 3 Assessment findings

#### Principle 1: Meeting user needs

**The production, management and dissemination of official statistics should meet the requirements of informed decision-making by government, public services, business, researchers and the public.**

- 3.1 The Scottish Government carries out extensive user engagement for the "core" element of the *Scottish Household Survey* and for the Culture and Transport modules. The survey teams engage with users through formal consultations on issues such as the design of questionnaires and web pages, the publication schedule, and the presentation of survey outputs. The responses to these consultations, and reports on the changes made to the survey as a result of the consultations, are available on the Scottish Government website<sup>4</sup>.
- 3.2 The producers also inform users about developments through a news section on the survey website and communicate directly with users by email and through face-to-face meetings. Users of the survey data may also register for updates on the Scotstat website<sup>5</sup>.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government publishes details of the uses and potential uses of *Scottish Household Survey* statistics. It adopts several different approaches to maximising the use of survey data - for example, the survey team provides an ad-hoc request service to respond directly to users' requirements, and it has developed a simplified dataset (SHS Lite) to stimulate the use of survey data, and held user training events for SHS Lite in early 2009. Users of SHS Lite told the Assessment team that they valued this initiative.
- 3.4 Until 2007, the survey team held annual "user days" which brought together policy makers and researchers to discuss ways of improving the survey. However, similar events were not held in 2008 or 2009 due to a lack of staff within the survey team. Members of the Culture module team have delivered presentations on the survey to a range of audiences, and the team plans to publish more potential uses of the survey data on the survey website, based on discussions with a range of users.
- 3.5 The Scottish Government told us that because the Sport module was partly based on the English "Active People Survey", the survey team did not carry out extensive consultation of user views during the planning of the module. The 2008 publication *People and Sport in Scotland* was a low-profile release and there were very few requests from users for follow-up data. As part of the designation as National Statistics the Scottish Government should develop the user engagement strategy for the Sport module and publish details of the uses and potential uses of the module results, the users, and their views about the module (Requirement 1)<sup>6</sup>.
- 3.6 The Scottish Government has told us that it will assess its approach to user engagement as part of the current review of the *Scottish Household Survey*.

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<sup>4</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/Consultation/Engagement>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/Consultation>

<sup>6</sup> In relation to Principle 1 Practices 1 and 2 of the Code of Practice

## Principle 2: Impartiality and objectivity

### Official statistics, and information about statistical processes, should be managed impartially and objectively.

- 3.7 The survey team reviews the *Scottish Household Survey* questionnaire every two years to ensure that the information collected is relevant to current policy interests. The most recent review took place in 2008 and led to a revised questionnaire for fieldwork in 2009 and 2010. The team provided email and web notifications of the changes, and published a summary report of the outcomes from the review on the web. In 2009 the survey team also announced changes in methodology on the survey website and emailed users about these changes. Methodological changes are also announced and explained in the quarterly reports, and appropriate commentary is provided where changes in methodology may impact on the survey results.
- 3.8 The survey website clearly describes any revisions to the statistics. As part of the designation as National Statistics the Scottish Government should publish a Revisions Policy for these statistics (Requirement 2)<sup>7</sup>.
- 3.9 The producers identified an error in the 2007 annual report in the month following its publication. The survey team posted a revision note on the relevant web pages and passed on the note to all recipients of hard copy versions of the publication. The web version of the report was updated. The producers included a copy of the revision note in the updated report and annotated it as “revised October 2008”.
- 3.10 Statistics are published via the Scottish Government’s website and are free of charge. The Scottish Government publishes a set of rates that it may charge for statistical services, although the final decision on whether to apply these charges is left to individual teams. The *Scottish Household Survey* team passes on users’ requests for additional data or analyses to the contractor firms which collect the data. The team informed us that the contractors have yet to charge users for providing these additional services.
- 3.11 With the exception of the Sport publication, all *Scottish Household Survey* statistics are listed on the National Statistics Publication Hub. As part of the designation as National Statistics the Scottish Government should ensure that all releases of these statistics are accessible via the National Statistics Publication Hub (Requirement 3)<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>7</sup> In relation to Principle 2 Practice 6 of the Code of Practice

<sup>8</sup> In relation to Principle 2 Practice 1 of the Code of Practice

### **Principle 3: Integrity**

**At all stages in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics, the public interest should prevail over organisational, political or personal interests.**

- 3.12 No incidents of political pressure, abuses of trust or complaints relating to professional integrity, quality or standards were reported or identified by the Assessment team.
- 3.13 In addition to the core and modular survey teams, within the Scottish Government there are lead analysts for each topic area who take responsibility for policy engagement. Widespread internal access to statistics can lead to a potential risk of non-adherence to pre-release access rules. The Scottish Government provides relevant guidance to all parties involved in pre-release access, and will continue to look at ways of advertising this. We suggest that the Scottish Government considers whether further actions are required to mitigate the risk of non-adherence to pre-release access rules.

## Principle 4: Sound methods and assured quality

**Statistical methods should be consistent with scientific principles and internationally recognised best practices, and be fully documented. Quality should be monitored and assured taking account of internationally agreed practices.**

- 3.14 Where appropriate, the *Scottish Household Survey* uses the concepts and questions for national social surveys which have been developed by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). It also takes account of some of the definitions and questions used in the 2001 UK census.
- 3.15 The survey producers are involved in the Scottish Government's initiative to harmonise its major social surveys<sup>9</sup>. This has involved agreeing common standards and classifications on a core set of socio-economic questions.
- 3.16 The lead analysts contribute to the development of the questionnaire, carry out analysis relevant to their policy areas, and develop and quality assure publications. They also advise users on the most appropriate source to use for any particular measurement and on the interpretation and use of the data. We suggest that lead analysts ensure that *Scottish Household Survey* statistics are compared with other data sources for their topic areas, such as health and transport.
- 3.17 The wide-ranging review of the *Scottish Household Survey* which is planned for early 2010 will assess the operation of the survey, including project specification, design and data issues, topic coverage and interaction with other major surveys.
- 3.18 Initial quality assurance for *Scottish Household Survey* data is carried out by the contractors. Both the Sport and Transport teams have experienced problems with the quality of the data they have received from contractors. The survey teams had to correct these problems, and in the case of the Travel Diary, this caused a considerable delay in publication. The Scottish Government has assured the Assessment team that improved quality assurance processes are now in place or in development and similar difficulties are unlikely to be repeated. We suggest that the Scottish Government ensures that future agreements with contractors specify quality assurance standards.
- 3.19 Much of the information about the survey methodology is held by individuals within the contractor firms. We suggest that the Scottish Government develops a strategy for knowledge transfer to mitigate the risk of significant information and data programming expertise being held by a small number of people.
- 3.20 The *Scottish Household Survey* questionnaire was partly based on similar surveys in England. However, there has been little comparison of *Scottish Household Survey* data with equivalent data from elsewhere in the UK. We suggest that the survey teams pursue opportunities to carry out such comparisons with the other UK countries. We also suggest that the Scottish Government makes comparisons among different elements of the *Scottish Household Survey* - for example, information on non-participation from the Culture and Sport modules.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys>

## Principle 5: Confidentiality

**Private information about individual persons (including bodies corporate) compiled in the production of official statistics is confidential, and should be used for statistical purposes only.**

- 3.21 The Scottish Government has assured us that, when *Scottish Household Survey* data are being considered for release, statistical disclosure control techniques are used to maintain confidentiality. The survey team adheres to the relevant confidentiality guidelines when handling *Scottish Household Survey* data.
- 3.22 The Scottish Government has published a detailed explanation of the processes employed to protect confidentiality in published outputs<sup>10</sup>. The Assessment team found no evidence of any leaks or inadvertent disclosure.

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<sup>10</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0080063.doc>, see also <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/933/0076518.doc>

## Principle 6: Proportionate burden

**The cost burden on data suppliers should not be excessive and should be assessed relative to the benefits arising from the use of the statistics.**

- 3.23 Participation in the survey is voluntary. The Scottish Government website includes a page with information for respondents to the *Scottish Household Survey*<sup>11</sup>.
- 3.24 The web page for respondents gives the approximate average interview duration (45 minutes). Information about the average interview duration is also given in the explanatory material provided with a copy of the questionnaire which is available on the website. All potential participants are provided with freephone numbers and points of contact through the survey website.

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<sup>11</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/Interviewees>

## Principle 7: Resources

**The resources made available for statistical activities should be sufficient to meet the requirements of this Code and should be used efficiently and effectively.**

- 3.25 A team of 2.3 (full-time equivalent) staff manages the "core" element of the *Scottish Household Survey* and a further 25 lead analysts within the Scottish Government contribute to specific topics.
- 3.26 The Scottish Government has a dedicated training and development intranet that includes a competence framework and provides learning and development opportunities for staff. It also has well-established and robust procedures for recruiting staff.
- 3.27 The Culture module team employs doctoral students on 3-month placements to carry out quality assurance tasks and contribute to the report drafting. These placements are part of a scheme supported by the Economic and Social Research Council.
- 3.28 The Sport module team will require sufficient resources to develop its user engagement and the "core" survey team will require sufficient resources to carry out the survey review. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should confirm that the current review of the survey will consider the resources allocated to these statistics to ensure these are sufficient to meet the standards of the Code of Practice (Requirement 4)<sup>12</sup>.
- 3.29 The core survey team assured us that appropriate project management techniques are used internally to manage the full survey effectively.

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<sup>12</sup> In relation to Principle 7 Practice 1 of the Code of Practice

## Principle 8: Frankness and accessibility

**Official statistics, accompanied by full and frank commentary, should be readily accessible to all users.**

- 3.30 The statistics are published on the Scottish Government's website and survey outputs are sent to the UK Data Archive. We suggest that the Scottish Government provides a link to the survey web pages on the Economic and Social Data Service website<sup>13</sup>.
- 3.31 The annual report also includes appropriate signposting and commentary about those Scottish Government's national indicators that are monitored using the survey data. However, the *Travel Diary* publication makes no mention of the national indicator covered by these statistics. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should ensure that the *Travel Diary* publication includes appropriate signposting and commentary for the relevant national indicator (Requirement 5)<sup>14</sup>.
- 3.32 The Scottish Government releases standard anonymised datasets to allow users to carry out their own analyses. In cases where this information does not meet their requirements, the Scottish Government makes customised datasets from the survey available. The Scottish Government also advises users on how to access the raw data, and provides information on various quality measures to allow users to decide whether the survey data are suitable for their required use<sup>15</sup>.
- 3.33 The survey team carries out a range of activities, such as roadshows and training events, to publicise the uses of *Scottish Household Survey* statistics. We suggest that the Scottish Government increases the publicity for the Sport module report in order to develop interest among users and potential users.
- 3.34 We suggest that the publication date should be added to the covers of both the Sport and Culture module reports.

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<sup>13</sup> <http://esds.ac.uk/government/surveys/>

<sup>14</sup> In relation to Principle 8 Practice 2 of the Code of Practice

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/DataSuitability>

## **Protocol 1: User engagement**

**Effective user engagement is fundamental both to trust in statistics and securing maximum public value. This Protocol draws together the relevant practices set out elsewhere in the Code and expands on the requirements in relation to consultation.**

3.35 The requirements for this protocol are covered elsewhere in the report.

## Protocol 2: Release practices

**Statistical reports should be released into the public domain in an orderly manner that promotes public confidence and gives equal access to all, subject to relevant legislation.**

- 3.36 The Scottish Government's website states that pre-release access to the statistics for quality assurance purposes is granted to the SHS Operations Management Group, and analytical and policy branches across the Scottish Government. A list of individuals with pre-release access to the statistics in their final form, together with information on how long these individuals have pre-release access and the reasons for granting access, is available on request. We suggest that the Scottish Government publishes records of those granted pre-release access to these statistics in their final form.
- 3.37 Some outputs from the *Scottish Household Survey*, such as the reports from the Sport and Culture modules and *Household Transport*, were not included on the Scottish Government's list of forthcoming publications. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should publish the timetable for statistical releases twelve months in advance of publication. (Requirement 6)<sup>16</sup>.
- 3.38 The 2007/08 Travel Diary publication was delayed by a month due to the discovery of several errors in the data. The Transport module team notified users and stakeholders of the delay, and amended the forthcoming publications list with the new publication dates, giving reasons for the delay.
- 3.39 Each of the transport-related outputs includes a named statistician and contact details. The annual report (*Scotland's People*) and *People and Culture in Scotland* include generic contact details for the *Scottish Household Survey* team but they do not include the names of the responsible statisticians. The sport output - *People and Sport in Scotland* - does not include any contact details. As part of the designation as National Statistics, the Scottish Government should publish the name and contact details of the responsible statistician in all statistical reports. (Requirement 7)<sup>17</sup>.

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<sup>16</sup> In relation to Protocol 2 Practice 2 of the Code of Practice

<sup>17</sup> In relation to Protocol 2 Practice 6 of the Code of Practice

### **Protocol 3: The use of administrative sources for statistical purposes**

**Administrative sources should be fully exploited for statistical purposes, subject to adherence to appropriate safeguards.**

3.40 *Scottish Household Survey* statistics are not compiled from administrative sources.

## Annex 1: Suggestions for improvement

A1.1 This annex includes some suggestions for improvement to Scottish Government, in the interest of the public good. These are not formally required for designation, but the Assessment team considers that their implementation will improve public confidence in the production, management and dissemination of official statistics.

<b>Suggestion 1</b>	Ensure that guidance on pre-release access is clearly communicated to all relevant staff (para 3.13)
<b>Suggestion 2</b>	Ensure that <i>Scottish Household Survey</i> statistics are compared with other data sources for topic areas such as health and transport (para 3.16)
<b>Suggestion 3</b>	Ensure that future agreements with contractors specify quality assurance standards (para 3.18)
<b>Suggestion 4</b>	Develop a strategy for knowledge transfer to mitigate the risk of significant information and data programming expertise being held by a small number of people (para 3.19)
<b>Suggestion 5</b>	Pursue opportunities to carry out comparisons with data from relevant surveys in the other UK countries (para 3.20)
<b>Suggestion 6</b>	Make comparisons among different elements of the <i>Scottish Household Survey</i> (para 3.20)
<b>Suggestion 7</b>	Provide a link to the survey web pages on the Economic and Social Data Service website (para 3.30)
<b>Suggestion 8</b>	Increase the publicity for the Sport module report in order to develop interest among users and potential users (para 3.33)
<b>Suggestion 9</b>	Add the publication dates to the covers of the Sport and Culture module reports (para 3.34)
<b>Suggestion 10</b>	Publish records of those granted pre-release access to these statistics in their final form (para 3.36)

## Annex 2: Summary of assessment process and users' views

- A2.1 This assessment was conducted from June to October 2009.
- A2.2 The Assessment team agreed the scope of and timetable for this assessment with representatives of the Scottish Government in June 2009. The Written Evidence for Assessment was provided on 9 September. The Assessment team subsequently met with Scottish Government during September 2009 to review compliance with the Code of Practice, taking account of the written evidence provided and other relevant sources of evidence.
- A2.3 In October 2009 the Assessment team met with the contractors who carry out the data collection, analysis and report writing for the *Scottish Household Survey*.

### Summary of users contacted, and issues raised

- A2.4 The Assessment team received 18 responses from the user consultation. The respondents were grouped as follows:

Local authorities	5
Internal Scottish Government	4
Government agencies / Non-departmental public bodies	3
Other Scottish public bodies	2
Private consultants	2
Other UK bodies	1
Scottish Parliament	1

- A2.5 In general, users were satisfied with the survey statistics and with the producers in the Scottish Government. They mentioned the various ways in which they use the statistics and were satisfied with the way the producers consulted and engaged with them. Users commended the producers for their responsiveness to queries and follow-up requests. Some issues were raised about the timeliness of data, the small sample sizes for certain issues, and the frequency and level of detail of local authority data. The producers may consider these issues as part of the current large-scale review of the *Scottish Household Survey*.

### Key documents/links provided

Written Evidence for Assessment document

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/16002/PublicationTransport>

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/About/Surveys>

## List of assessment reports published to date<sup>18</sup>

1. Statistics from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System  
*National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse*
2. Recorded Crime in Scotland  
*Scottish Government*
3. Statistics on Enrolments at Schools and in Funded Pre-School Education in Northern Ireland  
*Department of Education, Northern Ireland*
4. Road Casualty Statistics  
*Department for Transport*
5. UK Energy Sector Indicators  
*Department of Energy and Climate Change*
6. Statistics on Road Freight  
*Department for Transport*
7. Prison Population Projections  
*Ministry of Justice*
8. Migration Statistics  
*Office for National Statistics*
9. Statistics on International Development and the ODA:GNI Ratio  
*Department for International Development*
10. The Scottish Health Survey  
*Scottish Government*
11. Scottish House Condition Survey  
*Scottish Government*
12. Scottish Crime and Justice Survey  
*Scottish Government*
13. Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in England  
*Department for Children, Schools and Families*
14. Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Scotland  
*Scottish Government*
15. Statistics on Children Looked After by Local Authorities in Wales  
*Welsh Assembly Government*
16. Statistics on Children Looked After by Health and Social Care Trusts in Northern Ireland  
*Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety, Northern Ireland*
17. Wealth in Great Britain  
*Office for National Statistics*
18. Statistics on the National Child Measurement Programme  
*NHS Information Centre*
19. Average Weekly Earnings  
*Office for National Statistics*
20. Energy Statistics  
*Department of Energy and Climate Change*

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<sup>18</sup> Published reports are available at: <http://www.statisticsauthority.gov.uk/assessment/assessment-reports/index.html>

